



LIFF FREELANCE PROGRAMMER ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

Role 9: Programmer, Fantastic Films

Links for reference

[LIFF 2023 programme guide](#)

[LIFF SHORTS 2023 programme guide](#)

[LIFF 2024 submissions page on Filmfreeway](#)

Summary The Fanomenon programme section at LIFF is a very popular selection of 'fantastic' genre films, or films in the genres of fantasy, horror, sci-fi, etc. The selection is very wide-ranging and also includes animation, anime, dark comedy, and action films, short film programmes as well as features, and marathon film events like Night of the Dead and Sci-Fi Day. The main purpose of the role is to view, consider and shortlist assigned fantastic film submissions (mostly shorts) and make the final selection with the Fanomenon team.

Number of role openings available 2.

Level of experience required 1 role opening for those with intermediate experience, 1 role opening for those with limited or no experience.

Role location Remote working.

Applicant location UK-based.

Days and period Total of 10 days, May to August, each year in 2024 and 2025.

Working pattern Work for this role can be carried out at variable times of day or days of the week if preferred. Each paid working day is 8 hours, but it can be split up – for example, 8 hours over two days. Some daytime weekday availability is required.

Fee £115 per day intermediate experience, £100 per day limited or no experience.

Contract A freelance programmer contract for 2024 and 2025 - terms and conditions apply.

Role supervisor LIFF Director.

Main responsibilities

These are the main responsibilities and there may be additional minor ones:

- View and consider assigned fantastic film submissions on Filmfreeway; add flags, ratings and any comments; contact filmmakers if any issues with film screeners.

- Liaise with other programme teams if a submission is more suitable for their consideration. Recommend submissions that may be suitable for other programming – for example, before a feature or as part of a fantastic film marathon.
- Make a shortlist from the assigned short films and feature films. View and consider the shortlisted films of other Fanomenon team members.
- Make the final selection of films with other team members, including finalising the inclusion and order of shorts within each short film programme.
- Write the promotional summary for one or two short film programmes and a short synopsis of each short film in the programme(s) for the LIFF SHORTS guide and the website. Also write some promotional summaries for selected feature films.
- Support the development of Fanomenon with audiences and within the film industry – for example, with suggestions for raising its public and industry profile.
- Attend online meetings with the Fanomenon team. For those with limited or no experience, also attend online mentoring meetings with the role supervisor.

For guidance, the 10 days will include about 8 days of viewing, considering, shortlisting and jointly selecting films, and 2 days for other responsibilities. Some of the initial viewing will be of LIFF 2023 short film selections for reference.

In addition, freelance programmers will be expected to:

- Be aware of and support difference and equality for all, working in an anti-discriminatory manner, upholding our equality and diversity policies.
- Recognise and appropriately challenge any incidents of racism, bullying, harassment, victimisation, and any form of abuse, reporting any concerns.

Requirements

These are the essential requirements for applying for the role – where a requirement is desirable rather than essential, this will be indicated:

- You are passionate about film culture and you want to work in film.
- You are especially interested in programming fantastic shorts and features, and supporting the work of filmmakers who are underrepresented. Please note we are looking for programmers with strong interest in a wide range of fantastic genres.
- If you are applying for the role opening for those with intermediate experience:
 - You have at least one year of experience regularly programming new films in official roles for festivals and/or cinemas. You have programmed short films for at least one competition or non-competitive selection and you have considered many film submissions – pre-selection experience only is not eligible.
- You have good organisational and time-management skills.
- You can work independently and as part of a team.
- You can work to tight deadlines.
- You can use digital tools and platforms for viewing films and for working with databases and spreadsheets.

- You have good awareness and knowledge of contemporary film culture, and you regularly seek out and watch new independent films, including fantastic features and shorts in different genres.