



The UK.

Home to world class film
and television production.

Open for business.



Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story
Liam Daniel/Netflix © 2023

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Sex Education
Sam Taylor / Netflix

Foreword

There's really nowhere like the UK for producing exceptional feature film and High-end TV.

This is also the verdict reached by many around the world who come to the UK's four nations and regions to base their productions, or create their cutting-edge Visual Effects and world-leading Post-Production.

And the British Film Commission has been at the very heart, working with international studios, streamers and investors so that the impressive array of productions choosing to come to the UK can continue, and increase, during this phenomenal period of growth for our industry.

So it is with huge pride that we bring you our latest British Film Commission brochure. A frequently-updated summary of all our key activities, and those of our partners and stakeholders, a tool to showcase the UK's unique and diverse offer, we've also highlighted a few recent successes to demonstrate the work of the British Film Commission team, both UK and US-side. I hope you find it informative, engaging and enough encouragement to get in touch!

Adrian Wootton OBE,
Chief Executive of the British Film Commission

Meet the Team



Adrian Wootton OBE

Chief Executive

Adrian Wootton OBE is Chief Executive of the British Film Commission and Film London. Adrian is a Programme Advisor to the BFI London Film Festival; Venice Film Festival and Noir in Fest, Milan; Founding Director of Shots in the Dark Festival, Nottingham and Curator of the annual Cinema Made In Italy programme, London.

Adrian is a recognised authority in various film/TV and literature subjects (Hollywood, crime and mystery and Italian Cinema amongst others) and regularly lectures, writes broadcasts and curates programmes on them.

In 2012, Adrian received an Honorary Doctorate in the Arts and was appointed Visiting Professor of Film and Media at Norwich University of the Arts. In 2014, Adrian received an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from the University of East Anglia and in 2017 was awarded an OBE for services to the film industry.

Most recently, Adrian has led the BFC's work to develop the *'Working Safely During COVID-19 in Film and High-end TV Drama Production guidance'*, as part of the BFI's wider COVID-19 Screen Sector Recovery Task Force.



Samantha Perahia MBE

Head of Production UK, UK Office

Samantha worked in theatre and film and television production, post production and locations before joining the British Film Commission (BFC) in 2004.

As Head of Production UK, she leads the UK team, providing tailored production support, guidance and troubleshooting to major international film and television projects. She additionally oversees the BFC's work supporting and promoting the UK film and television infrastructure globally and is responsible for liaising between the industry and Government to secure and maintain production-friendly policies.

Samantha worked closely with Government and industry in developing the UK's Creative Sector Tax Reliefs and was instrumental in the creation of the BFC's *'Working Safely During COVID-19 in Film and High-end TV Drama Production guidance'*.

Samantha has assisted on many high-profile projects for international television, film and streaming clients including A+E, Amazon Studios, Amblin, AMC, Apple, CBS, Disney, HBO, Lionsgate, Lucasfilm, Marvel, MGM, MRC, Netflix, Paramount, Sony, Universal and Warner Bros.

She was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours List 2019 for services to the film and TV industry.



Kattie Kotok

Executive Vice President of US Production, US Office

Kattie leads the effort in the US to build upon the excellent levels of international productions coming into the UK and ensures the US film and television industry continues to utilize the UK's world-class production infrastructure and talent base. Kattie works with studios, producers, agencies and executives to identify projects best suited for the UK and fully support them throughout their time in Britain. Kattie functions as a key liaison between the UK and US film and television industries on a number of other levels by participating on panels, attending festivals/markets and partnering with relevant organisations to support the BFC's mission.

Prior to her work at the BFC, Kattie spent nine years working with National Geographic Films (NGF) as Vice President of Acquisitions and Production. Kattie's early film career included working in development at Fox Searchlight Pictures and in marketing at Paramount Pictures.

She began her professional career in Chicago as a consultant with Andersen Consulting after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Virginia.

About the British Film Commission

The British Film Commission (BFC) is the UK Government's national organisation responsible for international film and television production in the UK. We lead on:

- Maximising and supporting the production of major international feature film and High-end television in the UK;
- Strengthening and promoting the UK's film and television infrastructure;
- Liaising between the Government and the film and television industry on policy issues that impact on production.

With offices in the UK and the US, we provide free, tailored production support at the highest level, from the earliest stages of development through to post-production, including guidance on the UK's competitive film and television tax reliefs and assistance with sourcing key crew, studios, facilities and locations.

Our industry sponsors form the membership of the agency's innovative public/private partnership ensuring strong, independent and accountable industry input which further guarantees that our policy contributions are relevant and feasible.

Working with our UK Nations and Regions

Whether sourcing key crew and stage space, or advising on visas and tax relief, we provide a single point of contact for international productions looking to produce content in the UK, from development through to post-production.

We partner with colleagues in the screen agency network that provides full coverage of all four UK nations – England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales – from supporting new stage space development to location troubleshooting.

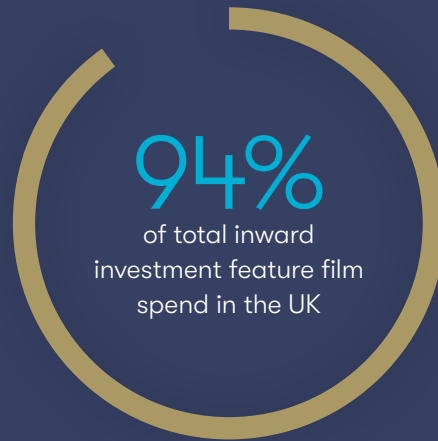


Barbie
© Courtesy of
Warner Bros. Pictures

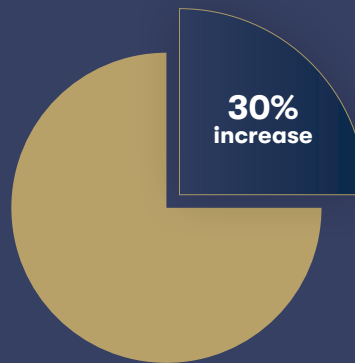
Our Impact

With **£5.37bn** spend in the UK, 2022 was a record year for inward investment into film and High-end TV.

In 2022, we provided bespoke production support to projects and companies accounting for:



With our support an additional **1.1 million sq.ft.** of UK stage space capacity has been delivered over the past two years. This increase is equivalent to **30%** of pre-existing UK stage space.



“

Reaching European partners is easy; you start with the BFC and work from there.”

Alex Gladstone, Location/Production Manager, Shepperton Studios

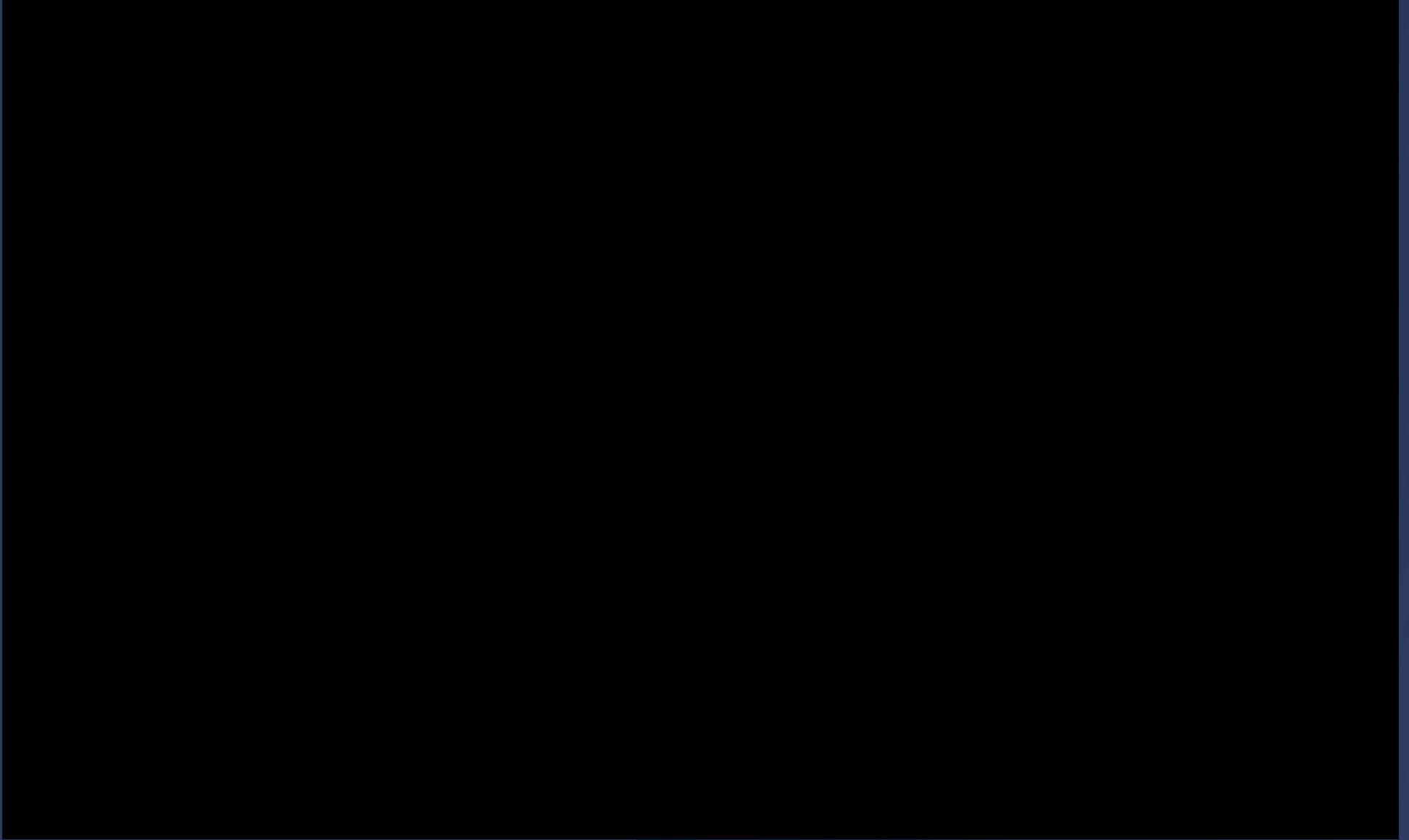
“

The BFC are pros. They know exactly what we are looking for and are just a very efficient and positive conduit. It's not just about 'look at pretty London, Belfast or Edinburgh.' They get the nuts and bolts and understand the physical challenges we are going to have. A lot of that has also to do with making sure the right crew is available.”

Adam McCarthy, SVP, Physical Production at Universal Pictures

Showreel

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Why the UK?

The UK is first for world-class film and TV productions.

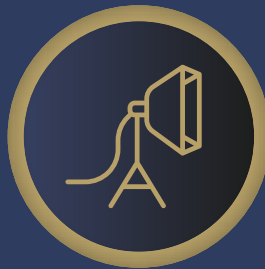
In 2022, a record £5.37 billion investment was generated in the UK from inward investment film and High-end TV. The UK continues to attract major international investment through:



**Tax reliefs -
competitive,
transparent
and inclusive**



**Award winning
talent and crew**



**World-class
studios and
facilities**



**Cutting-edge
VFX, post and
animation**



**Diverse and
unique locations
across the UK**



**Film-friendly
policies**



**Beneficial
exchange rate**

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Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny
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UK Production Hubs

The UK boasts major production hubs throughout its nations and regions.

- Each of the seven hubs feature stage space, an experienced crew base, access to film-friendly locations and a range of support facilities, from equipment hire to VFX and post.
- With excellent international and domestic transport links and a range of accommodation available for crew and-above-the-line talent, productions can take advantage of a diverse range of locations from US doubles to otherworldly locations.
- The UK can support every size and genre of film and HETV production with some areas providing local funding in addition to the UK-wide tax reliefs.
- The BFC and our Screen Agency partners provide production and location support throughout the UK.



UK Production Hubs

- 1. London and South-East England**

- 2. South-West England (Bristol)**

- 3. North-West England (Manchester and Liverpool)**

- 4. Yorkshire, England (Leeds)**

- 5. Northern Ireland (Belfast)**

- 6. Scotland (Glasgow and Edinburgh)**

- 7. Wales (Cardiff)**

Accessing UK Tax Reliefs

We assist productions with guidance on the UK's competitive and inclusive tax reliefs for qualifying film, High-end TV, animation, children's TV and video games.

- Claim up to 25% on UK-based activity, including pre-production, production, VFX and post-production.
- The package of new measures announced in March 2023 will make the reliefs even more competitive.
- Above-the-line is included, irrespective of nationality.
- No cap on the amount that can be claimed per project and no annual cap.
- Interim claims can be made.
- From January 2024, the UK Government is introducing a new Audio Visual Expenditure Credit (AVEC).
- For qualifying animated films, animated TV programmes and children's TV programmes, the net value of the relief will be 29.25%.
- For all other qualifying features films and TV programmes, the net value of the relief will be 25.5%.

Follow these links for full guidance on the value and qualification procedure for the **[High-end Television Tax Relief and the Film Tax Relief](#)**, or contact enquiries@britishfilmcommission.org.uk for tailored guidance on the UK film and High-end TV tax reliefs.

Working in the UK

The UK has a well-established and pragmatic approach to visas and work permits that prioritises access to the UK's world-class crew and cast whilst allowing the creative freedom to work with key international talent, even when based in the UK. Equally, when productions are working between the UK and other European countries, our relationships with our partner screen agencies in the EU and EEA, which have only strengthened post-Brexit, ensure as seamless a process as possible.



No Time to Die
Courtesy of LLC
and MGM

UK-wide Studios and Stage Space

- The UK offers a range of purpose-built studios, stage conversions and alternative build space suitable for feature film and High-end TV, with a pipeline of new stages in development.
- Thousands of square feet of backlot and specialist shooting facilities are available throughout the UK, including virtual production stages and volumes, performance capture, and unique assets such as Europe's largest underwater stage.
- The UK can support every size and genre of film and High-end TV production, with some areas providing funding in addition to the UK-wide tax reliefs.
- The BFC's Stage Space Support and Development initiative has provided support for millions of additional square feet of stage space throughout the country.

“

The BFC has been a huge resource and facilitator for us”

James Enright, CEO at Stage Fifty



His Dark Materials
Courtesy of HBO

Skills and Training

With demand for content at an all-time high, and significant studio and stage space developments and expansions underway across the UK, supporting the UK's skills pipeline is a priority.

We work closely with UK industry and partners to:

- **Identify and address** skills gaps across the spectrum of High-end TV and feature film production roles.
- **Facilitate crews' access** to suitable training.
- **Fund bespoke skills and training initiatives** that help build the crew bases in the UK's nations and regions.
- **Connect and help build relationships** between US clients and UK training providers to continue to grow skilled crews.
- **Connect production clients with relevant organisations** to address differences between UK and US working practices and develop training accordingly.
- **Share recent productions' experiences** to inform and shape skills development strategies.

Wonka
© Courtesy of
Warner Bros. Pictures

Supporting Environmental Sustainability and Social Responsibility

As the UK's production hubs expand to meet the increased demand for content, ensuring they maintain the highest social and environmental responsibility standards is increasingly important.

We provide support on:

- **Mental Health and Wellbeing:** We help productions to ensure their crews are supported, having funded counselling sessions and wellbeing resources, as well as working closely with leading bodies such as the Film and TV Charity
- **Accessibility, diversity, equality and inclusion:** We advocate for organisations throughout the UK that can help productions assemble a more diverse crew and we support the activity of initiatives such as the TV Access Project to ensure the film and TV industries change to be inclusive of all underrepresented groups.
- **Supporting our sector's transition to zero-carbon.** Working with industry and stakeholders to facilitate access to appropriate resources and expertise to establish and achieve sustainability goals.
- **Identifying and unpicking challenges** that our production clients may face in translating their US initiatives to the UK context, and aligning bespoke support with our shared EDI and sustainability goals.
- **Partnership working and learning from,** and sharing best practice with other film commissions, industry and stakeholders.



Ted Lasso
Courtesy of Apple TV+

VFX, Post-Production and Animation

- **The UK has the largest concentration** of VFX and post-production talent in the world.
 - **The UK is home to some of the biggest and most successful VFX and post-production facilities**, as well as boutique facilities, based in each of the UK hubs.
 - **The UK is rapidly becoming a global centre of excellence** in the knowledge and adoption of new in-camera-VFX techniques.
 - **The UK has seen exponential growth in the establishment of large scale virtual production capacity.** A full-service supply chain has developed at speed to match this industry demand. Visit our [Virtual Production Directory](#) to find vendors, suppliers and studios who can support major feature film and high-end television projects with virtual production facilities and In-Camera VFX.
 - **Qualifying Film and HETV productions** carrying out only
- VFX/Post work in the UK are still eligible for tax relief if the minimum expenditure requirement is met.
- **The UK features highly successful centres of animation** excellence in each of the four nations, generating globally successful IP as well as providing specialist animation services.
 - **We can provide guidance on the depth and diversity** on the UK-wide VFX, Post-Production and Animation industry. Please visit our [British Film Commission's VFX and Post-Production Directory](#) to find vendors located throughout the UK who can accommodate major feature film and High-end television projects.



British teams have won the Academy Award for Best VFX 11 times in the last 13 years.



The Marvels
Photo by Laura Radford.
© 2023 MARVEL.

COVID-19 Guidance

British Film Commission's *Working Safely During COVID-19 in Film and High-end TV Drama Production* guidance

As the world learns to live with COVID-19, the BFC's *Working Safely During COVID-19 in Film and High-end TV Drama Production* guidance remains an essential tool in keeping crew and cast safe, and productions working. Used alongside the productions' own COVID-19 protocols and production-specific risk assessment, it is intended to provide high-level guidance to manage COVID-19 specific risk in producing film and High-end TV drama in the UK.

The guidance was prepared in consultation with crew and crew representatives, UK and US film and High-end TV production executives, industry bodies in all four nations of the UK and in consultation with the UK Government, UK Health Security Agency and the Health and Safety Executive.

Download our [**Working Safely During COVID-19 in Film and High-end TV Drama Production** guidance here.](#)

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On the set of **Belfast**,
a Focus Features release

Our work is possible due to the funding and support from:



The British Film Commission thanks its Gold Sponsors:



The British Film Commission thanks its Silver Sponsors:



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The UK's Screen Agencies:

creative
england

