

## **Young People's Programmes – RTÉ**

### **CALLOUT FOR RTÉ/EUROVISION CHILDREN'S DRAMA PROPOSAL**

**No. Of Episodes / Duration:** 1 x 15 minutes

**Budget:** Up to a maximum of €100,000

**Closing Date:** Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 at 12 Noon (Strict Deadline)

## **'TELL ME A SECRET' – EUROVISION CHILDREN'S DRAMA**

RTÉ's Young People's Programmes is seeking proposals for an original, short children's drama as part of its participation in the Eurovision Children's Drama Series 2019, which is operated by the EBU (European Broadcasting Union). This is an international co-production exchange whereby RTÉ commissions and delivers to the EBU one children's film (or 'episode'), suitable for sharing with other broadcasters, as a result of which it receives Irish broadcast rights for all episodes made/commissioned as part of the exchange by other participating broadcasters.

Films in the series must be original and this commission for the Irish episode is contingent on the production company clearing all rights on an exclusive, transferable and worldwide basis, i.e. covering all writers, performers, composers et al. Please read both the Eurovision Rules which apply to the series and the Eurovision Executive Producer's guidelines - these are available at: <https://rtejr.rte.ie/ebu-rules-childrens-dramaseries-2019/>

Each film in the series should tell a story for children aged from 6 to 9 years, and it should be suitable for showing to children under this age even if it is not specifically made for them - it will be broadcast in the evening co-viewing slot on RTÉjr and on RTÉ 2. The main character(s) or actor(s) should be aged between 8 and 11 years and be active protagonists. Stories should feature children from diverse social backgrounds, have clear plots and take account of the audience's appetite for strong storytelling, action, fantasy, and adventure. All films should also strive to include exteriors that really site the film and give a flavor of the country in which it is being produced. The story should not rely on plot alone but should be character-driven and should appeal the emotions of the young target viewers. When thinking of story ideas, we would encourage submitters to think of genres as this can help the audience relate to the story: Action, Adventure, Comedy, Period Drama, Horror/Ghost Story, Thriller, Detective, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Fable, Musical, Personal Drama etc. These have delivered several of the most successful films to date.

The film may use an out-of-vision or third-person storyteller, it may have a narrative in the first person or there may be no narrator at all. Whatever, the narrative should not exceed one-third of the overall duration and a smaller percentage is recommended. Films in this series to date have been cinematic in style and approach, and similarly we want this years' Irish film to be visually-driven to a large degree - although a small amount of synchronous dialogue (which will require translation by other broadcasters) will be acceptable. Any synchronous dialogue should also be supported by the action or the narrative. The Eurovision Rules also require that the main actors are in no way related to anyone from the production team.

To see a selection of the films which have been produced to date in the exchange, please visit: <https://showcase.ebu.ch/gallery/children-s-drama-series-1>

As a whole, the Irish film must reflect the values of RTÉjr, which aims to explore and reflect the world in which youngsters in Ireland are growing up. Accordingly, the production must be fundamentally inclusive, prepared to embrace children of all backgrounds, abilities, cultures and ethnicities.

RTÉ Young People's is now seeking submissions from independent companies to produce the Irish film in this series. **Please note that this commission also encompasses the production and delivery of approximately eight of the other countries' films in English-language dubbed versions and this cost is included in the quoted budget. The quoted budget does not need to cover the Participation Fee which will be a separate cost to RTÉ.**

Submissions should demonstrate the company's ability to deliver in the following areas:

1. A strong, original story and a treatment that is convincingly age-appropriate - we want a film that promises to engage viewers aged between 6 and 9 years (and is suitable for screening to younger children, i.e. not too scary/dark for RTÉjr.) The series theme/title ('TELL ME A SECRET') must feature clearly but it can be interpreted laterally/creatively
2. The company, particularly key personnel proposed for this series, must demonstrate a proven track record in the production of films or television programmes for children. We are looking for an experienced film or television director with a strong leaning towards working with children; and a writer with a clear affinity for, and understanding of, the target audience age group of 6 to 9 years
3. The submission should outline a convincing casting strategy along with any initial casting suggestions
4. An understanding of the Eurovision Rules, including a willingness to engage with Eurovision's Executive Producer who will work with the company/producer to ensure the production is of the required standard and who will have the authority to approve or reject a treatment, make editorial decisions and, in specified circumstances, exclude a participant. **Please note that the deadline for delivery of the completed film will be 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019.** Deadline for delivery of dubbed programmes will be end of Feb 2020. They will be delivered by the production company to RTÉ directly.
5. The proposal must include a costed plan for dubbing into English approximately eight of the series' other films and delivering these dubbed versions ready for broadcast to RTÉ.

We ask, in the first instance, that producers submit ideas into the eCommissioning system: <https://e-commissioning.rte.ie/SWIFT.Web/skins/rte/login.aspx> under the programme category "Young Peoples" – "Eurovision Children's Drama 2019"