

# Creative Architects: Short Film Career Impact Lab

## Two-Day Intensive Programme

**Dates:** Saturday 31 January – Sunday 1 February

**Time:** 10:00am – 5:00pm (both days)

**Location:** Brighton & Hove (venue shared upon acceptance)

**Format:** In person · Application-led · Limited to 6 participants

**Led by:** Oscar®-shortlisted producer Elettra Pizzi

Applications close: January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

## Programme Overview

The Short Film Career Impact Lab is a selective, producer-led intensive designed to help filmmakers understand how short film projects function as professional tools, and how to make informed, strategic decisions that support clear career progression.

Across two focused days, the lab examines how short films are read, positioned, produced, and released within the industry, and how funding, genre, casting and release choices translate into professional impact. Participants attend with an existing short film project, which is used as a reference framework to ground discussion, reflection, and learning allowing filmmakers to test ideas, assumptions, and strategies against a real project context.

The lab focuses on strategic literacy: understanding scale, ambition, positioning, intent, release ambition, and funding structure, and how these elements interact at specific career moments. Through guided discussion, case analysis, and structured peer exchange, participants gain clarity on how their current and future projects can be shaped to unlock momentum, access, and next career steps.

The emphasis throughout is on building the ability to make deliberate, informed choices about how to structure for success their next short film work, equipping filmmakers with frameworks they can apply across their wider creative trajectory.

## DAY 1 — Positioning, Intent & Career Context

*(10:00am – 5:00pm)*

Day 1 focuses on understanding how short films operate within a professional landscape and how to evaluate projects in relation to career moment and intent.

### Topics covered include:

- Understanding career stage and professional objectives
- How the industry reads and evaluates short films (agents, producers, executives, studios)
- What makes a short film effective as career leverage at the participants' career stage
- Scale, ambition, and positioning in short filmmaking
- Intent versus outcome: what a project is designed to do
- Core short film development for a designed release
- Understanding the benefit of short films and social impact
- Using an existing project as a strategic reference point
- Guided discussion and structured peer analysis

Participants build a clearer understanding of how creative decisions signal capability, voice, and trajectory.

## DAY 2 — Production Strategy, Release & Impact

(10:00am – 5:00pm)

Day 2 focuses on how short films move into the world and how strategic decisions affect visibility, circulation, and professional outcomes.

### Topics covered include:

- Production structure and strategic decision-making
- Fundraising pathways and successful support mechanisms
- Budgets vs outcomes in today's landscape
- Aligning production choices with intended outcomes
- Release ambition and circulation models
- Festival strategy and professional signalling
- Different ways short films generate impact and opportunity
- Applying strategic frameworks to future projects
- Defining clear next steps beyond the lab

Participants leave with a stronger understanding of how to position short film work deliberately and how to apply these principles to future development.

### Application Process

- The lab is **application-led** to ensure a focused and productive group.
- Applicants must have an **existing short film project** (idea, treatment, or script) to use as a reference framework.
- Selection is based on:
  - the applicant's career moment
  - the suitability of the lab to their goals
  - readiness to engage at a strategic level

Offers are made by email.

**Payment is required within one week after acceptance.**

### Fees:

**£550**

(In person · Limited places)

Payment details are shared upon acceptance.

### Terms & Conditions

- Places are confirmed once payment is received.
- Fees are non-refundable unless the lab is cancelled by the organiser.
- Transfers may be considered at the organiser's discretion.
- Participants are expected to attend both full days.
- The lab involves group discussion; confidentiality and respectful engagement are required.
- All intellectual property remains with the participant.
- Programme content may be refined to best serve the cohort.

### About Creative Architects LABS

Creative Architects LABS is a producer-led programme of focused development intensives designed to help filmmakers design projects with intention aligning creative ambition with career progression, visibility, and long-term growth.