



Call for pitches: Short-form audio fiction

Open call for new and existing writers

Rusty Quill are seeking to produce **short-form audio fiction** series from new writers and underrepresented voices.

Shows can be speculative or non-speculative and in most genres, such as drama, comedy, horror, mystery or fantasy. Worlds and characters that include disabled, LGBTQIA+, and a variety of cultural or racial perspectives are encouraged. For example, we would love to one day produce a science fiction story that includes one or more characters with a learning disability.

We will present the series alongside shows from established creators in the independent podcasting community, advertise the series across the Rusty Quill Network, and represent the work to other agencies.

This is a paid opportunity, with Rusty Quill taking on the responsibility of producing the show once we have completed scripts from writers. You must have full intellectual property (IP) rights to your scripts and any show setting. If you have created any previous media that uses the same characters or world, please let us know in your pitch.

For this call-for-pitches we *do not* want pitches for anthologies; soap operas; stories using pre-existing or derivative intellectual property (for example a Marvel-themed show); or erotica.

For the moment, we are not producing children or family-orientated shows; however, this may change so if you do want to send through a pitch idea, please do so.

Episode and series length

We want short-form audio fiction that matches the following criteria:

- **Two to eight episodes**
- Ideally **20-25 minutes** per episode, or **40-45 minutes** per episode, not including any intro/outro songs or credits. We'd recommend not going over 40 minutes per episode; however, this isn't a strict rule. The length of episodes do not have to exactly match one another.
- The story should have a plotline that continues through from episode one until the end. We are not looking for anthologies.

If your idea is fantastic, we can break the guidance! You'll just need to make your scripts and pitch as strong as possible.

If you're unsure of how to time your scripts, please use a word-count of 160 words per minute. This includes all your character names and actions.

Pitching

To submit a pitch visit rustyquill.com/submit-pitch

The “**What’s the Pitch?**” field is where you add the synopsis of the show. This must cover:

- What the show is about; for example, “Irreverent mockumentary about the lives of unemployed lizards”.
- A brief outline of what happens in the story.
- The key characters involved, in uppercase; for example, “BOB”.
- When and where the story is set.
- What makes the story unique.

You should receive a response to say we have received the pitch. If do not receive a reply, please do get back in touch to confirm we got your submission!

We review pitches quarterly, so you should receive a personal response within 3 months. If we are interested, we will:

- Set up a meeting to talk about the project.
- Ask you to sign a mutual NDA. This NDA protects both parties.
- Ask you to send through any existing scripts.

If asked to send through scripts, please use a standard radio, screen or stage play format. We recommend using a writing application such as **WriterDuet / WriterSolo** or **Celt-X**. Both of these offer free versions.

We can provide example scripts if you are unsure about the best format.

If you have accessibility requirements for creating your pitch or scripts, please contact us at mail@rustyquill.com

Who are Rusty Quill?

Rusty Quill Ltd. is a London-based UK entertainment production company and podcast network. We specialise in creating original, free-to-consume content whilst providing a platform for new and interesting voices and talent. We are known for producing multi-award-winning fiction podcasts including The Magnus Archives; and our podcast network includes both newcomers and well-established shows such as We're Alive.

The team working on this project include:



Elizabeth Moffatt
(she/her)
Showrunner



Lauren Thompson
(she/her)
Producer



Helen Gould
(she/he/they)
Head of Inclusion



Callum Dougherty
(he/him)
Chief Marketing Officer



April Sumner
(she/her)
Executive Producer



Alexander J Newall
(he/him)
Creative Director