



# Comedy Brief

*August 2020*



Channel 4 have announced a Black Take Over of the channel in Autumn 2021 and at the heart of its ambitious brief is a commitment to launch a brand-new comedy on the night.

**The countdown starts now and we're on the hunt for original scripted comedy ideas that come from, celebrate and support Black talent front and centre.**

The industry is speaking about race and diversity with a passion that is vital, demanding, timely and exciting and some key themes have emerged in the discourse.

- On-screen, representation of Black British life and experience is lacking.
- Off-screen, we have an industry wide problem that talent from BAME backgrounds aren't getting enough experience and support to progress in the industry.

We want funny, ambitious ideas that take these issues to heart, using them to help shape the pitches we receive. There will be lots of routes to making this happen, so we're open to collaborative, imaginative conversations from indies big and small about how best to do this together.



In terms of what type of show, the wider C4 Comedy brief is simple:

We want sitcoms that reflect the UK back at itself. Broad, clever, returnable shows, full of memorable characters that help us feel connected to each other. Think about what we make and how that makes us distinctive.

Writer performers have a long and successful legacy with us (*Catastrophe*, *Stath Lets Flats*, *Chewing Gum*, *This Way Up*, *Maxxx*, *Feel Good*) but writer led projects that celebrate a specific take on the universal are also a big win for us. (*Derry Girls*, *Friday Night Dinner*)

The sweet spot for C4 comedy? Surprising, truly original and bloody funny!



A real gap for us is new family sit-coms. Derry Girls and Friday Night Dinner are two of our biggest shows – instantly recognisable characters, high gag count, multi-generational and covering universal themes of family and relationships.

So we're especially keen to hear ideas in this territory from writers new and established. Ideas will dictate what path development takes.

We are open to conversations and submissions now, so please get in touch.

Pitches should go via Jack Bayles or Laura Riseam copying in Fiona McDermott and Nicole Steven. We really look forward to hearing from you.

Head of Comedy: [fmcdermott@Channel4.co.uk](mailto:fmcdermott@Channel4.co.uk)

Commissioning Editor: [jbayles@channel4.co.uk](mailto:jbayles@channel4.co.uk)

Commissioning Exec: [lriseam@channel4.co.uk](mailto:lriseam@channel4.co.uk)

Team Assistant: [Nsteven@channel4.co.uk](mailto:Nsteven@channel4.co.uk)

