

National Talent Academy
Film & Television



FÍS TV Summit Pitching Competition 2025 Participants

The NTA Film and TV Drama in collaboration with Ardán and FÍS TV Summit are delighted to once again host the Pitching Competition at FÍS TV Summit 2025.

The pitching competition is an opportunity to get your ideas noticed by industry leaders and decision-makers, connect with professionals who can turn your vision into reality and could lead to development deals and production opportunities.

Six participants will pitch at the FÍS TV Summit, having received an intensive workshops to develop their pitches with Michael Zam. The winning pitch as voted by industry experts will get a €1,000 prize.

The most recent winner of the FÍS TV Summit Pitching Competition was Patricia Kelly with *Humdrum*, which told the story of a freelance court-transcriber, whose life is in the toilet, and interferes in the cases she types to find justice, but quickly loses sight of what's right and what's very wrong.

The 2020 FÍS TV Summit Pitching Competition was won by the team made up of Ray Lawlor, Oonagh Kearney & Paddy Hayes who pitched their show *Obituary*, about a small-town obituarist who resorts to murder when work dries up locally. In the audience that year was Laurent Boissel (APC Studios) who loved the idea and signed on as executive producer alongside Paddy Hayes for the show which was shot in Donegal in 2023 and broadcast on RTÉ. It is now in production for its second season.

The National Talent Academy Film and TV is an initiative of Screen Ireland, managed by Ardán.

This years participants in order of their pitch are:

1. Sheena Lambert

TV Show: *Billy & Kick* **Genre:** Drama

Logline: The story of how the tragic romance between JFK's favourite sister, Kathleen Kennedy, and William Cavendish, Marquess of Hartington almost destroyed the entire Kennedy political dynasty and brought one of England's oldest aristocracies to its knees.



DUBLINER **Sheena Lambert** left the glamour of a career in industrial waste management behind when her first novel was published. She is now a full time screenwriter and playwright. Her debut feature film, *Báite*, is due for release in 2025 and her romantic comedy feature *Who Do You Think You Are?* is in pre-production. Sheena's stage play *Cosima*, based on her feature screenplay of the same name, enjoyed a sold out run in 2024 with an Irish tour planned for 2025. Sheena was selected by Screen Ireland to attend MediaXchange's Showrunner Programme in LA in March 2024.

2. Samuel Jay Patrick & Oran Fitzpatrick

TV Show: *Diving* **Genre:** Drama

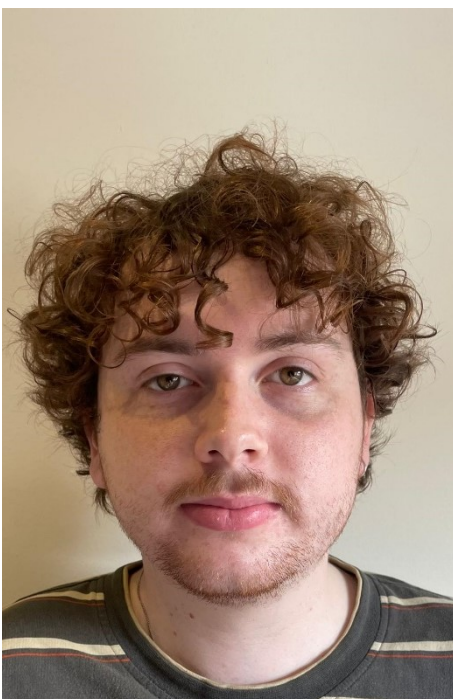
Logline: A young photographer dives into Dublin's '80s rock scene aspiring to turn his passion into a profession. Yet to keep his dream alive he must become a ruthless manager, risking losing the family he found in a fractured band.



Samuel Jay Patrick is a Limerick-born writer and director with an MA in Screenwriting from the London Film School, where he was shortlisted for the Casarotto, Ramsay & Associates Award for Outstanding Screenwriting Student in 2025. His debut feature script was recently shortlisted for the BAFTA Rocliffe Award 2024 and he was shortlisted for the Best Young Filmmaker at the 35th Cinemagic International Film Festival. His three short films have toured festivals with the most recent being selected for the Clermont Ferrand Market 2025.

His writing is influenced by the works of Martin McDonagh and Céline Sciamma, reflecting a blend of humour and emotional depth. His work often explores themes of personal growth, abandonment, and the complexity of human relationships with his feature script *Daisychain*, a bittersweet coming-of-age story set in Dublin, reflecting contemporary issues faced by the youth of Ireland and beyond today.

As a member of the Screenwriters Guild of Ireland, Samuel is dedicated to contributing to the arts and storytelling landscape in Ireland. His experiences, including his background in music, having formed the rock band Inhaler at the age of 12, and collaborating with various artists, inform his unique voice, allowing him to craft narratives that connect deeply with audiences. Samuel continues to develop plays, series, and films that resonate with universal themes, inviting viewers to reflect on their own lives and journeys.



Oran Fitzpatrick is an Irish writer and director whose work explores themes of family, grief, and the search for purpose, often through a lens of dark comedy. Influenced by writers like Harold Pinter, Roddy Doyle, and John Steinbeck, his stories delve into the complexities of human relationships and the chaos of everyday life.

Oran holds a BA (Hons) in Audio and Music Technology from Griffith College Dublin and a diploma in Film Production from Pulse College Dublin. With a valuable experience on set, including recent work on *First Dates Ireland*, Oran has developed a versatile skill set in collaboration and hopes to further his career in writing and directing. His writing combines emotional depth with sharp wit, capturing the humour and rawness of life's struggles.

Currently, Oran is working on *Rabbit Trap*, a coming-of-age comedy/drama feature film. His work continues to make an impact in the Irish film industry, known for its honest portrayal of life's messiness, humour, and emotional complexity.

3. Jordan Murshed

TV Show: It Takes Two **Genre:** Comedy

Logline: Millie and her partner Lucas are unexpectedly forced to give up the apartment they've been 'housesitting', and move back into Lucas's family home temporarily, but realise they may be stuck here far longer than they first anticipated.



Jordan Murshed is a Creative Director and Screenwriter from Cork, active in Irish TV/Film since the age of 16. A 2010 Cork Film Festival/RSA/Setanta Insurance screenwriting finalist; Jordan went on to earn his Bachelor's Degree at The National Film School at IADT, where he won a "Best Short Feature" RTS award for his experimental short *Vitruvius* in 2017.

Since then working as a Creative Director, his professional credits include Creative Lead for M&S's *Farm to Foodhall* campaign in 2024, Shooting Director for *Paul Flynn's Food Truck Favourites*, (RTÉ One) writing/directing roles on *The Summer Show* and *Nationwide* (RTÉ One) as well as numerous writing/directing credits for TVC's, online campaigns and short documentaries over the years.

From August 2023 to January 2024, he worked in the Script Department as a shadow on *Video Nasty* Season 1 (a Deadpan Pictures, BBC, Boat Rocker and Screen Ireland co-production), returning as Junior Development Assistant for Season 2.

He now hopes to take the many projects he has been developing to market, with the aim of hopefully getting them green-lit for production, starting with his TV Series "it takes two."; an exposé into the intimate lives of young couples, navigating the realities of multi-generational living through Ireland's current housing crisis."

4. Sarah-Jane Scott

TV Show: Unleashed **Genre:** Comedy Drama

Logline: Everyday superwoman and single mam Corina and her true crime obsessed, rich glam-mam BFF Ann Marie, have been singlehandedly keeping their respective shit shows on the road for way too long, and have finally had enough.



Sarah-Jane is a writer and actor from Tuam, Co Galway, working in both English and Irish, across screen, theatre and radio.

SELECTED WRITING: Most recently, Sarah-Jane wrote *Eamonn Gibney: Wanted Dead or Alive* for 24 Hour Plays Dublin at The Abbey Theatre.

Her debut play *Appropriate* is currently in development as a feature film; after being chosen for the Screen Ireland Spotlight: Stage to Screen Initiative in 2024 and is currently part of a 6 month Screen Ireland rewriting workshop with Emanuel Oberg. *Appropriate*, which Sarah-Jane also performed, was originally developed for Dublin Fringe Festival for ‘*Show In A Bag*’ (Nominated Bewley’s Little Gem Award). It then toured extensively, nationally and internationally, to Edinburgh Fringe (Winner Lustrum Award) and New York (Winner Spirit of the Festival Award, First Irish Festival).

Her debut short *Ghosted* (Screen Ireland Actor As Creator), premiered at The Dublin International Comedy Film Festival, winning the Spirit of The Festival Award, chosen by Deadpan pictures. *Ghosted* was directed by Jeda De Brí and is currently completing its Irish and international festival run.

In 2023, *Skewed* (RTE Radio Drama on 1) was nominated for an Irish Writers Guild Zebbie Award for best Radio Drama script.

5. Niamh O'Connor

TV Show: Mapping Keira **Genre:** Crime drama

Logline: When a dormant serial killer is linked to a new victim, a detective obsessed with catching him puts her own daughter at risk to track him down — using geo-profiling techniques.



Niamh O'Connor is a Lord David Putnam screenwriting scholar. She won the First Frames/IADT competition with her short *The Invitation* in 2023. Her second short *Little B*tch* was the Ardán/RTÉ Short Film Commission winner in 2024 and is currently in pre-production.

Niamh was an NTA shadow writer on Deadpan's *Video Nasty* TV series in 2024. Her first feature also received Screen Ireland support last year and is being produced by O'Sullivan Productions. Niamh has received mentorships from the Stowe and Writer's Lab competitions and is a former crime journalist who has been nominated for an Irish Book Award on three occasions.

6. Rachael O’Kane & Katie Murphy

TV Show: Surviving 22 **Genre:** Dramedy

Logline: Roisin navigates grief during her thriving twenties in the aftermath of her brother’s suicide, as she tries to piece her heart and family back together (badly).



Rachael O’Kane is an award winning producer and CEO of Atomic 80 Productions. Most recently she was executive producer on the feature film *Saipan* directed by Lisa Barros D’Sa and Glenn Leyburn and starring Steve Coogan and Eanna Hardwike.

In 2022 Rachael produced a Britbox Original TV series called *The Dry* for Element Pictures. In 2020 Rachael produced *Dating Amber* for her company Atomic 80. *Dating Amber* was written and directed by David Freyne and was an Amazon Prime Original. In 2017 she produced David Freyne’s debut feature *The Cured*.

The Cured launched at Special Presentation at TIFF 2017 and went on to win best horror film at Fantastic Fest 2017 in Austin Texas.



Katie Murphy is a screenwriter from Wicklow, she has extensive experience working in the film and TV industry as a Script Coordinator including Writers Rooms for Netflix and as Associate Producer on the comedy feature film *Deadly Cuts*.

Recently Katie represented the NTA Film and TV Drama / Ardán at the 2024 Screen Talent Europe Pitching Forum in Grimstad, Norway. Following this she pitched her Academy Nicholl placing feature screenplay in France thanks to a Rocaberti Writing Retreat Scholarship and Screen Ireland Bursary Award.

Katie writes both film and TV, with a particular interest in bold, daring stories with a comedic tone, stories that touch on societal issues or push the boundaries in an unconventional and edgy way.

The winner of the competition will be announced at the networking event following the FÍS TV Summit.