



QMTC PITCH GUIDE 2020-21



So you've decided to put on a show... what next?

For every QMTC festival, we host a Pitch Night to allow potential directors an opportunity to describe and sell their show idea to their fellow members, but this can sound like a very scary experience for someone who's never done it before. Below, we've outlined the important things you need to include in your pitch, as well as some tips on how to prepare and promote your show in the best way possible.

HOW PITCHING WORKS

- The submission page for pitches will go up on our website, www.qmtc.co.uk. To pitch your show, you must submit all the required information before the deadline, which is 12pm on the day of the pitch night.
- We ask all pitchers to provide an image to add to the pitch night PowerPoint – this can be something relevant to the plot or a helpful graphic to illustrate your pitch. This must be sent to company@qmtc.co.uk before the 12pm pitch day deadline.
- **This year, pitch nights will take place online as Microsoft Teams sessions.**
- You will have **5 minutes** for your pitch, followed by **3 minutes** of questions from the audience.
- After all the pitches have been heard, the audience will vote for the shows they would like to see at the festival through a Google form – unfortunately, **as a pitcher, you will not be able to vote.**
- The committee will stay after the pitch night has ended to count the votes, and the successful shows will be announced on our [Facebook page](#).
- If your pitch has been successful, you will be added to a Directors' Group on Facebook where you can communicate with the committee on the next step.

NEW SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

This year because of government restrictions, the kinds of shows you can pitch are more limited than normal. Hopefully we'll be able to relax these as soon as possible, but for now any shows you pitch must comply with these requirements.

- **All shows will be recorded, edited, then streamed online instead of performed for a live audience.** Please consider what this will mean for your show before pitching.
- **No more than 3 cast members.** This is so that when it comes to your recording session, all the people who need to be there in person (including technicians and camera operators) will be able to attend, without exceeding the 6 person limit.
- **The time limit is 30 minutes** to prevent long-term exposure.
- **All company members must stay at least 1m apart at all times.** This includes during rehearsals, onstage and in backstage spaces.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PITCH

- **The name and author of your show**, whether this is you or someone else.
- **Approximate running time and how many cast members you need.** The limit is 30 minutes and casts are limited to 3, so consider if anything needs to be cut out or roles that can be doubled.
- **Any complicated technical requirements.** This means any mess, fake weapons, suspending someone from the ceiling, a unique prop – and these examples are based on past shows!
- **Where you plan to stage/record it.** By default this is the Pinter Studio in ArtsOne, but other spaces are available to you.
- **Whether you need any backstage crew/creative team.** Having people to share the responsibilities of running a show could be very helpful to you if you're nervous – this could be assistant directors, stage managers, or designers. Please bear in mind that you will be allowed **no more than 1 technician to operate sound and lighting during the show.** Feel free to involve any designers, assistant directors or other creative roles you need as long as you stick to the 6 people limit if you meet in person.
- **The plot and themes of the show.** This is probably the most important part of your pitch and you should spend the most time on this.

- **Why your show should be picked.** Also an important part of your pitch, this is your chance to really sell your idea to your audience and pick out the things that make your show unique, relevant or exciting.

TIPS FOR A GOOD PITCH

- **Prepare!** Make notes on some paper or your phone to plan what you will say, and practice at least once before pitch night to make yourself aware of the 5 minute pitch limit – it's shorter than you think.
- **Relax and enjoy the pitch.** You're only speaking to other university students, not a jury, and they want you to do well as much as you do.
- **Know your show.** You will be leading the rehearsal process for a month, and interested students want to know you have answers to any questions they may have.
- **Passion and enthusiasm go a long way.** If you are excited about your show, you encourage others to feel the same.
- **Be creative!** Don't be afraid to do something different to stand out – a sketch, read a part of your script, whatever you can think of.

GOOD LUCK AND SEE YOU ON WEDNESDAY!