



2019 PREDICTIONS: CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

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BREXIT

A key issue facing the creative industries in 2019 is the end of free movement brought about by Brexit. This will make it more difficult for the EU talent, which makes a vital contribution to the UK arts scene, to travel here both temporarily and for long-term roles. Those who work in this sector are particularly unlikely to meet the £30,000 per annum salary required to secure a Tier 2 Visa.

This is especially harmful to young artists seeking to establish themselves in the renowned cultural and artistic institutions based here, such as orchestras, or participating in events such as international festivals. The importance of collaboration in the arts cannot be overstated, and the loss of international talent and perspective will affect the cultural offering available to UK citizens.

End of free movement will also hamper the ability of UK artists to go abroad to exhibit their work or perform as part of a tour within Europe. This obviously will have negative financial and educational effects on them.

Additionally, the film industry, which has benefitted extraordinarily from US productions taking advantage of the low pound, is now worried that the difficulty of recruiting crew members from Europe will stifle continued investment. This will similarly harm European co-productions, many of which have received international critical acclaim. The production of these films rely upon staff moving across Europe and the UK. Going into 2019, industry figures have called for further support from the Government to manage the impact of Brexit in the coming years.

FUNDING CUTS

Arts councils across the UK are facing budget cuts from local authorities struggling to fund public services in the coming years. In Birmingham, for example, this is triggering fears that the country's cultural institutions will lose their global reputation for excellence. A fall in culture funding in Scotland's budget, meanwhile, will worry those who, now more than ever, are focused on protecting Scotland's distinct cultural and historic environment.

This is compounded by the losses in funding which Brexit is likely to cause in the next couple of years, for example the £17m per year granted to UK organisations by the EU's Creative Europe programme is likely to vanish by 2020. A vital challenge for many arts groups and organisations this coming year will be how to replace this with funding from alternative sources, whether directly from central Government or the private sector, or how to make reduced budgets stretch further. Outreach, education and championing diversity both in terms of output and the range of different audiences that are being attracted will be vital to securing a sustainable future for the sector.

UNPAID INTERNS

Unpaid internships have long been an integral part of the creative industries, but they are increasingly coming under criticism.

In November 2018 'The Pay As You Go?' report by the Sutton Trust found that 90% of arts and culture internships were unpaid, with the Trust's founder commenting that it represents "a huge social

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mobility issue”. Indeed, the nature of unpaid internships is seen as a major barrier to ensuring diversity in the arts, an issue which has gained and will continue to gain prominence.

Furthermore, the Unpaid Work Experience bill, which seeks to ban unpaid internships longer than four weeks, is nearing its second reading in Parliament this month. The increasing public criticism

combined with a potential change in legislation means then that many businesses in the industry will have to reconsider their approach to work experience and entry level positions in 2019. The savvy arts organisation will pre-empt legislation and embrace this as an opportunity to improve upon diversity and representation in the field and stand out as an employer.