PLAINTEXT - Interference Application Pack

What is it?

Good question. This is a radio sketch show, which will be a Footlights production in collaboration with CamFM. The finished product will be 3 episodes, 45 minutes in length. We are looking for 5 writer/performers (with room for additional writers). This is the virgin voyage of such a project, so the timeline will be rough. The aim is to write over the end of Michaelmas into the break, with recording sessions in early-to-mid Lent. There is no set 'theme', but writers will be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities of the format. You can do pretty much anything without any risk assessments (!) The approach to writing will be collaborative, constructive and most of all supportive! Also fun.

On Casting:

This project is open to anyone irregardless of:

- university
- year of study
- experience in comedy, writing and performance

We particularly want to create a team of writers and performers that reflects the diversity of the comedy scene here, and encourage applications from (not exhaustively) BIPOC, women/ NB, neurodiverse backgrounds, and are always looking to accommodate access needs.

This opportunity may also suit someone interested in the world of comedy, writing and performance but doesn't want to get on stage or feels apprehensive about performing. Also people who've been told they have a face for radio. Maybe not people who've been told they have a voice for mime.

Basically - everyone is welcome!

Who Am I?

My name is Freya (she/her), I'm a second year historian at Murray Edwards, and one of the Smokers Officers for Footlights committee. I'm really enthusiastic about a radio comedy project because radio is a magnificent invention that I'm still not over. The process will be one of learning as I go, and I'd love the help and company of some people equally excited about trying out something new!

Writer/Performer Application

This will be a really informal and chill process! Please email all responses to fjb51@cam.ac.uk with the subject line 'Interference Writer/Performer Application'. Alternatively, you can just apply to write only.

- Why would you like to get involved?
- Please provide 1-2 audio sketches - don't worry about them being perfect,just enough for us to read through together. You can also think about music and sound fx! We'll read/talk through this in person :)
- What are your comedy influences - not limited to just radio!
- You're calling in a song request to your local radio station - what are you asking for and who are you shouting out?

Assistant director application

I could really do with someone else joining me in the cockpit. If you have an exciting vision and shared passion for this kind of project, lets work together! I promise I'm nice to work with. Please email all responses to fjb51@cam.ac.uk with the subject line 'Interference Assistant Director Application'.

- Why would you like to get involved?
- Do you have any vision in terms of tone/style/content/inspiration?
- What are your comedy influences - not just limited to radio!
- Did video kill the radio star?

In-Person 'auditions'

'Auditions' in the loosest sense. More like a friendly chat over your application with an old friend. Please use this strawpoll link to book in a slot, alternatively if you can't make any, send me an email and we can arrange an alternative set up. I appreciate end of term is very busy! In person slots are Monday 30th Nov 11-1pm ADC DR2

https://strawpoll.com/PKgleNbroZp

My Recommended Picks

Not quite sure what radio sketch should look like? Here's some of my favourite examples to get you thinking. This is by no means prescriptive - radio sketch is an old form and can represent one of the older comic sensibilities in Britain - at its best its great, at its worst its really, really grating. You don't need to be too droll or twee or Radio 4. I want to hear your voice most importantly!

I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again (1964)

The Mary Whitehouse Experience (1989)

On the Hour (1991)

The In Crowd (2004)

Cowards (2007)

John Finnemore's Souvenir Programme (2011)

Welfare Application

I want to make sure everyone is happy, comfortable and having fun on this new project, and I'd love a welfare officer to attend some writing sessions and act as a point of contact for any concerns. You'll also be in liason with Izzy, the welfare officer for the Footlights committee. This is a low pressure way to get involved with comedy and a way to shape what this new process looks like.

Please email fjb51@cam.ac.uk with these questions:

- Why do you want to get involved with the show?
- Do you have any experience (none required!)