



## **S4C casting guidelines**

S4C is publishing these guidelines in order to offer guidance to producers as they choose the cast for S4C-commissioned drama. These guidelines note the need, in general, to avoid seeing the same actors appearing in more than one series at around the same time. In drafting these guidelines, we have sought to achieve a balance between, on the one hand, the need to protect the integrity of our drama series and their main characters and responding to audience feedback about the need for a variety of faces, whilst on the other hand recognising the need for producers to be able to cast actors who are suitable for the role.

It is also our responsibility as a public service broadcaster to authentically represent the diverse communities of Wales, therefore producers should always consider this when casting and producers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with S4C's diversity commitment and strategy. Consideration should also be given to the Casting and Equal Opportunities section of the TAC/Equity agreement.

Here are guidelines to provide guidance for producers when casting:

1. Generally, actors should not appear in more than one drama series being broadcast at the same time. This applies to all drama series on S4C, including soaps such as *Pobol y Cwm* and *Rownd a Rownd*.
2. In addition, actors should not appear in two consecutive drama series (excluding soaps for this purpose). Any request to vary this guideline in individual cases should be discussed in good time with the S4C Commissioner.
3. For the purpose of these guidelines, only the first transmission on the S4C television service will be taken into account, therefore no repeats or online availability will be taken into account.
4. The limitation only applies to series; therefore this will not affect appearances in a film or single drama. Usually, the limitation will also apply to two or three part series, but this should be discussed with the Commissioner in advance.
5. The limitation applies whatever the length of the episodes and whenever in the week they are broadcast.
6. The limitation applies to actors who appear as a main character in one or more series. If one of the appearances is in a secondary role or is a special appearance in one or a limited number of episodes, this should be discussed with the Commissioner to see whether it is possible to appear in both series.

Producers are requested to take the following practical steps:

1. To discuss with the S4C Commissioner before holding auditions, in order to obtain confirmation whether the choices under consideration could be cast under these casting guidelines.
2. Producers are requested to follow the General Procedures for Auditions contained in the TAC/Equity Agreement.
3. Producers are requested to try to cast and contract with actors well in advance of the commencement of production and no later than seven days before a weekly



engagement, or 48 hours before a daily engagement as per the TAC/Equity agreement.

4. Producers are reminded of the need under the TAC/Equity agreement to send the completed Production Information Form to Equity along with a cast list no later than one week before commencement of principal photography. It should be sent to [cymru@equity.org.uk](mailto:cymru@equity.org.uk)

Please note that the above are guidelines and, where appropriate, it may be possible to discuss variations in individual cases, to be agreed with the S4C Commissioner.

The S4C Commissioner will share details of the intended period of transmission with the producer prior to casting. If circumstances change and S4C decides to change the transmission period after the cast has been finalised, S4C will not subsequently expect an actor to change any commitments already made based on the original transmission schedule, even if that leads to the actor appearing in more than one series concurrently.

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