

Dear All

I support Equity's drive to amend Ofcom' s production criteria to place an obligation to undertake at least one local casting session for 'regional' or in my case Scottish- based productions.

The Scottish film/tv industry is a crucial stage. It's threatening to start inching its way out of the darkness and start the long process towards establishing a genuine Film/tv industry.

But this can never happen unless the actors based in the country become a part of this brave new world.

For the 30 years of my career it's been assumed, because of the dearth of truly home grown work that Scottish- based actors aren't capable of nailing leading parts in film/tv.

Left to their own devices production companies will continue to cast the leads from London and, if we're lucky the bit-parts here.

I've been one of many Scottish-based actors who's reaction has been to work almost exclusively outside of Scotland. I've worked in Bulgaria, South Africa, Germany, Fuertaventura, Ireland, Wales and England. I've played leads and supporting leads, as well as many day-player roles and bit parts. I've appeared in more than 30 features or tv series.

But when a Scottish show comes along it's back to square one. At best I'll be competing with dozens of other excellent Scottish based actors for a bit part.

All we're asking for is a decent crack of the whip. I compete with actors from all over the world for roles. I've been considered for decent roles in Hollywood movies and US tv series. The one place I and many others in the same boat aren't allowed to compete on an even playing field, is the country in which we live.

Having at least one mandatory local casting session is a small but important start. Without it, how can we ever expect to develop a genuine Film and tv industry in Scotland.

Kind Regards

Doug Russell