

Home » News

## TriForce winner lands ITV development

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A young screenwriter has won a paid development commission with ITV after winning the WriterSlam competition set up by talent development firm TriForce Creative Network (TCN).

Lee Coan, a former journalist, was chosen as the winner for his *When I'm Not Around* script after five finalists had their efforts performed at the WriterSlam show on 10 June.

The paid development will be produced by ITV Studios.

Coan will be mentored by an ITVS executive, while ITV head of drama series Jane Hudson will provide feedback on his script.

Other winners on the night included writer Tom Mackay, who won the BBC award for his script, *The Brotherhood*, and was offered a place on the corporation's Introduction to Writing for Continuing Drama Workshop.

Tiger Aspect delivered its own award to Michael Wiafe, who was offered a shadowing placement with a writer on one of the company's dramas.

The first national WriterSlam was set up by TriForce to increase diversity and inclusivity in television and to give new writers the place to launch their TV writing careers.

TriForce chief operating officer Minnie Crowe, said the initiative "helps bridge the gap between emerging creative and the people in the industry with the power to move their careers forward".

TriForce Creative Network was set up by actors Jimmy Akingbola and Fraser Ayres in 2004, which has created a database of 16,000 diverse actors writers and production professionals.

The company set up its own production company in April, named TriForce Productions, which is being backed by Tony Jordan indie Red Planet Pictures.

WriterSlam is funded by Creative Skillset's Skills Investment Fund.

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