

# **Style Guide**

Please refer to this Style Guide for formatting advice and to our Contributor's Terms before undertaking a commission for Talking Shorts. Contact your commissioning editor if you have any questions.

## Grammar

- We prefer British English.
- If a word ending in S has a possessive apostrophe after, format it as *Talking Shorts*' rather than *Talking Shorts's*.

## Formatting

- Google Docs is our preferred submission system, but if you don't use that, a plain Word or .txt document is also fine (please, no PDFs).
- Please use standard fonts and sizing.
- Remember the difference between a hyphen and an em-dash. A hyphen connects two words, but an em dash provides a break in a sentence. Use em dashes (—like this—), not hyphens (-) or open en dashes (–like this –).
- Include hyperlinks and footnotes when needed. If you quote someone, please include a link to the source of the quote. If you mention an article, tweet, video, etc., please link to it where possible.
- We use *italics* for film/television/book titles. We use single quotes ('') for programme titles, chapters, news articles, and song titles.
- We use double quotes ("") for quotations.

- Commas and other punctuation should be placed outside single quotes, unless part of the speech or the title.
- Please list the year a film was made after its title ie. *The Red Balloon* (1956).
- Please capitalise titles according to IMDb and use English titles where possible.

## **Titles**

Please suggest a title and subtitle for your piece. For *Reviews*: a title to tease the text's thesis (no subtitle). For *Interviews*: a pull-quote (Q&A-format) or a teasing title (narrative format). For *Essays*: a title to tease the text's thesis (+ subtitle). Please take a look at the respective sections on our website to understand what we're aiming for.

#### Images

Suggestions for 1-3 high-quality stills or images are welcome but not obligatory. Please mention any legal/copyright information when providing visual content.