

## It's Funny Because It's True

Hot Docs & Netflix present a new talent discovery initiative that supports documentary production and creative storytelling by exploring our world through a comedic, light-hearted lens.

This outline is to help guide you in preparing your application. You may also refer to the online application for more detailed information.

Hot Docs is considerate of technological, social and accessibility barriers to the application process. Accommodations that can be provided to support applicants may include an oral or video submission component. Potential applicants who require assistance are encouraged to request accommodation at least two weeks before the deadline by contacting Hot Docs Funds.

Questions? Contact [funds@hotdocs.ca](mailto:funds@hotdocs.ca) or leave a voicemail at 416-203-2155 ext 249

### PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION

- Applicant profile
- Contact information
- Production Company Details
- Company contact information

### JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Hot Docs is committed to supporting diverse perspectives and storytelling voices, and encourages directors who are Black, Indigenous, People of Colour, and of all ages, genders, sexual orientations and disabilities to apply. Program applicants may choose to self-identify.

### PROJECT INFO

- Title of Project
- Stage of Production
- Runtime
- Estimated Date of Completion
- Country of Production
- Language(s)
- Genre(s)

### STORY DESCRIPTION

#### Logline – 2-3 sentences

*Provide a brief, catchy summary of your story.*

#### Synopsis – 1-2 paragraphs

*Give an overview of your story, introducing the main characters and potential plot points. Describe the anticipated story structure and narrative trajectory, or potential character arcs for your project.*

## **Topic Summary – 1-2 paragraphs**

*Why is this topic important, timely, or relevant? Why are you the best person to make a film about this? Explain the cultural or social relevance and context for the topic, and why this project is timely or urgent. Detail the topics, issues, themes, challenges, stakes, or questions that your project will cover.*

## **Artistic Approach – 1-2 paragraphs**

*How are you going to tell this story? Describe your creative vision for the finished project – its visual look and feel. Explain your intended use of cinematic language or any particular artistic approach that informs the storytelling. If applicable, mention any creative elements and assets, interactive elements, new technologies or non-traditional mediums that you intend to utilize. Explain how these elements will enhance the experience and interaction between viewers and the world of the story.*

## **Relationship and Approaches to Communities Involved – 1-2 paragraphs**

*What is the creative team's connection to the story? Why is the core creative team uniquely positioned to make this film? What is your creative team's personal connection to the specific communities your story is about? Discuss how the access to the story and characters was established. Explain the collaboration with the protagonists and reflect on the film team's engagement with the community*

## **Status Report of Project – 1-2 paragraphs**

*Explain the current status of the project. Outline the projected production timeline from the project's current state to the anticipated completion date. Your timeline should cover both the creative and production processes and should detail major project activities, production schedules, and anticipated post-production release dates. Please include information on rights, access to interview subjects, etc. Hint: Remember that your short film, once finished and accepted, is intended to premiere on YouTube, so you should shoot with this in mind. Please review [YouTube's Policies](#).*

## **COVID-19 Considerations – 1-2 paragraphs**

*Please reflect on how COVID has impacted your film and how you plan on moving the project forward with COVID-specific limitations in place. You must follow your respective local social distancing, health, safety, and production guidelines and requirements.*

## **PRODUCTION TEAM & CREDITS**

It's Funny Because It's True is looking for filmmakers who have three or fewer professional directing credits, and who have a demonstrated commitment to the craft. This may include credits as a director, producer or other creative leadership roles such as cinematographer, editor, animator and/or production designer for one of the following:

- A documentary or fiction film (short or feature) released commercially, screened at an international film festival, or broadcast on television or VOD service.
- A documentary or fiction series broadcast on television or VOD service.
- A music video, web-show, advertising campaign or other content storytelling medium which has garnered measurable commercial success such as awards, high-yielding audience engagement metrics, sequels or follow-up commissions.

Include information on the director of the project as well as any key creatives you imagine working with on this project. Please note that only projects with a director attached are being selected. For each key creative team member, include information about relevant expertise and the individual's role in the project.

- Name
- Country of Citizenship
- Country of Residence
- Previous Credits – max. 200 words
- Short Biography – max. 200 words

## AUDIENCE & REACH

### Intended Audience – 1 paragraph

*Describe the anticipated audience for your project, including any underserved audiences. How have you addressed the needs and interests of this audience in your film?*

## BUDGET & FINANCING

Please note that you will be required to attach an industry standard budget to your application. Please note that all currencies must have a column for USD dollars.

- Total proposed budget

You do not require any additional sources of funding for this programme. However, if there are any previously committed sources of financing attached to the project, please provide an outline of the amounts raised to date below. Please ensure you list the source as well as the amount. The Hot Docs team will require copies of signed financial commitments from all sources of confirmed funding to date.

## SUPPORTING FOOTAGE

A maximum of 10 minutes of footage may be submitted using up to two separate links.

Teasers, trailers, and sample footage must be hosted on an independent website such as Vimeo, and submitted via a link. Trailers can be password-protected but must remain live until February 2022. Please ensure that your password does not change during this time. We will not follow up with applicants regarding broken links or expired passwords.

If you have not shot any footage to-date, Hot Docs recommends cutting together a short audio-visual piece that conveys the tone, message, or style of your project. We also accept mood boards, character screen tests, or unearthed archives. You may also submit previously completed work, though please ensure your role on the project is indicated in the description.

English subtitles required where language(s) spoken are not English.

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

To complete your application, you must prepare and upload all required documents in the online application. All supporting files must adhere to the file-naming instructions provided below. Hot Docs reserves the right to request additional information.

Please append the following documents as separate PDF files. Please insert a consistent project file name where it reads “ProjectTitle”. For instance, if your project is called, *In the Name of All Canadians* (aka INAC), please see example in the last column for the naming convention.

PDF scans of documents must be at a resolution between 72dpi and 150dpi. If you have more than one document per section, please merge them into a single pdf file. The application form will not accept individual files larger than 25MB. Please check your file size before uploading.

Documentation must be submitted in English or with accompanying English translation.

	Required Document	Description	Required?	File Name
1	Detailed Industry Standard Budget	Complete detailed production budget for the project. <i>Please note that all line items must have a column for USD.</i>	Required	IFBIT21-ProjectTitle-Appendix1 <i>ex. IFBIT21 – INAC – Appendix1</i>
2	Financial Commitments	You do not require any additional sources of funding for this programme. However, if there are any previously committed sources of financing attached to the project, please provide signed financial commitments from all sources of confirmed funding to date.	If applicable	IFBIT21-ProjectTitle-Appendix2 <i>ex. IFBIT21 – INAC – Appendix2</i>
3	Proof of Ownership of Content	Please provide option agreements, or project chain of title agreements.	Required if selected	IFBIT21-ProjectTitle-Appendix3 <i>ex. IFBIT21 – INAC – Appendix3</i>
4	Incorporation Documents	Government-issued incorporation documents: History of Corporate Ownership; Company Chain of Title.	If applicable	IFBIT21-ProjectTitle-Appendix4 <i>ex. IFBIT21 – INAC – Appendix4</i>
5	Shooting & Production Schedule	Complete shooting and production schedules, including estimated completion date	Required	IFBIT21-ProjectTitle-Appendix5 <i>ex. IFBIT21 – INAC – Appendix5</i>