

HOT DOCS AND NETFLIX REVEAL THE RECIPIENTS OF THE *IT'S FUNNY BECAUSE IT'S TRUE* COMEDY SHORT NON-FICTION INITIATIVE

Toronto, ON, February 9, 2022 - Hot Docs and Netflix are thrilled to announce the recipients of *It's Funny Because It's True*—the short documentary initiative that will give five filmmakers the chance to bring to life their funniest real-life stories. These five projects were selected from over 180 worldwide submissions of original, short form comedic films.

After the 2018 launch of the award-winning Hot Docs Canadian Storytellers Project, Hot Docs and Netflix join forces once again to create production opportunities for emerging filmmakers. Netflix will support each creator with \$20,000 USD and will provide mentorship and career development support by their documentary team. The five selected *It's Funny Because It's True* projects will premiere globally on Netflix's social channels later this year.

"We were happy with the volume and the enthusiasm we saw in response to our open call," shares **Heather Conway**, Co-President and Executive Director of Hot Docs. "The projects came from around the world and were unique, impressive and often hilarious. We are excited for audiences to see the five selected projects come to fruition soon."

The recipients of the *It's Funny Because It's True* initiative are:

Lonja & Bronja

D: Julia Pelka & Paulina Skibinska | Poland

Lonja and Bronja are identical twin sisters. They are like lovebirds. After 50 years of separation, they finally have time to hang out together, starting with a crazy Warsaw city tour set to a musical rhythm.

My Partner Lives in My Phone

D: Lily Ahree Siegel & Hugh Clegg | UK

A filmmaker investigates her sexuality and lack of intimacy while in a long-distance relationship.

The Nugget King

D: Darcy Waite | Canada

A simple tweet turned Cody Bondarchuck into the person now known to the world as the Robin Hood of Chicken Nuggets. His meme has been translated into different languages, and even caught the interest of Elon Musk and Tom Hanks.

Paradise of Cats

D: Carolina Fusilier | Mexico

After piecing together a surrealist jigsaw puzzle of Remedios Varo's image of a paradise of cats, a couple begin to encounter mysterious cats being born in their front yard.

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.

Prom Night Flex

D: Leon Lozano | USA

A teen ends his senior prom night by recording the most embarrassing video of his life, only to have it accidentally played for the entire class the next day.

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[Hot Docs \(www.hotdocs.ca\)](http://www.hotdocs.ca) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. During the annual Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival each year, a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events are held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international documentary industry with a multi-million-dollar production fund and financing initiative portfolio, including the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund, CrossCurrents Doc Funds, Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund, Hot Docs-Blue Ice Docs Fund and Hot Docs Partners, and valuable professional development programs, including Doc Ignite and Doc Accelerator.

[Netflix](https://www.netflix.com) is one of the world's leading entertainment services with 222 million paid memberships in over 190 countries enjoying TV series, documentaries, feature films and mobile games across a wide variety of genres and languages. Members can watch as much as they want, anytime, anywhere, on any internet-connected screen. Members can play, pause and resume watching, all without commercials or commitments.

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