

Hot Docs and Netflix Team Up to Discover the Most Hilarious Real-life Stories in New Short Doc Initiative, *It's Funny Because It's True*

Toronto, ON, September 22, 2021 – Hot Docs and Netflix are pleased to announce *It's Funny Because It's True*—a new short documentary initiative to discover the next generation of filmmakers through their funniest non-fiction tales. In the belief that great stories can come from anyone, anywhere, five filmmakers will be selected through an open call to receive \$20,000 U.S. to make their films, under the mentorship of executives from Netflix's documentary team and other film professionals. The completed films will premiere in 2022 on @NetflixFilm, Netflix's social media channels dedicated to all things film, which are followed by over 7 million international movie lovers.

"We're thrilled to be partnering with Netflix on this exciting new initiative that will discover and support filmmakers and is sure to produce some incredible—and incredibly funny—short films," said **Erin Lau**, managing director of Hot Docs. "We can't wait to hear these stories and watch these films."

"How many times have you heard an unreal, hilarious story and said "that can't be true?" It's too many times for me to count, which is why Netflix is partnering with Hot Docs to find the funniest stories in a documentary short format," said **Sarafina DiFelice**, of the Netflix Originals Documentary team. "Comedy lends itself so well to this format and we're excited to discover new non-fiction voices, which everyone out there will be able to watch on our Netflix Film social channels."

With an international reputation for discovering and supporting documentary projects through both its highly effective industry market programs and \$12-million CDN film fund portfolio, Hot Docs will bring its expertise to *It's Funny Because It's True*, administering the submission and juried selection process and working with the awarded filmmakers.

It's Funny Because It's True is a new initiative between Hot Docs and Netflix, who previously joined forces in 2018 to launch the Hot Docs Canadian Storytellers Project. This five-year initiative invests in core funding and professional development programs for Canadian filmmakers and was awarded the 2021 Business / Arts Community Impact Award.

For entry guidelines and more information, please visit www.hotdocs.ca/netflix-short-cuts.

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Hot Docs (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

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

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.

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