



FILM BUDGET TEMPLATE

INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION — ALL BUDGET LEVELS

A budget is not just a financial document — it is a production plan expressed in numbers. Every line item is a decision. Use this template as a starting framework. Customize every figure with real quotes from vendors in your region. Never leave placeholder numbers in a grant application.

PROJECT TITLE:	_____	FORMAT:	_____
DIRECTOR:	_____	SHOOT DAYS:	_____
PRODUCER:	_____	SHOOT LOCATION:	_____
BUDGET VERSION:	_____	DATE:	_____

ABOVE THE LINE	RATE	QTY	DAYS	SUBTOTAL	NOTES
Story & Rights Option/purchase, WGA registration, copyright	\$			\$ _____	
Producer Fees EP, producer, co-producer, associate producer	\$			\$ _____	
Director Fee Flat fee, backend, or deferred	\$			\$ _____	
Principal Cast Day rate x shoot days per actor	\$			\$ _____	
Casting Director Flat fee or daily rate	\$			\$ _____	
Script Development Writing fee, rewrites, coverage	\$			\$ _____	
				\$ _____	
SECTION TOTAL — ABOVE THE LINE					

PRODUCTION — CREW	RATE	QTY	DAYS	SUBTOTAL	NOTES
Director of Photography Day rate x prep + shoot days	\$			\$ _____	
1st Assistant Director Day rate x prep + shoot days	\$			\$ _____	
2nd Assistant Director Day rate	\$			\$ _____	

Production Designer Day rate x prep + shoot days	\$	\$ _____
Art Director / Set Dec Day rate	\$	\$ _____
Costume Designer Day rate x prep + shoot	\$	\$ _____
Hair & Makeup Day rate	\$	\$ _____
Script Supervisor Day rate	\$	\$ _____
Sound Mixer Day rate	\$	\$ _____
Boom Operator Day rate	\$	\$ _____
Gaffer Day rate	\$	\$ _____
Key Grip Day rate	\$	\$ _____
Electric / Grip Package Package fee	\$	\$ _____
Production Coordinator Weekly rate	\$	\$ _____
Production Assistant(s) Day rate x number of PAs	\$	\$ _____
SECTION TOTAL — PRODUCTION — CREW		\$ _____

PRODUCTION — EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES	RATE	QTY	DAYS	SUBTOTAL	NOTES
Camera Package Body, lenses, accessories — daily or weekly	\$			\$ _____	
Lighting Package Rental — daily or weekly	\$			\$ _____	
Grip Package Rental — daily or weekly	\$			\$ _____	
Sound Package Mixer, boom, lavs, recorder	\$			\$ _____	
Generator / Power If location requires	\$			\$ _____	
Production Vehicles Cargo van, passenger, specialty	\$			\$ _____	
Location Fees Per location, per day	\$			\$ _____	
Location Permits City/county/state permit fees	\$			\$ _____	

Studio / Stage Rental If applicable	\$	\$ _____
Set Construction Materials + labor	\$	\$ _____
Props & Set Dressing Purchase + rental	\$	\$ _____
Wardrobe / Costume Purchase, rental, alterations	\$	\$ _____
SECTION TOTAL — PRODUCTION — EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES		\$ _____

PRODUCTION — G&A;	RATE	QTY	DAYS	SUBTOTAL	NOTES
Catering / Craft Services Per person per day x shoot days	\$			\$ _____	
Production Insurance General liability, E&O, equipment	\$			\$ _____	
Payroll / Payroll Service Payroll company fees + taxes	\$			\$ _____	
Accounting / Legal Entertainment attorney, accountant	\$			\$ _____	
Office / Admin Expenses Supplies, printing, copies, storage	\$			\$ _____	
Communication Walkie-talkies, cell allowances	\$			\$ _____	
COVID / Safety Protocols Testing, PPE, compliance officer if needed	\$			\$ _____	
Contingency (10–15%) Apply to below-the-line total	\$			\$ _____	
				\$ _____	
SECTION TOTAL — PRODUCTION — G&A;					

POST-PRODUCTION	RATE	QTY	DAYS	SUBTOTAL	NOTES
Editor Fee Flat or weekly rate x edit weeks	\$			\$ _____	
Editing Facility / Software DaVinci, Premiere, Avid, rental suite	\$			\$ _____	
Color Grade Colorist fee + facility	\$			\$ _____	
Sound Design Sound designer fee	\$			\$ _____	
Sound Mix Mixer + studio time	\$			\$ _____	
ADR / Foley Studio time + talent	\$			\$ _____	

Original Score / Composer Flat fee or points deal	\$	\$ _____
Music Licensing Per song — sync + master	\$	\$ _____
Visual Effects (VFX) Per shot or flat package	\$	\$ _____
Titles & Graphics Motion design, main titles	\$	\$ _____
DCP Creation Encoding for theatrical delivery	\$	\$ _____
Screener Copies Digital delivery, DVD if required	\$	\$ _____
Closed Captions / Subtitles Accessibility + festival requirement	\$	\$ _____
Archival / Backup Storage Hard drives, cloud storage	\$	\$ _____

\$ _____

SECTION TOTAL — POST-PRODUCTION

MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION	RATE	QTY	DAYS	SUBTOTAL	NOTES
Poster / Key Art Design Graphic designer fee	\$			\$ _____	
Trailer Edit Editor fee for trailer cut	\$			\$ _____	
EPK / Press Kit Production Design + writing	\$			\$ _____	
Festival Submission Fees Budget per festival x number submitted	\$			\$ _____	
FilmFreeway / Withoutabox Platform fees	\$			\$ _____	
Premiere Event Venue, catering, A/V	\$			\$ _____	
Publicity / PR Publicist flat fee or retainer	\$			\$ _____	
Social Media / Digital Marketing Ad spend + content creation	\$			\$ _____	
Screener Platform Vimeo Pro, Festhome, etc.	\$			\$ _____	
Distribution Aggregator Fee If self-distributing to platforms	\$			\$ _____	

\$ _____

SECTION TOTAL — MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

GRAND TOTAL BUDGET

\$ _____

A filmmaker who knows their numbers is a filmmaker funders trust.

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