SUNDANCE INSTITUTE
APPLYING TO THE
2023 PRODUCERS TRACK

PRODUCERS TRACK OVERVIEW

Applicants to the 2023 Producers Track will be considered for two opportunities:

- Producers Lab & Fellowship (yearlong program, commencing July 2023)
- Producers Intensive (two-day program in fall 2023)

- Overview of the Sundance Institute Producers Track
  - Timeline
  - Eligibility
  - Application Components
  - Selection Process

PRODUCERS LAB & FELLOWSHIP

- Year-long program (July 2023 - June 2024)

- Project-specific support through the Producers Lab (July 24-27) and Producers Summit (July 28-30)

- A grant to support the producer and the project

- Year-round mentorship from a dedicated industry mentor

- Ongoing support from Sundance Institute staff

PRODUCERS SUMMIT

- 3-day gathering at the Sundance Resort in Utah

- Part of the annual Producers Lab & Fellowship experience

- Forum for top fiction and nonfiction industry professionals (40+ panelists), producers, and directors

- Focus: narrative producing, documentary producing, and the state of the independent film industry

- Includes curated panels, case studies, roundtables, and one-on-one meetings with industry

- Sample topics: financing, distribution strategy, marketing, audience engagement, and sustainability

PRODUCERS FELLOWSHIP TIMELINE

July 7, 2023	Producers Fellowship Year begins
July 24-27, 2023	Producers Lab (Sundance Resort, UT)
July 28-30, 2023	Producers Summit (Sundance Resort, UT)
June 30, 2024	Fellowship Year ends

The Fellowship also includes monthly educational and social touchpoints, scheduled on an ad-hoc basis. This may include case studies, professional development opportunities, office hours with Sundance staff.

PRODUCERS INTENSIVE

- Two-day concentrated workshop (late Oct / early Nov 2023)

- Provides creative, strategic, and professional development support for producers from traditionally underrepresented communities who are poised to take the next step in their filmmaking careers

- Interactive group sessions and round-table conversations with producer and industry advisors
  - Sample topics: the producer/director collaboration, pitching, legal and business affairs, packaging, financing, and budgeting

APPLICATION TIMELINE

|	
November 16, 2022	Application Opens
February 15, 2023	Application Closes
Late Feb - March 24, 2023	FFP: First Round Application notifications and Invitations to Second Round will be made on a rolling basis
June 13, 2023	For those advancing to the second round, notification of final status will be sent via email on or before June 13, 2022

2023 FEATURE FILM PRODUCERS TRACK

PREVIOUSLY SUPPORTED PRODUCERS / PROJECTS
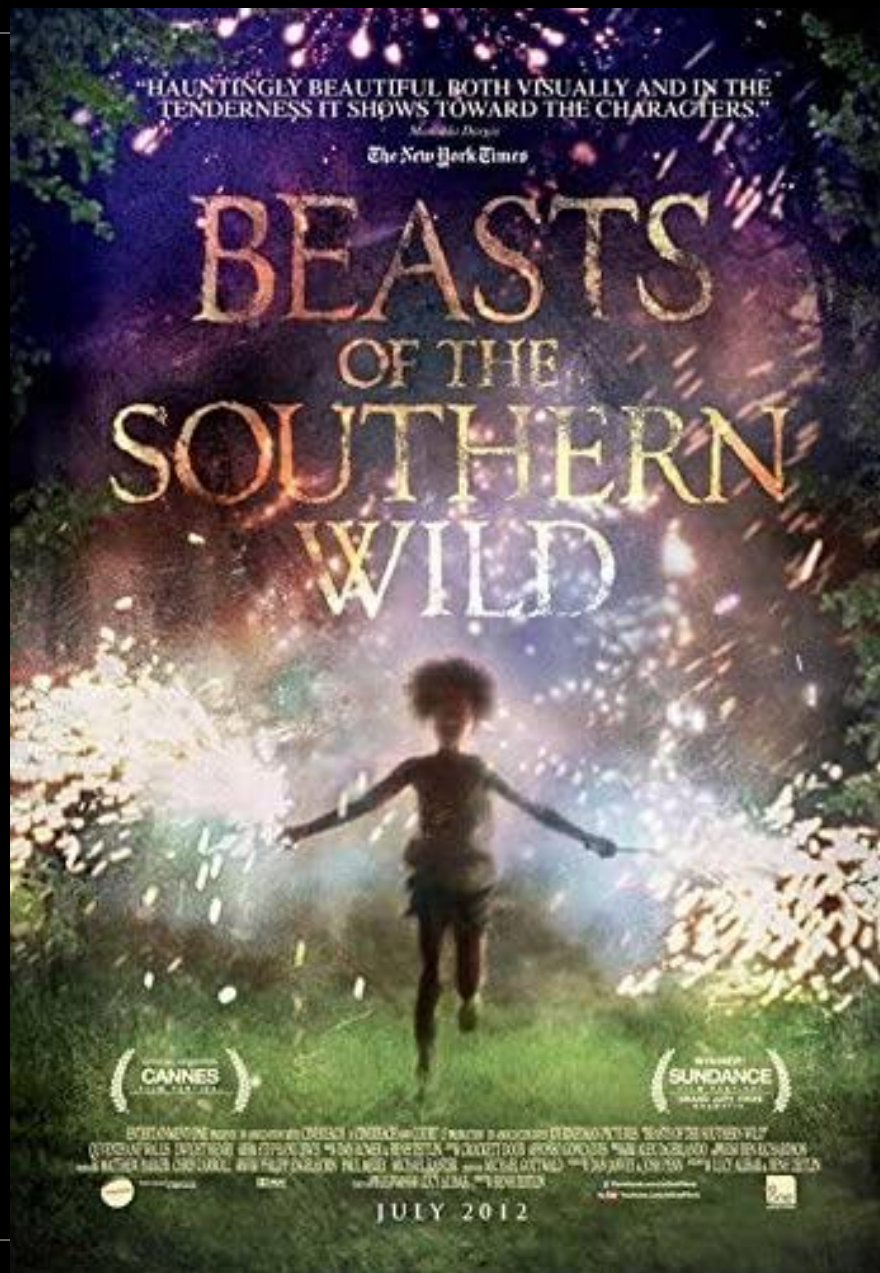
Dan Janvey & Josh Penn (Class of 2009)

Neil Creque Williams (Class of 2017)
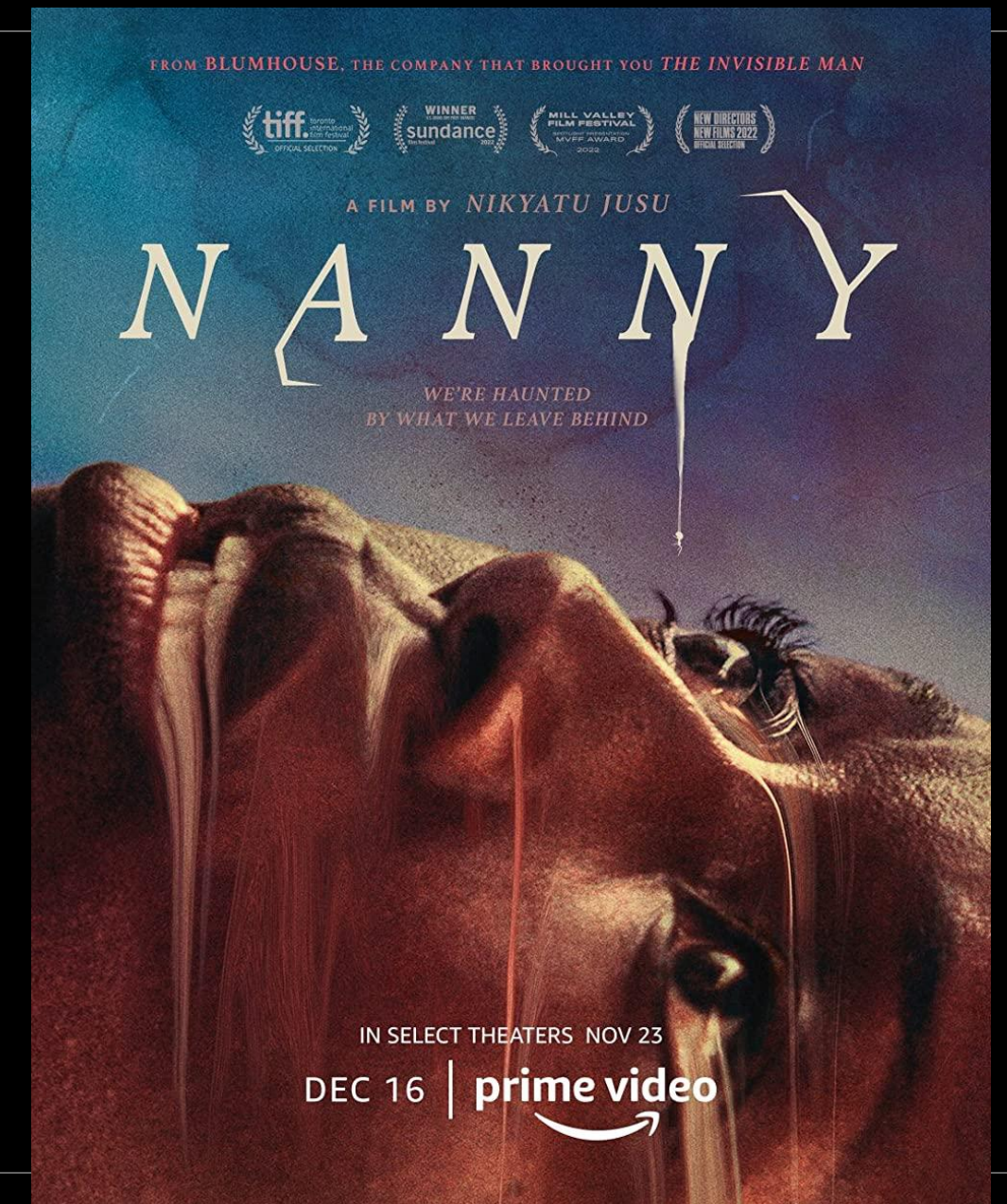
Nikkia Moulterie (Class of 2019)

ELIGIBILITY

- Candidates <u>must have produced at least one short or feature-length narrative or documentary film, but no more than two narrative features total as lead producer.</u> *This does not include co-producer, associate producer, or executive producer credits.*

- Candidates must have a <u>completed, legally optioned, scripted narrative feature-length screenplay</u> in hand, with a director attached to the project.

- Candidates may not be involved as a writer or director of the submitted project.

- Candidates must live in the United States, though the project may be filmed internationally.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

- Thoughtful, Artistic Vision (Application, Script, Producing and Directing Samples)

- Strong Collaboration with Writer/Director

- Demonstrated Leadership skills

- Contemporary Cultural Relevance, Timely Subject Matter

- Potential to Connect with Intended Audience

- Specificity & personal connection to the material

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

ROUND ONE:

- Logline
- Project synopsis
- Director's artistic statement
- Team Bios: Producer(s), Director(s), -Writer(s)
- Essay Questions
- Letter of Recommendation

ROUND TWO - ADD'L MATERIALS:

- Updated Project synopsis
- Full Screenplay
- Directing Sample
- Producing Sample
- Additional Visual materials (optional)
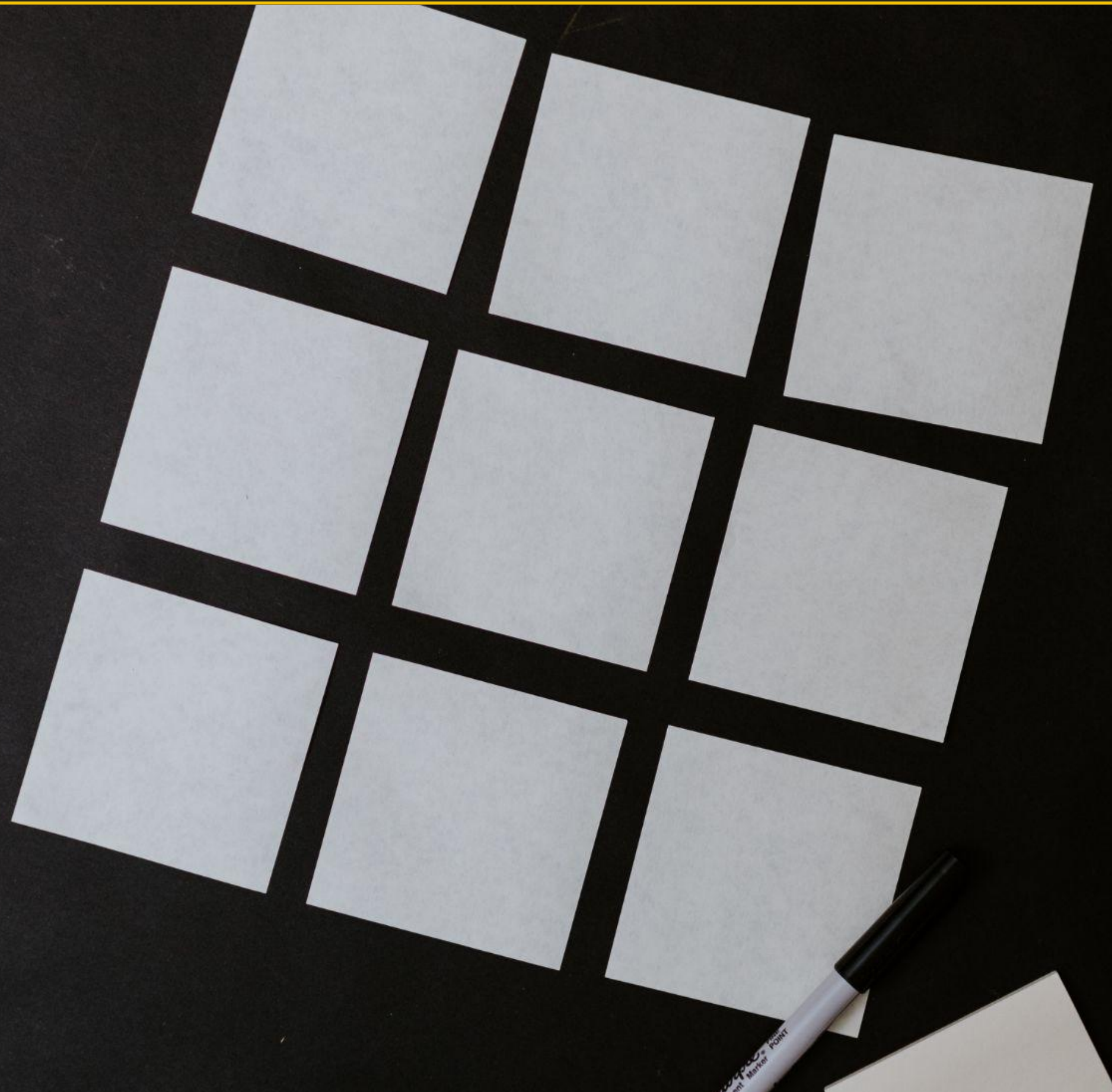
SELECTION PROCESS

Sundance Institute Feature Film Producing staff, alongside a group of external reviewers with diverse independent producing experience in the field - many of whom are program alumni - comprise the first and second round review committees.

GIVE BACK

As part of participation in the Producers Lab, we ask for a Sundance Institute credit in the end crawl of the film and a small financial contribution to the Institute, if the budget exceeds $1.5M. This nominal give-back is a line item in the film's budget. In the spirit of giving back to the community, new fellows are supported in part by the fellows that came before them.

2023 DOCUMENTARY FILM PRODUCERS TRACK

PREVIOUSLY SUPPORTED PRODUCERS / PROJECTS

Keith Wilson
I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE (2022)

Anya Rous
PRAY AWAY (2021)

Diane Quon
FINDING YINGYING (2020)

ELIGIBILITY

- Candidates <u>must have produced at least one short or feature-length documentary film, but no more than two features total as lead producer.</u> *This does not include co-producer, associate producer, or executive producer credits.*

- Candidate must be in active production or post-production on the submitted nonfiction feature-length project.

- Candidates may not be involved as director of the submitted project.

- Candidates must live in the United States, though the project may be filmed internationally.
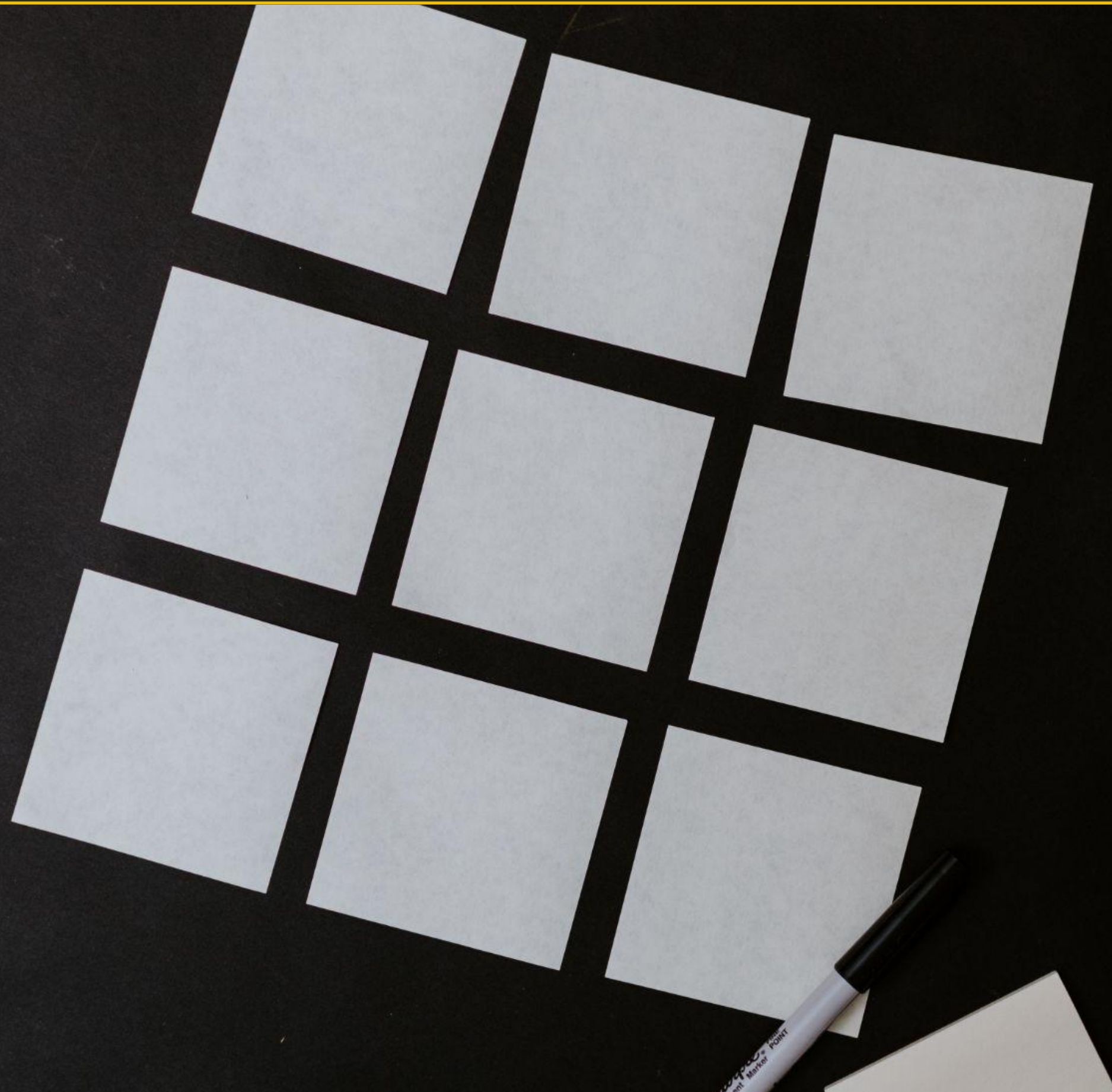
APPLICATION COMPONENTS

ROUND ONE:
- Logline
- Project Synopsis
- Project Visual Sample
- Budget
- Team Bios: Producer(s), Director(s)
- Director & Producer Artistic Statement
- Essay Questions (4)

ROUND TWO - ADD'L MATERIALS (if applicable):
- Updated Project Synopsis or Budget
- Updated Visual Sample

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

- Artistic Vision (Application and Visual Samples)

- Strong Collaboration with Director & Demonstrated interest in Nonfiction

- Thoughtful Approach to Essays

- Contemporary Cultural Relevance, Timely Subject Matter

- Potential to Connect with Intended Audience

SELECTION PROCESS

Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program staff, alongside a group of external reviewers with diverse independent producing experience in the field - many of whom are program alumni - comprise the first and second round review committees.

2023 DOCUMENTARY EDIT & STORY LAB

EDIT & STORY LAB OVERVIEW

The Documentary Edit and Story Lab supports filmmakers with nonfiction feature films in post-production. Lab fellows advance their projects through rigorous creative exploration and discussion of story structure and character development with world-class advisors.

- 4 film teams: 3 U.S.-based + 1 international team
- All applicants are considered by invitation only
- Open to first-time feature filmmakers as well as mid-career artists

EDIT & STORY LAB FORMAT

- Teams work in edit spaces set up at the Sundance Resort

- Teams will have access to all of their media & on-site technical support

- The focus of the lab is to refine the story structure

- Teams will screen their cuts on the first day as a group then meet regularly with creative advisors and staff

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

- A strong creative vision

- Openness to feedback & desire to experiment

- Project viability & timing in post-production

- Access to resources

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

- Logline & Story Synopsis

- Edit Timeline & Creative Team Bios

- Project Budget

- Additional Project Information

- Up to 3 work-in-progress Visual Samples & Director's Previous Work (optional)

- Director Statement & Editor Statement (optional)

VISUAL SAMPLE

Total running time: 120 min

- Edited sequences
- Specific scenes
- Character assemblies
- or Full assembly

Up to 3 links, each should include:

- Detailed description
- Sample edit date
- Explain if the film will be different in content and tone than the sample

Content Delivery:

- Online streaming services, such as Vimeo or YouTube
- No file transfers
- Links open till May, 2023
- Include link and password

EDIT & STORY LAB SELECTION TIMELINE

Applications are reviewed by Sundance Documentary Film Program staff and a small team of outside screeners (artists working in independent nonfiction)

February 7, 2023	Application deadline
early-April, 2023	Round 2 review
mid-May, 2023	All applicants will be notified about the status of their application
June 16-24, 2023	Edit and Story Lab

PRODUCERS TRACK ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Producers Program Webpage: https://www.sundance.org/initiatives/producers-program/

- Applications Webpage: https://apply.sundance.org/

- Feature Film Application Guidelines: https://apply.sundance.org/prog/2023_feature_film_producers_track_application/

- Feature Film Application FAQ: https://apply.sundance.org/res/p/2023ffptafaq/

- Documentary Application Guidelines: https://apply.sundance.org/prog/2023_documentary_film_producers_track_application

- Documentary Application FAQ: https://apply.sundance.org/res/p/2023dfptafaq/

- Still have questions, email: producers@sundance.org

DOC EDIT & STORY LAB ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Documentary Film Program Webpage: https://www.sundance.org/programs/documentary-film/

- Edit & Story Lab Application Guidelines:
  https://www.sundance.org/programs/documentary-film/#doc-edit-story-lab-popup

- Edit & Story Lab Application FAQ: https://apply.sundance.org/res/p/2023desfaq/

- Still have questions, email: docedit@sundance.org