

# THE BELL MEDIA PRIME TIME TV PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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## WHAT IS IT?

The fall 2022 cohort of the Bell Media Prime Time TV Program has been designed for writers specifically looking to gain experience in comedy writing and engage in a collaborative comedy series story room. The program is a 5 ½ month, full-time offering for Black, Indigenous and/or racialized creators in Canada, to celebrate and amplify a diversity of underrepresented voices and stories so they can ultimately be seen and heard on screens in Canada and around the world.

The program provides participants with the opportunity to:

- Be immersed in a professional comedy series writing room
- Build confidence by exercising story room skills
- Establish strong relationships through collaboration with other writers and key creatives
- Define your unique offerings within the screen industry
- Develop work that showcases your voice and comedy series writing
- Help package your original series project for the marketplace
- Showcase your written work onscreen, including a teaser to promote your original series

## HOW IT WORKS

The Bell Media Prime Time TV program balances the collaborative and technical work of a comedy story room with the commercial aspects of the television industry. The program is designed to nurture individual creative aspirations and help develop exciting new television projects.

The first part of the program is focused on the story room process. This team-based approach to series writing is delivered under the mentorship of an experienced television Executive Producer. The Comedy Story Room component runs for 10 full weeks, and will be primarily delivered in-person at the CFC campus, with some writing assignments and notes delivered virtually.

Writers are asked to sign a Rights Agreement for their participation in the Story Room component and the development of the Executive Producer's series.

Throughout the second part of the program, writers will participate in a series of workshops, case studies, and sessions on the creative, practical and business aspects of writing and creating for television. We will also provide writers with individual mentorship for their own original pilot scripts.

Writers retain all IP to the original projects and work you bring into the program to develop. The CFC does not take any ownership of underlying IP, but we do own the completed proof of concepts/promotional teasers, as all insurance, agreements, and ongoing liabilities are with the CFC.

The program is full-time, with the expectation that this is a priority for participants. In general, the program runs Monday to Friday during business hours, with exceptions made for guest availability, writing assignments, and for production activities as necessary. We cluster in-person program activities wherever possible, and reserve other days for virtual/remote participation as appropriate.

We do not operate with a full-time/permanent faculty: this program is designed to engage a multitude of working professionals on short-term contracts as key mentors and workshop leaders. Guests and mentors change annually.

We do not have a set curriculum, however the program's core components are outlined below. Adjustments are made as necessary to reflect the unique needs of each new cohort.

## 1. THE STORY DEPARTMENT

The first part of the program immerses writers in a story room experience on a new series, under the leadership of the Executive Producer. This component develops a writer's technical, story, and collaborative skills, while providing them with an understanding of the tools required for series development with professional turnaround expectations.

- The Executive Producer introduces their show, its characters, and stories. They strategically build their concept, breaking stories with the writers all working collaboratively as a story department.
- Program participants will break episodes, write, and rewrite, learning to balance the demands of the story room, story editing notes, as well as broadcaster feedback and potential production concerns.

- The Executive Producer works closely with the team of writers to deliver solid drafts of the scripts for six (6) episodes, which are mounted as professionally cast actor table reads, as a final phase of this process.

## 2. PROJECT ACCELERATION & PACKAGING

In the second part of the program, writers are focused on developing their original series concepts. You will work to identify and articulate the distinctive elements of one of your series, while developing the pilot script and the pitch. You will constantly pitch, turn around written materials, and round table the scripts while receiving group feedback from key mentors and fellow program participants, as well as individual story editing mentorship from seasoned TV writers and creators. This process culminates in a professionally cast actor reading of your pilot script.

As part of the packaging process, writers also have the opportunity to showcase your writing and series concept through the development and production of a 3-minute promotional piece called a "TV Teaser."

## 3. UNDERSTANDING THE BUSINESS OF SERIES WRITING & THE MARKETPLACE

Also in the second part of the program, writers will meet with a range of industry professionals, creating a forum for the exchange of ideas and information to gain valuable insights and perspectives on TV content creation, key business aspects, best and evolving practices, and career strategies.

These sessions and meetings are meant to help bridge the gap between your creative aspirations and the television business, while also expanding your own professional network.

## 4. BUILDING COMMUNITY & STRONG CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Throughout the entire program, writers will expand your understanding of how best to work with a team of other writers, and how best to engage with other working professionals and key creative partners.

The program also offers opportunities for you to meet and interact with the residents in CFC's other core programs (The Norman Jewison Film Program, The CBC Actors Conservatory, and The Slight Family Music Lab), in order to expand your creative and professional community.

## ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The CFC is committed to providing accessible practices that are in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). If you require accommodation at any stage of the application process, or have any questions regarding appropriate accommodations, please contact Deborah Fallows, Executive Lead, People & Culture, at: [dfallows@cfccreates.com](mailto:dfallows@cfccreates.com).

## CONTACT

For questions, please email [programs@cfccreates.com](mailto:programs@cfccreates.com).