

## 2018 DISNEY | ABC WRITING PROGRAM APPLICATION

### ABOUT

The one-year Program begins in February and ends in January of the following year. Please note that time frames are subject to change. The primary goal during the Program is to staff Program Writers on Disney | ABC Television Group (DATG) series as staff writers. However, staffing is not guaranteed. The Program provides access to executives, producers and literary representatives through various meetings and events designed to facilitate relationships that can prove invaluable in developing a television writing career. For at least the first month of the Program, writers participate in a curriculum designed to better prepare for staffing consideration. Past activities have included workshops led by veteran television writers, producers and DATG Writing Program alumni; improvisational workshops; and networking mixers with (DATG) current programming and development executives.

### REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be able to legally work in the United States and be at least twenty-one (21) years of age by December 1, 2017. Entertainment industry experience is not required, but strongly recommended. Those applying must submit a complete application package, which includes the following items:

- 1) **ORIGINAL PILOT SCRIPT** that captures the writer's unique tone, style and point of view.
- 2) **SPEC SCRIPT** for a live-action cable, broadcast or streaming-service (e.g., Netflix, Amazon, Hulu) series produced and airing during the current television season. The timeline for your spec must reflect the series' current timeline. Applicants are encouraged to select a series that is well-established and at least in its second season. The spec script should demonstrate the writer's ability to adapt to an existing format while at the same time infusing a unique point of view and sensibility.

***Material should tonally translate to the type of programming broadcast on DATG. Both writing samples must be live-action content. Animation samples of any form are not accepted.***

- 3) **APPLICATION** with all areas completed. Download application, type entries directly into form, save document with all changes as a new PDF and title filename as: *2018 Disney ABC Writing Program Application Form – [First, Last Name]*.
- 4) **RELEASE FORM** including attached Exhibit A covering the original pilot script and Exhibit B covering the spec script with all areas completed and the requested signature. An incomplete release form will automatically disqualify the applicant.
- 5) **RESUME** outlining chronological salaried employment (may include entertainment and non-entertainment positions). Only list jobs or positions where compensation was received with the exception of entertainment industry internships and full-time volunteer work at non-profits. Positions must have been held within the past 15 years (two pages or less).
- 6) **ESSAY** (No more than 750 words) - Tell us a story from your life experience that conveys your unique perspective and/or multi-cultural sensibility.
- 7) **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (Optional)** from film and television entertainment industry professionals who have read the applicant's material and can comment on the applicant's ability are strongly encouraged, but not mandatory. This would include network, studio and production company executives, writer/producers, episodic and feature directors, and educators (e.g., professors or writing instructors) who have entertainment industry experience and/or produced credits. Letters from representatives (e.g., agents, managers or attorneys) will not be accepted. Letters must be on letterhead and dated in the current calendar year. It is recommended that those signing recommendation letters include either a title or a brief introduction indicating their position or affiliation. A maximum of two (2) letters of recommendation may accompany the submission.

### SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Submit only one email per applicant or writing team containing all the required documents. **Any submission missing items 1-6 will be disqualified.** All documents should be attached individually in PDF format.

- For the application form, **DOWNLOAD PDF** first, type entries directly into form, save document with all changes as a new PDF and title filename as follows: *[First, Last Name]\_2018\_DisneyABC\_Application*.
- For the release form, type entries directly into all required fields, print document, sign on the signature line, scan the document, attach as a PDF and title filename as follows: *[First, Last Name]\_2018\_DisneyABC\_ReleaseForm*.
- For all remaining documents, please title filenames as follows: *[First, Last Name]\_2018\_DisneyABC\_[DocumentTitle]*.

Please save a copy of the completed application and release form for your records. Subject line of email should read: *2018 Disney ABC Writing Program Application – [First, Last Name]*. Send application package via email to:

[ABC.CTDI@abc.com](mailto:ABC.CTDI@abc.com)

### SUBMISSION PERIOD

Applications will be accepted May 1, 2017 through June 2, 2017. **Applications will not be accepted prior to 12:00 a.m. PST on May 1, 2017 or after 11:59 p.m. PST on June 2, 2017.**

### NOTIFICATION

Due to the volume of submissions received, those not accepted will not be notified. Please check our [Facebook](#) page for updates. Typically, finalists are contacted in November and Program Writers are selected in December followed by an official press announcement in January of the following year.

# 2018 DISNEY | ABC WRITING PROGRAM APPLICATION

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## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name (writing partner, if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ First Name (writing partner, if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Street/Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Origin of Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently employed?  Yes  No If yes, please provide information below.

Employer	Title/Position	Mos./Yrs. Employed

Are you a member of the WGA?  Yes  No If yes, since when? \_\_\_\_\_

If selected to be in the 2018 Disney-ABC Writing Program, do you identify as a **(choose one)**:

Comedy writer

Drama writer

Were you referred to the Disney | ABC Writing Program? If so, please provide information below.

Referred By	Title/Position	Company/Affiliation

## MATERIAL INFORMATION

**Original Pilot Script (Exhibit A)**

Genre:  Comedy  Drama

Format:  One Hour  Half-Hour

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Final Version \_\_\_\_\_

**Spec Script (Exhibit B)**

Genre:  Comedy  Drama

Format:  One Hour  Half-Hour

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Final Version \_\_\_\_\_

## 2018 DISNEY | ABC WRITING PROGRAM RELEASE FORM

**\*For the release form, type entries directly into all required fields, print document, sign on the signature line, scan the document, attach as a PDF and title filename as follows: [First, Last Name]\_2018\_DisneyABC\_ReleaseForm\***

Disney | ABC Television Group  
500 South Buena Vista Street  
Burbank, California 91521-4016

Dear Sir or Madam:

In support of my application to the 2018 Disney | ABC Writing Program (“Program”), I wish to submit to Disney | ABC Television Group (“DATG”) an original pilot script and a spec script. All the important features (including the title, theme, plot and characters) are summarized by me on the attached “Exhibit A” and “Exhibit B,” respectively. Such summary and all materials and documents that may be submitted to you with respect thereto, including all ideas and their expression as contained therein, are hereinafter referred to as the “Project.”

I appreciate and understand your concern that an examination of the Project without a full release of liability might expose you to a claim of copyright infringement, idea theft, or claimed existence of an implied in-fact contract or other claim or litigation. Therefore, in consideration of your examination of the Project, I hereby acknowledge the following understandings and conditions:

1. I have created and am submitting the Project voluntarily. DATG and/or its parent, subsidiary and affiliated entities (“DATG Entities”) have not hired or otherwise retained me, in any way, to create or submit the Project. I understand that I will not receive any compensation for creating and submitting the Project;
2. I understand and agree that DATG will make all decisions regarding participation in the Program in its sole discretion. I understand that I may not be selected for the Program and that by submitting the Project, I am not guaranteed to be part of the Program or any future programs;
3. I understand that DATG and the DATG Entities engage in extensive activities in creating, acquiring and developing various forms of literary, artistic, musical, animated, digital and other projects, which include, among other things, the development of stories, ideas, scripts and concepts for attractions, motion pictures and television projects. In addition, I recognize that the material created, acquired and developed by DATG and/or the DATG Entities may contain elements that are similar and/or identical to the Project;
4. I represent and warrant that I have the right to submit the Project;
5. I represent and warrant that the Project is original and the Project does not violate any law or regulation or any right of any third party, including, but not limited to, rights of copyright, publicity and privacy;
6. I waive any right I may have to assert against DATG and/or the DATG Entities any claim based on copyright, trademark, infringement, confidential relationship, implied contract, unfair competition, idea theft or otherwise arising out of any alleged use by DATG and/or the DATG Entities of the Project, or any element thereof;
7. I understand and agree that any copy of the Project that I submit to you will not be returned to me and may be destroyed. I assume full responsibility for any loss, theft, destruction or any other disposition of any such copy while it is in your possession or in transit;
8. I understand that DATG is accepting my application based on and relying on the release set forth above; and
9. This release will be governed by the applicable, internal laws of the State of California.

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Signature

Date

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Full Name (Printed or Typed)

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Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

# 2018 DISNEY | ABC WRITING PROGRAM RELEASE FORM

## EXHIBIT "A" ORIGINAL PILOT SCRIPT

TITLE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED:

MATERIAL LOGLINE:

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS:

**2018 DISNEY | ABC WRITING PROGRAM RELEASE FORM**  
**EXHIBIT "B"**  
SPEC SCRIPT

TITLE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED:

MATERIAL LOGLINE:

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS:

## 2018 DISNEY | ABC WRITING PROGRAM

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. If I don't work or live in the United States, am I eligible to apply to the Writing Program?**  
Yes. However, due to the nature of the Program, we are unable to sponsor individuals for United States work visas to participate in the Program. To be eligible, an applicant must possess and present evidence of identity and United States employment eligibility (valid for the duration of the Program) as required by the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, as amended.
- 2. If I work for Disney | ABC Television Group or any subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company, am I eligible to apply?**  
Yes. The Writing Program is open to employees of The Walt Disney Company and its subsidiaries.
- 3. Do you have to be a member of the Writers Guild of America (WGA)?**  
No.
- 4. How old do you have to be to apply?**  
You must be at least twenty-one (21) to apply to the Program.
- 5. Is there an application fee?**  
No.
- 6. Do you need to have professional writing or production experience to apply?**  
You do not need to have professional writing or production experience. However, past participants who entered the Program with television production experience (e.g., writers' assistant or script coordinator) have found that knowledge helpful.
- 7. Do I need to include a subject line and/or message with my submission email?**  
Yes. The subject line should read: *[Year] Disney ABC Writing Program Application – [First, Last Name]*.
- 8. What file format should I use for my documents?**  
Submit all documents individually in a Portable Document Format (PDF).
- 9. Must I submit a resume even if I have not worked as a professional writer?**  
Yes. All applicants must submit a chronological employment resume. Only list jobs or positions where compensation was received with the exception of entertainment industry internships and full-time volunteer work at non-profits. Positions must have been held within the past fifteen (15) years and may include entertainment and non-entertainment positions (two (2) pages or less). Applications that do not include a resume will be disqualified.
- 10. Must I include a letter of recommendation with my application?**  
Letters of recommendation from entertainment industry professionals who have read the applicant's material and can comment on the applicant's ability are strongly encouraged, but not mandatory. This would include network, studio and production company executives, writer/producers, episodic and feature directors, and educators (e.g., professors or writing instructors) who have entertainment industry experience and/or produced credits. Letters from representatives (e.g., agents, managers or attorneys) will not be accepted. Letters must be on letterhead and dated in the current calendar year. It is recommended that those signing recommendation letters include either a title or a brief introduction indicating who they are. A maximum of two (2) letters of recommendation may accompany each submission. Any letters of recommendation sent separately from the applicant's submission will not be counted towards the application and will be discarded. To include a signed hardcopy letter, scan and attach letter as a PDF document to your email submission.
- 11. If I want to include a letter of recommendation, who should I list for the salutation?**  
Letters of recommendation may be addressed to "Disney-ABC Writing Program."

- 12. Do writing teams turn in two letters of recommendation total or can each partner submit two letters each?** Writing teams should submit no more than two (2) letters of recommendation total from entertainment industry professionals who can attest to the writing of the team and not as individual writers.
- 13. Do both members of a writing team need to file individual applications?**  
Yes. Each partner must complete a separate application and release form (i.e., items #3 and #4 in the Requirements section) and submit one application email package that includes both applications, release forms, one copy of the writing team's original pilot script and spec script, and all other required items set forth in the Requirements section.
- 14. Can an individual applicant submit material that was written with a partner?**  
No. Individual applicants must be the sole writer of submitted material.
- 15. What if I send you my application and I realize that I have left out one or more of the required elements?**  
Unfortunately, your application cannot be updated once it is received. All elements must be submitted together. If you have left out a required element, you may re-submit a full and complete application via email by the submission deadline. Subject line should read: RESUBMISSION – [Year] Disney ABC Writing Program Application – [First, Last Name].
- 16. Does my application need to be received by the deadline date?**  
Your application must be received no later than 11:59pm of the deadline date. Applications received prior to the application start date or later than the application deadline date will be disqualified.
- 17. Can I hand deliver or mail my application and materials?**  
No.
- 18. What would be appropriate writing samples?**  
Submissions to the Writing Program must include TWO writing samples: 1) an original pilot script that captures your unique tone, style and point of view, and 2) a spec script for a broadcast, cable, or streaming series (e.g., Netflix, Amazon, Hulu) airing during the current television season. We advise you to select a series that is well-established and at least in its second season. The timeline for your spec must reflect the series' current timeline. This second sample should demonstrate your ability to adapt to an existing format while at the same time infusing your unique point of view and sensibility. Both samples MUST be live-action content. We do not accept animation samples.
- 19. Does my spec script have to be based on a Disney | ABC Television series?**  
No. However, we suggest you select a series that tonally reflects the type of programming broadcast on Disney | ABC.
- 20. Can I submit a spec on a recently canceled series?**  
Yes, as long as the recently canceled series aired during the current television season.
- 21. Can I submit a feature or play as an original pilot script?**  
No.
- 22. Can I submit more than one spec script?**  
No.
- 23. Can I submit more than one original pilot script?**  
No.
- 24. Can I submit a comedy spec and an original drama pilot or vice-versa?**  
No. If you are a comedy writer, you need to submit a comedy spec and an original comedy pilot. If you are a drama writer, you need to submit a drama spec and an original drama pilot.
- 25. Can I submit a script that I previously provided to the Program?**  
Yes, but submitting new material will better reflect a writer's progress.
- 26. Do I have to submit a release form for my original pilot script and spec script?**  
Yes, one Program Release Form covers both the original pilot script (Exhibit A) and the spec script (Exhibit B). The release form is attached to the application and is accessible during the submission period.
- 27. Does the release form have to be hand signed?**  
Yes. Type entries directly into all required fields, print document, sign on the signature line, scan the document, attach as a PDF and title filename as follows: [First, Last Name]\_2018\_DisneyABC\_ReleaseForm.

- 28. Do my writing samples have to be in any particular format?**  
Yes. Scripts must be presented in the standard, industry-accepted format for the type of script being submitted. Formatting guidelines can be found in various publications.
- 29. What would be the appropriate page-length for my spec and original scripts?**  
Script formats vary by series. We encourage you to research the proper format for your submission.
- 30. Can Disney | ABC Television Group provide me with sample scripts to review?**  
No. For legal reasons, we are unable to accommodate this request.
- 31. Who owns the rights to the materials that I submit with my application for the Writing Program and/or materials that I previously created?**  
You will retain ownership of material. However, if you are selected as a participant, any material written by you prior to the term of the Writing Program and currently controlled and/or owned by you must be disclosed in writing. ABC Studios shall have an "Exclusive First Look" for such material, whereby, ABC Studios shall have the exclusive option to purchase such material from you in accordance with the policies and terms outlined in the Writing Program Contract.
- 32. Who will review my submission?**  
Professional readers, DATG executives and producers from series airing on ABC, Freeform and Disney Channel.
- 33. Will I be able to receive feedback on my submission?**  
No. Due to the high volume of submissions, we are unable to provide feedback.
- 34. When will I be informed of my application status with the Writing Program?**  
Due to the volume of the applications, those not accepted will not be notified. Please check our [Facebook](#) page for updates.
- 35. Will my submission be returned?**  
No, submissions will not be returned.
- 36. If I'm selected as a finalist to participate in the in-person interviews and/or selected for the Writing Program and do not live in Los Angeles, will Disney | ABC pay for my travel and accommodation expenses?**  
No.
- 37. Must I reside in Los Angeles to participate in the Writing Program?**  
Yes.
- 38. Is there an East Coast version of this Program?**  
No.
- 39. When does the Writing Program begin?**  
Writers typically begin the Program in February; however, the schedule is subject to change.
- 40. Is the Writing Program full-time employment?**  
Yes. Writers become employees of Disney | ABC Television Group and will be paid a non-negotiable weekly salary of \$961.54 (\$50,000.00 annualized) plus any applicable benefits for which they are eligible in accordance with the then-current Company benefits plans. If a writing team is accepted to the Program, each partner will be paid the aforementioned weekly salary plus any applicable benefits. You may not hold other employment or be enrolled in school during the Program period.
- 41. If selected for the Writing Program, will I be guaranteed a job as a staff writer?**  
No.
- 42. How many writers are selected each year?**  
The number of writers selected for the Writing Program varies.