SHORT FILM BUDGET

PRODUCTION

Field	Value
Title	LAST BUS TO TAFT
Format	12-minute narrative short, 11 pages
Shoot	3 days, Fri 11/6 to Sun 11/8/2026, 10-hour days
Locations	Taft, CA: bus yard, the director's family home (no fee), roadside on Hwy 33
Paid	3 cast and 3 crew on day rates through a payroll company
Deferred	Writer-director, producer, editor
Fringes (example rate)	18% of payroll
Contingency	10% of below the line

ABOVE THE LINE (1000 SERIES)

Acct	Description	Qty	Unit	Rate	Total
1100	STORY AND RIGHTS				
1101	Screenplay (writer-director's own script)	1	Flat	$0	$0
	Total 1100				$0
1200	PRODUCER				
1201	Producer (fee deferred)	1	Flat	$0	$0

Acct	Description	Qty	Unit	Rate	Total
	Total 1200				$0
1300	DIRECTOR				
1301	Director (fee deferred)	1	Flat	$0	$0
	Total 1300				$0
1400	CAST				
1401	RUTH, lead	3	Days	$200	$600
1402	DANNY, lead	2	Days	$200	$400
1403	BUS DRIVER	1	Days	$250	$250
1404	Audition room, one Saturday	1	Flat	$200	$200
	Fringes, 18% of $1,250 payroll				$225
	Total 1400				$1,675
	TOTAL ABOVE THE LINE				$1,675

PRODUCTION (2000 SERIES)

Acct	Description	Qty	Unit	Rate	Total
2000	PRODUCTION STAFF				
2001	1st AD (producer covers, no fee)	1	Flat	$0	$0
	Total 2000				$0

Acct	Description	Qty	Unit	Rate	Total
2300	CAMERA				
2301	Director of photography	3	Days	$250	$750
2302	Camera kit rental (DP-owned)	3	Days	$100	$300
2303	Media, 2 SSDs	1	Allow	$120	$120
	Fringes, 18% of $750 payroll				$135
	Total 2300				$1,305
2400	ELECTRIC AND GRIP				
2401	Lighting kit rental	3	Days	$50	$150
	Total 2400				$150
2500	PRODUCTION SOUND				
2501	Sound mixer	3	Days	$200	$600
2502	Sound kit rental	3	Days	$50	$150
	Fringes, 18% of $600 payroll				$108
	Total 2500				$858
2600	LOCATIONS				
2601	Location fee, bus yard	1	Days	$200	$200
2602	Catering, 11 people x 3 days	33	Person-days	$15	$495
2603	Craft service	3	Days	$25	$75
	Total 2600				$770
2700	TRANSPORTATION				

Acct	Description	Qty	Unit	Rate	Total
2701	Picture vehicle, retired school bus with owner-driver	1	Days	$300	$300
2702	Fuel and mileage	1	Allow	$129	$129
	Total 2700				$429
2800	PROPERTY				
2801	Props and set dressing	1	Allow	$250	$250
	Total 2800				$250
2900	WARDROBE, MAKEUP, AND HAIR				
2901	Wardrobe, thrift purchases, 3 changes	1	Allow	$120	$120
2902	Hair and makeup artist	3	Days	$200	$600
2903	Hair and makeup kit fee	3	Days	$20	$60
	Fringes, 18% of $600 payroll				$108
	Total 2900				$888
	TOTAL PRODUCTION				$4,650

POST-PRODUCTION (3000 AND 4000 SERIES)

Acct	Description	Qty	Unit	Rate	Total
3100	EDITORIAL				
3101	Editor (director cuts, deferred)	1	Flat	$0	$0

Acct	Description	Qty	Unit	Rate	Total
	Total 3100				$0
3200	POST SOUND				
3201	Sound edit and stereo mix (flat)	1	Flat	$300	$300
	Total 3200				$300
3300	MUSIC				
3301	Library track license	1	Track	$100	$100
	Total 3300				$100
4100	PICTURE FINISHING				
4101	Color grade (DP, included in rate)	1	Flat	$0	$0
	Total 4100				$0
4200	DELIVERABLES				
4201	Captions file and festival screener	1	Allow	$50	$50
	Total 4200				$50
	TOTAL POST-PRODUCTION				$450

OTHER COSTS (5000 SERIES)

Acct	Description	Qty	Unit	Rate	Total
5100	INSURANCE				

Acct	Description	Qty	Unit	Rate	Total
5101	Short-term general liability and equipment policy	1	Policy	$400	$400
	Total 5100				$400
5500	OFFICE AND GENERAL				
5501	Backup hard drive	1	Each	$100	$100
	Total 5500				$100
5600	FESTIVALS				
5601	Festival submission fees	1	Allow	$150	$150
	Total 5600				$150
	TOTAL OTHER				$650

BUDGET TOTALS

Line	Total
Total above the line	$1,675
Total production	$4,650
Total post-production	$450
Total other	$650
Total below the line	$5,750
Total above and below the line	$7,425

Line	Total
Contingency, 10% of below the line	$575
GRAND TOTAL	$8,000