

LIFE WITH DOTTY



**A DRAMEDY TELEVISION SERIES WITH
FANTASY ELEMENTS**



LIFE WITH DOTTY

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
KELLY FINERTY



FUNDING PROVIDED BY



LOG LINE:

A spiralling government supervisor in a Victoria healthcare complaints department pre-pandemic unknowingly summons her teen soul from the 1990s in order to rejoin reality and avoid an untimely death.





INTRODUCTION

“Life with Dotty” is a limited TV series with each season defined in a 3-act structure over ten 30-minute episodes. The series bible will be written to guide three full seasons.

The pilot screenplay was a “Telus Storyhive Scripted Edition” winner receiving funds for production. The “proof of concept” pilot was completed in December 2025.

The final episode for Season 1 will culminate in a main character cliff hanger to bring the audience back for the Season 2 premiere, followed again for Season 3.

The project will target new face talent and potential interest from known film actors as the series includes several rich “guest star” roles flexible for busy talent schedules. For example, Eugene Levy or Dan Levy as a nosy physician or recurring role as Head Archangel, or a main role such as Andrea Martin for Dotty Bennett.

WHY THIS STORY?

A PERSONAL JOURNEY

Canadian society is aging rapidly, escalating in dementia cases, and creating a healthcare system unable to meet demands. As a result, caregiving often falls to the elderly's children, and in many cases becomes a daughter's responsibility. Coupled with the effects of late stage capitalism in one of the most expensive places to live in Canada, and expectations of patriarchal standards in a capital city framed as "well that's just the way we've always done it", and "you can do it all, girl!" cracks form rapidly under the weight of system mediocrity, weakening women's mental resilience. The result, spoken from **personal experience**, is a young woman deteriorating well before her time as quickly as her aging mother, paralleling in declining mental health, one from dementia, the other from burn out.

This story seeks to connect with those women: public sector workers, healthcare staff, caregivers, mothers, daughters, and wives. Seeing them, or showing them (maybe for the first time) that they are not alone - while still providing an entertaining story, with satisfying arcs, despicable characters, escapism, and ultimately heroines.

(REAL)

WOMEN IN FILM. WOMEN IN LIFE.

“Life with Dotty is not only created by a powerhouse woman, but includes powerhouse performances of women on screen how they **are**, not how society **wants** to see them.

In this show we see a wife, a mother, a daughter, an employee doing it all but barely holding it together. Annie is falling apart emotionally, quietly, on the inside; screaming to be heard and seen while no one notices.

In Life with Dotty we see behind the eyes and fake smiles of women dealing with institutionalized misogyny, this is not just Annie's story, or a woman's story, it's also my story as a husband and a witness.

”

Dustin Finerty - Producer, Husband



SHOW COMPARABLES

EUPHORIA

meets

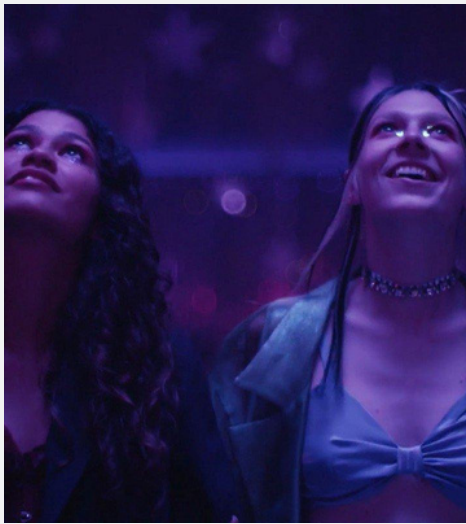
HEATED RIVALRY

meets

PHYSICAL

meets

GLOW



EUPHORIA
2019



HEATED RIVALRY
2025



PHYSICAL
2021



GLOW
2017

THE WORLD

A world where angels and souls conspire to intervene through dimensions in order to save and protect their humans during their most harrowing times keeping them on track to achieve their greater destiny.

Warm and intimate visuals combined with a sense of nostalgia and mystery. A vibrantly coloured dream, swirled in a 35mm grainy film aesthetic with an original 90s inspired synth/rock musical score.



TONE & LOOK



LIFE WITH DOTTY







KEY CHARACTERS

LIFE WITH DOTTY



GOODIES

(PROTAGONISTS)



ANNIE KING

An early 40s Millennial woman with ADHD, she's a hard working people pleaser, fumbling through mid-life work and personal crises stuck in a government healthcare position as a square peg in a round hole.



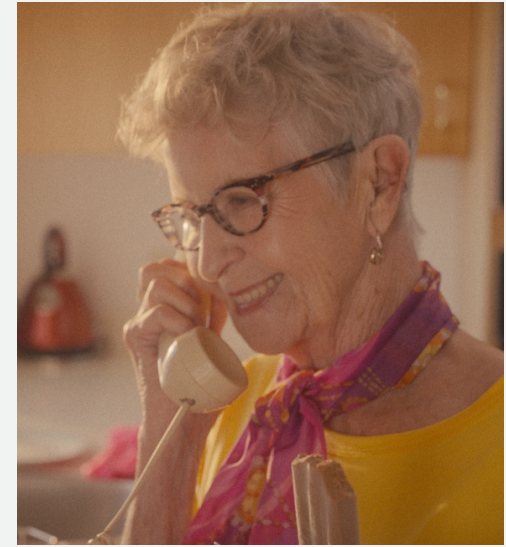
ZACH KING

Early 40s, and mediocre husband to Annie King, private sector finance rules his life as he struggles to balance his feminist ideals and instincts to protect his family.



TEEN ANNIE

A 16 year old 90's rebel with a cause, she sees trouble before it arrives, and will do almost anything to prevent herself from falling victim to other's actions.



DOTTY BENNETT

Late 70s, Annie's spicy mother with a sharp candy edge, Dotty is a product of the Silent Generation, masking with kindness while correcting the weather man's grammar on the daily. Everything must be just so, but is becoming challenging in early stages of dementia as she becomes more Mr. Hyde and less Dr. Jekyll.

BADDIES

(ANTAGONISTS)



MARTHA SAMPSON

A GenX/Boomer cusp Executive who white-knuckled herself into the public healthcare C-suite, she isn't afraid to step on the necks of obstacles in her pursuit of power and men.



GARY JONES

An insecure lonely mid-50s CEO of a global private finance firm, he wants more for less, and capitalizes on his position to control anyone he sees as beneath him, often cutting off his nose to spite his face.



RODNEY BENNETT

Annie King's deceased abusive father and Dotty's husband in the 90's, he is volatile and explosive as a man who was robbed of his potential with a family he never wanted.



DOTTY BENNETT

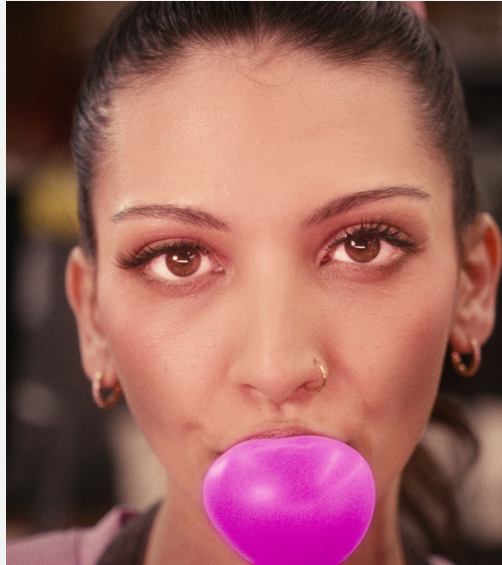
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GUARDIAN ANGELS



DARIUS

Appearing as a 30-something Egyptian man of service, he is angry and fed up with Annie King's frivolous ways and avoidable crises. He has a strong alliance with Teen Annie, and breaks universal law to summon her to save herself.



TIFFANY

Appearing as a 19 year old cashier with edge, she isn't afraid to tell it like it is as raw and often brutal honesty personified. Tiffany is Gary Jones' guardian angel.



JOHN

Appearing as a 20-something man of service, he is a strong caring presence in the face of adversity with great concern for humankind. John is Dotty Bennett's guardian angel.

SERIES STRUCTURE

LIFE WITH DOTTY



PILOT EPISODE:

Promoted in a public healthcare complaints department in a town where government reigns, Annie King moves her family to the capital city of Victoria only to spiral away from reality.

Managing her family, elderly mother Dotty in the throes of dementia, and the worst job with a new boss who wants more than just a work day, Annie loses herself and unknowingly summons her teen soul from the 1990s with help from an unlikely guardian angel - who may have leaked more than Annie's soul.

Things can only improve from here. Right?





OFFICIAL TRAILER

WATCH NOW
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STORY ARC

SEASON ONE



ACT ONE (episodes 1-4) will introduce us to the central conflicts and backstories of ANNIE KING, DOTTY BENNETT, GARY JONES, and MARTHA SAMPSON. Conflict will centre on Annie and Dotty's failing mental health as current and retired public healthcare servants, initializing a cascade effect for the introductions of the remaining main characters. We meet the teen souls for Annie, Dotty, Gary, and Martha, and each soul's guardian angel. We lean into the comedy and rules of their teen selves possessing their adult lives to redirect the future for selfish reasons against universal laws. We learn the guardian angels answer to higher powers, and find themselves in contravention of their duties.



ACT TWO (episodes 5-7) will depict the teen souls stepping into their full powers while their guardian angels step back from active duty to answer for their foibles. The adult characters begin to understand the teen soul chaos and goals for the first time, with some embracing their fate, while others run farther away from themselves. Zach and Annie's marriage begins to fail, Martha and Gary see an alliance, and Dotty's health takes a turn for the worse. The daily public healthcare messes of a capital city spew around them, including an escalating hospital negligence case Annie and Martha are managing poorly.



ACT THREE (episodes 8-10) will climax with Zach leaving Annie, Dotty having a terrible accident in Annie's home under her watch, Gary professing his love for Martha, and the teen souls taking unexplained absences with the return of the guardian angels. There will be a call back to the final scene from the Pilot episode "One Year Later" where we saw Annie as a complete mess, and met Zach's pre-teen soul for the first time. The cliff hanger will show a glimpse into the future of Annie in a courtroom on trial for neglect in her mother's death, teased as though she is taking the stand for her poorly managed hospital negligence case. We learn Annie's teen soul is central to the repair of every main character's arc.



TARGET AUDIENCE

Women aged 19 - 60
(primary)

Neurodivergent Community
(secondary)



DEMOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Women and/or caregivers who have experienced burn out related to work and family / societal commitments and expectations.

Audiences who have worked in the public sector or adjacent to it.

Viewers who value well-developed characters



KEY INTERESTS

Nostalgic cinematic craftsmanship with a modern flavour.

Character driven storytelling

Psychological complexity

Plot twists

AUDIENCE PROFILE

MEET THE TEAM



KELLY FINERTY

WRITER/DIRECTOR/EDITOR/PRODUCER

Emerging onto the film scene as Producer for short film horror thriller "13 Days" (2015), Kelly's most recent work as writer director for television comedy Pilot "Life with Dotty" garnered production support from Telus Storyhive (2025) as one of the top 20 scripted films in British Columbia. Her previous work as writer producer for rom-com short "Imitates Life" (2021) made the Canadian festival rounds, and won Best Film at Qualicum Beach Film Festival, receiving worldwide licensing and distribution via Relay streaming service in 2025. Kelly holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts Degree from the University of Victoria.



DUSTIN FINERTY

PRODUCER

An award winning producer and screenwriter, Dustin co-wrote and produced short film Imitates Life (2021) winning Best Film at the Qualicum Beach Film Festival. Also an actor, Dustin began creating his own projects starting with short film "13 Days" (2015) which he wrote, directed, and produced; "Imitates Life" (2021) as co-writer and producer; and "Life with Dotty" (2025) serving as a producer and actor. Dustin and Kelly are Co-Founders of BC based production company Typewriter Rebellion Motion Pictures.

THANK YOU

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WATCH THE TRAILER:

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