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Casting JonBenet
Credit: Michael Latham

The Workers Cup
Courtesy of Sundance Institute

Patti Cake$
Courtesy of Sundance Institute

2017 Sundance Film Festival: Competition And Next Lineup Announced

Description

Park City, UT â?? Sundance Institute convenes a full slate of provocative and agenda-setting independent films at the **2017 Sundance Film Festival**, beginning with todayâ??s announcement of the 66 films selected for U.S. Competition, World Competition and NEXT, as well as a slate of environmentally focused programming under the Festivalâ??s **The New Climate** program. The Festival hosts screenings in Park City, Salt Lake City and at Sundance Mountain Resort January 19-29.

The Festival celebrates creativity and independence at the summit of the Instituteâ??s year-round public programming, which also includes festivals in London, Hong Kong and Los Angeles. Sundance Institute programs support artists year-round, with more than $2.5 million in grants and 25 global residency Labs across theatre, film, New Frontier and episodic content.

Robert Redford, President and Founder of Sundance Institute, said, â??From the passion and chaos of creativity, independent filmmakers make decisions to harness that energy, break new ground and tell their stories. This yearâ??s Festival reflects every step of that journey, and shows how art can engage, provoke and connect people all over the world.â?•

Keri Putnam, Executive Director of Sundance Institute, said, â??Itâ??s more crucial now than ever to have storytellers illuminating the world around us. Artists help us better understand one another and recognize what we have in common. We are proud to champion and amplify original independent work through the Festival and our year-round programs.â?•

John Cooper, Director of the Sundance Film Festival, said, â??The films in this yearâ??s Festival show the human sides of issues, people and places we donâ??t often see. Independent filmmakers, with their fearless, bold perspectives, are challenging us to witness our worldâ??s whole story. These artists, armed with their films, will lead us into the future.â?•

For the first time, the Festival is focusing its programming efforts to drive attention and action around a specific theme: climate change and environmental preservation. The New Climate program builds on the Instituteâ??s longstanding commitment to showcasing environmental films and projects, including *An Inconvenient Truth, Blackfish, The Cove, Gasland, Chasing Ice, Racing Extinction* and *Collisions*.

The program includes *Chasing Coral*, which follows a team of divers, photographers and scientists documenting the worldâ??s changing coral reefs; *Trophy*, an in-depth look at the controversial, multi-billion-dollar big-game hunting industry; *Water & Power: A California Heist,* an investigation of Californiaâ??s convoluted water system; and *Plastic China,* an examination of employee life at a Chinese recycling plant.

About The New Climate, **Redford** said, â??My own engagement on climate change began more than 40 years ago, and the urgency I felt then has only grown stronger given its very real and increasingly severe consequences. If weâ??re going to avoid the worst-case scenario, then we must act boldly and immediately, even in the face of indifference, apathy and opposition.â?•

For the 2017 Festival, 113 feature-length films were selected, representing 32 countries and 37 first-time filmmakers, including 20 in competition. These films were selected from 13,782 submissions including 4,068 feature-length films and 8,985 short films. Of the feature film submissions, 2,005 were from the U.S. and 2,063 were international. Ninety-eight feature films at the Festival will be world premieres. In 2016, the Festival drew 46,600 attendees, generated $143.3 million in economic activity for the state of Utah and supported 1,400 local jobs.

Recent films that have premiered in the sections announced today include *Morris From America*, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Swiss Army Man*, *City of Gold, Fruitvale Station*, *The Diary of A Teenage Girl*, *Whiplash*, *Blackfish*, *Life, Animated*, *All These Sleepless Nights*, *Weiner* and *First Girl I Loved*.

More films, including additional New Climate programming, will be announced soon; watch sundance.org/festival. Other films, including Premieres, Midnight and Kids were recently announced; click here PREMIERES, MIDNIGHT, KIDS, AND MORE

U.S. DRAMATIC COMPETITION
Presenting the world premieres of 16 narrative feature films, the Dramatic Competition offers Festivalgoers a first look at groundbreaking new voices in American independent film.

Band Aid / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Zoe Lister-Jones) â?? A couple who canâ??t stop fighting embark on a last-ditch effort to save their marriage: turning their fights into songs and starting a band. *Cast: Zoe Lister-Jones, Adam Pally, Fred Armisen, Susie Essman, Hannah Simone, Ravi Patel. World Premiere*

Beach Rats / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Eliza Hittman) â?? An aimless teenager on the outer edges of Brooklyn struggles to escape his bleak home life and navigate questions of self-identity, as he balances his time between his delinquent friends, a potential new girlfriend, and older men he meets online.*Cast: Harris Dickinson, Madeline Weinstein, Kate Hodge, Neal Huff. World Premiere*

Brigsby Bear / U.S.A. (Director: Dave McCary, Screenwriters: Kevin Costello, Kyle Mooney) â?? *Brigsby Bear Adventures* is a childrenâ??s TV show produced for an audience of one: James. When the show abruptly ends, Jamesâ??s life changes forever, and he sets out to finish the story himself. *Cast: Kyle Mooney, Claire Danes, Mark Hamill, Greg Kinnear, Matt Walsh, Michaela Watkins. World Premiere*

Burning Sands / U.S.A. (Director: Gerard McMurray, Screenwriters: Christine Berg, Gerard McMurray) â?? Deep into a fraternityâ??s Hell Week, a favored pledge is torn between honoring a code of silence

or standing up against the intensifying violence of underground hazing. *Cast: Trevor Jackson, Alfre Woodard, Steve Harris, Tosin Cole, DeRon Horton, Trevante Rhodes. World Premiere*

Crown Heights / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Matt Ruskin) â?? When Colin Warner is wrongfully convicted of murder, his best friend, Carl King, devotes his life to proving Colinâ??s innocence. Adapted from *This American Life*, this is the incredible true story of their harrowing quest for justice. *Cast: Lakeith Stanfield, Nnamdi Asomugha, Natalie Paul, Bill Camp, Nestor Carbonell, Amari Cheatom. World Premiere*

Golden Exits / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Alex Ross Perry) â?? The arrival of a young foreign girl disrupts the lives and emotional balances of two Brooklyn families. *Cast: Emily Browning, Adam Horovitz, Mary-Louise Parker, Lily Rabe, Jason Schwartzman, ChloÃ« Sevigny. World Premiere*

The Hero / U.S.A. (Director: Brett Haley, Screenwriters: Brett Haley, Marc Basch) â?? Lee, a former Western film icon, is living a comfortable existence lending his golden voice to advertisements and smoking weed. After receiving a lifetime achievement award and unexpected news, Lee reexamines his past, while a chance meeting with a sardonic comic has him looking to the future. *Cast: Sam Elliott, Laura Prepon, Krysten Ritter, Nick Offerman, Katharine Ross. World Premiere*

i-dont-feel-at-home-in-this-world-anymore.jpg***I Donâ??t Feel at Home in This World Anymore*** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Macon Blair) â?? When a depressed woman is burglarized, she finds a new sense of purpose by tracking down the thieves, alongside her obnoxious neighbor. But they soon find themselves dangerously out of their depth against a pack of degenerate criminals. *Cast: Melanie Lynskey, Elijah Wood, David Yow, Jane Levy, Devon Graye. World Premiere.* **DAY ONE**

Ingrid Goes West / U.S.A. (Director: Matt Spicer, Screenwriters: Matt Spicer, David Branson Smith) â?? A young woman becomes obsessed with an Instagram lifestyle blogger and moves to Los Angeles to try and befriend her in real life. *Cast: Aubrey Plaza, Elizabeth Olsen, Oâ??Shea Jackson Jr., Wyatt Russell, Billy Magnussen. World Premiere*

Landline / U.S.A. (Director: Gillian Robespierre, Screenwriters: Elisabeth Holm, Gillian Robespierre) â?? Two sisters come of age in â??90s New York when they discover their dadâ??s affairâ??and it turns out heâ??s not the only cheater in the family. Everyone still smokes inside, no one has a cell phone and the Jacobs finally connect through lying, cheating and hibachi. *Cast: Jenny Slate, John Turturro, Edie Falco, Abby Quinn, Jay Duplass, Finn Wittrock. World Premiere*

Novitiate / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Maggie Betts) â?? In the early 1960s, during the Vatican II era, a young woman training to become a nun struggles with issues of faith, sexuality and the changing church. *Cast: Margaret Qualley, Melissa Leo, Julianne Nicholson, Dianna Agron, Morgan Saylor. World Premiere*

***Patti Cake$*** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Geremy Jasper) â?? Straight out of Jersey comes Patricia Dombrowski, a.k.a. Killa P, a.k.a. Patti Cake$, an aspiring rapper fighting through a world of strip malls and strip clubs on an unlikely quest for glory. *Cast: Danielle Macdonald, Bridget Everett, Siddharth Dhananjay, Mamoudou Athie, Cathy Moriarty. World Premiere*

Roxanne Roxanne / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Michael Larnell) â?? The most feared battle MC in early-â??80s NYC was a fierce teenager from the Queensbridge projects with the weight of the world on her shoulders. At age 14, hustling the streets to provide for her family, Roxanne ShantÃ© was well on her way to becoming a hip-hop legend. *Cast: ChantÃ© Adams, Mahershala Ali, Nia Long, Elvis Nolasco, Kevin Phillips, Shenell Edmonds. World Premiere*

To the Bone / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Marti Noxon) â?? In a last-ditch effort to battle her severe anorexia, 20-year-old Ellen enters a group recovery home. With the help of an unconventional doctor, Ellen and the other residents go on a sometimes-funny, sometimes-harrowing journey that leads to the ultimate questionâ??is life worth living? *Cast: Lily Collins, Keanu Reeves, Carrie Preston, Lili Taylor, Alex Sharp, Liana Liberato. World Premiere*

Walking Out / U.S.A. (Directors and screenwriters: Alex Smith, Andrew Smith) â?? A father and son struggle to connect on any level until a brutal encounter with a predator in the heart of the wilderness leaves them both seriously injured. If they are to survive, the boy must carry his father to safety. *Cast: Matt Bomer, Josh Wiggins, Bill Pullman, Alex Neustaedter, Lily Gladstone. World Premiere*

The Yellow Birds / U.S.A. (Director: Alexandre Moors, Screenwriters: David Lowery, R.F.I. Porto) â?? Two young men enlist in the army and are deployed to fight in the Iraq War. After an unthinkable tragedy, the returning soldier struggles to balance his promise of silence with the truth and a mourning motherâ??s search for peace. *Cast: Tye Sheridan, Jack Huston, Alden Ehrenreich, Jason Patric, Toni Collette, Jennifer Aniston. World Premiere*

U.S. DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION
Sixteen world-premiere American documentaries that illuminate the ideas, people and events that shape the present day.

Casting JonBenet / U.S.A., Australia (Director: Kitty Green) â?? The unsolved death of six-year-old American beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey remains the worldâ??s most sensational child murder case. Over 15 months, responses, reflections and performances were elicited from the Ramseyâ??s Colorado hometown community, creating a bold work of art from the collective memories and mythologies the crime inspired. *World Premiere*

Chasing Coral / U.S.A. (Director: Jeff Orlowski) â?? Coral reefs around the world are vanishing at an unprecedented rate. A team of divers, photographers and scientists set out on a thrilling ocean adventure to discover why and to reveal the underwater mystery to the world. *World Premiere.* **THE NEW CLIMATE**

City of Ghosts / U.S.A. (Director: Matthew Heineman) â?? With unprecedented access, this documentary follows the extraordinary journey of â??Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silentlyâ?•â??a group of anonymous citizen journalists who banded together after their homeland was overtaken by ISISâ??as they risk their lives to stand up against one of the greatest evils in the world today. *World Premiere*

Dina / U.S.A. (Directors: Dan Sickles, Antonio Santini) â?? An eccentric suburban woman and a Walmart door-greeter navigate their evolving relationship in this unconventional love story. *World Premiere*

Dolores / U.S.A. (Director: Peter Bratt) â?? Dolores Huerta bucks 1950s gender conventions by co-founding the countryâ??s first farmworkersâ?? union. Wrestling with raising 11 children, gender bias, union defeat and victory, and nearly dying after a San Francisco Police beating, Dolores emerges with a vision that connects her newfound feminism with racial and class justice. *World Premiere*

The Force / U.S.A. (Director: Pete Nicks) â?? This cinema veritÃ© look at the long-troubled Oakland Police Department goes deep inside their struggles to confront federal demands for reform, a popular uprising following events in Ferguson and an explosive scandal. *World Premiere*

ICARUS / U.S.A. (Director: Bryan Fogel) â?? When Bryan Fogel sets out to uncover the truth about doping in sports, a chance meeting with a Russian scientist transforms his story from a personal experiment into a geopolitical thriller involving dirty urine, unexplained death and Olympic Goldâ??exposing the biggest scandal in sports history. *World Premiere*

The New Radical / U.S.A. (Director: Adam Bhala Lough) â?? Uncompromising millennial radicals from the United States and the United Kingdom attack the system through dangerous technological means, which evolves into a high-stakes game with world authorities in the midst of a dramatically changing political landscape. *World Premiere*

NOBODY SPEAK: Hulk Hogan, Gawker and Trials of a Free Press / U.S.A. (Director: Brian Knappenberger) â?? The trial between Hulk Hogan and Gawker Media pitted privacy rights against freedom of the press, and raised important questions about how big money can silence media. This film is an examination of the perils and duties of the free press in an age of inequality. *World Premiere*

Quest / U.S.A. (Director: Jonathan Olshefski) â?? For over a decade, this portrait of a North Philadelphia family and the creative sanctuary offered by their home music studio was filmed with vÃ©ritÃ© intimacy. The familyâ??s 10-year journey is an illumination of race and class in America, and itâ??s a testament to love, healing and hope. *World Premiere*

STEP / U.S.A. (Director: Amanda Lipitz) â?? The senior year of a girlsâ?? high school step team in inner-city Baltimore is documented, as they try to become the first in their families to attend college. The girls strive to make their dancing a success against the backdrop of social unrest in their troubled city. *World Premiere*

Strong Island / U.S.A., Denmark (Director: Yance Ford) â?? Examining the violent death of the filmmakerâ??s brother and the judicial system that allowed his killer to go free, this documentary interrogates murderous fear and racialized perception, and re-imagines the wreckage in catastropheâ??s wake, challenging us to change. *World Premiere*

Trophy / U.S.A. (Director: Shaul Schwarz, Co-Director: Christina Clusiau) â?? This in-depth look into the powerhouse industries of big-game hunting, breeding and wildlife conservation in the U.S. and Africa unravels the complex consequences of treating animals as commodities. *World Premiere*. **THE NEW CLIMATE**

Unrest / U.S.A. (Director: Jennifer Brea) â?? When Harvard PhD student Jennifer Brea is struck down at 28 by a fever that leaves her bedridden, doctors tell her itâ??s â??all in her head.â?• Determined to live, she sets out on a virtual journey to document her storyâ??and four other familiesâ?? storiesâ??fighting a disease medicine forgot. *World Premiere*

Water & Power: A California Heist / U.S.A. (Director: Marina Zenovich) â?? In Californiaâ??s convoluted water system, notorious water barons find ways to structure a state-engineered system to their own advantage. This examination into their centers of power shows small farmers and everyday citizens facing drought and a new, debilitating groundwater crisis. *World Premiere.* **THE NEW CLIMATE**

whose-streets.jpg***Whose Streets?*** / U.S.A. (Director: Sabaah Folayan, Co-Director: Damon Davis) â?? A nonfiction account of the Ferguson uprising told by the people who lived it, this is an unflinching look at how the killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown inspired a community to fight backâ??and sparked a global movement. *World Premiere*. **DAY ONE**

WORLD CINEMA DRAMATIC COMPETITION
Twelve films from emerging filmmaking talents around the world offer fresh perspectives and inventive styles.

Axolotl Overkill / Germany (Director and screenwriter: Helene Hegemann) â?? Mifti, age 16, lives in Berlin with a cast of characters including her half-siblings; their rich, self-involved father; and her junkie friend Ophelia. As she mourns her recently deceased mother, she begins to develop an obsession with Alice, an enigmatic, and much older, white-collar criminal. *Cast: Jasna Fritzi Bauer, Arly Jover, Mavie HÃ¶rbiger, Laura Tonke, Hans LÃ¶w, Bernhard SchÃ¼tz. World Premiere*

Berlin Syndrome / Australia (Director: Cate Shortland, Screenwriter: Shaun Grant) â?? A passionate holiday romance takes an unexpected and sinister turn when an Australian photographer wakes one morning in a Berlin apartment and is unable to leave. *Cast: Teresa Palmer, Max Riemelt. World Premiere*

Carpinteros (Woodpeckers) / Dominican Republic (Director and screenwriter: JosÃ© MarÃa Cabral) â?? JuliÃ¡n finds love and a reason for living in the last place imaginable: the Dominican Republicâ??s Najayo Prison. His romance with fellow prisoner Yanelly must develop through sign language and without the knowledge of dozens of guards. *Cast: Jean Jean, Judith Rodriguez Perez, RamÃ³n Emilio Candelario. World Premiere*

Donâ??t Swallow My Heart, Alligator Girl! / Brazil, Netherlands, France, Paraguay (Director and screenwriter: Felipe BraganÃ§a) â?? In this fable about love and memories, Joca is a 13-year-old Brazilian boy in love with an indigenous Paraguayan girl. To conquer her love, he must face the violent regionâ??s war-torn past and the secrets of his elder brother, Fernando, a motorcycle cowboy. *Cast: CauÃ£ Reymond, Eduardo Macedo, Adeli Gonzales, Zahy Guajajara, Claudia AssunÃ§Ã£o, Ney Matogrosso. World Premiere*

Family Life / Chile (Directors: Alicia Scherson, CristiÃ¡n JimÃ©nez, Screenwriter: Alejandro Zambra) â?? While house-sitting for a distant cousin, a lonely man fabricates the existence of a vindictive ex-wife withholding his daughter, in order to gain the sympathy of the single mother he has just met. *Cast: Jorge Becker, Gabriela Arancibia, Blanca Lewin, CristiÃ¡n Carvajal. World Premiere*

Free and Easy / Hong Kong (Director: Jun Geng, Screenwriters: Jun Geng, Yuhua Feng, Bing Liu) â?? When a traveling soap salesman arrives in a desolate Chinese town, a crime occurs, and sets the strange residents against each other with tragicomic results. *Cast: Gang Xu, Zhiyong Zhang, Baohe*

Xue, Benshan Gu, Xun Zhang. World Premiere

Godâ??s Own Country / United Kingdom (Director and screenwriter: Francis Lee) â?? Springtime in Yorkshire: isolated young sheep farmer Johnny Saxby numbs his daily frustrations with binge drinking and casual sex, until the arrival of a Romanian migrant worker, employed for the lambing season, ignites an intense relationship that sets Johnny on a new path. *Cast: Josh Oâ??Connor, Alec Secareanu, Ian Hart, Gemma Jones. World Premiere*

My Happy Family / Germany, Georgia, France (Directors: Nana & Simon, Screenwriter: Nana Ekvtimishvili) â?? Tbilisi, Georgia, 2016: In a patriarchal society, an ordinary Georgian family lives with three generations under one roof. All are shocked when 52-year-old Manana decides to move out from her parentsâ?? home and live alone. Without her family and her husband, a journey into the unknown begins. *Cast: Ia Shugliashvili, Merab Ninidze, Berta Khapava, Tsisia Qumsishvili, Giorgi Tabidze, Dimitri Oragvelidze. World Premiere*

The Nile Hilton Incident / Sweden (Director and screenwriter: Tarik Saleh) â?? In Cairo, weeks before the 2011 revolution, Police Detective Noredin is working in the infamous Kasr el-Nil Police Station when he is handed the case of a murdered singer. He soon realizes that the investigation concerns the power elite, close to the Presidentâ??s inner circle. *Cast: Fares Fares, Mari Malek, Mohamed Yousry, Yasser Ali Maher, Ahmed Selim, Hania Amar. World Premiere*

pop-aye.jpg***Pop Aye*** / Singapore, Thailand (Director and screenwriter: Kirsten Tan) â?? On a chance encounter, a disenchanted architect bumps into his long-lost elephant on the streets of Bangkok. Excited, he takes his elephant on a journey across Thailand in search of the farm where they grew up together. *Cast: Thaneth Warakulnukroh, Penpak Sirikul, Bong. World Premiere*. **DAY ONE**

SueÃ±o en otro idioma (I Dream in Another Language) / Mexico, Netherlands (Director: Ernesto Contreras, Screenwriter: Carlos Contreras) â?? The last two speakers of a millennia-old language havenâ??t spoken in 50 years, when a young linguist tries to bring them together. Yet hidden in the past, in the heart of the jungle, lies a secret concerning the fate of the Zikril language. *Cast: Fernando Ã•lvarez Rebeil, Eligio MelÃ©ndez, Manuel Poncelis, FÃ¡tima Molina, Juan Pablo de Santiago, Hoze MelÃ©ndez. World Premiere*

The Wound / South Africa (Director: John Trengove, Screenwriters: John Trengove, Thando Mgqolozana, Malusi Bengu) â?? Xolani, a lonely factory worker, joins the men of his community in the mountains of the Eastern Cape to initiate a group of teenage boys into manhood. When a defiant initiate from the city discovers his best kept secret, Xolaniâ??s entire existence begins to unravel. *Cast: Nakhane TourÃ©, Bongile Mantsai, Niza Jay Ncoyini. World Premiere*

WORLD CINEMA DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION
Twelve documentaries by some of the most courageous and extraordinary international filmmakers working today.

The Good Postman / Finland, Bulgaria (Director: Tonislav Hristov) â?? In a small Bulgarian village troubled by the ongoing refugee crisis, a local postman runs for mayorâ??and learns that even minor deeds can outweigh good intentions. *North American Premiere*

In Loco Parentis / Ireland, Spain (Directors: Neasa NÃ ChianÃ¡in, David Rane) â?? John and Amanda teach Latin, English and guitar at a fantastical, stately home-turned-school. Nearly 50-year careers are drawing to a close for the pair who have become legends with the mantra: â??Reading! â??Rithmetic! Rock â??nâ?? roll!â?• But for pupil and teacher alike, leaving is the hardest lesson. *North American Premiere*

Itâ??s Not Yet Dark / Ireland (Director: Frankie Fenton) â?? This is the incredible story of Simon Fitzmaurice, a young filmmaker who becomes completely paralyzed from motor neurone disease but goes on to direct an award-winning feature film through the use of his eyes. *International Premiere*

Joshua: Teenager vs. Superpower / U.S.A. (Director: Joe Piscatella) â?? When the Chinese Communist Party backtracks on its promise of autonomy to Hong Kong, teenager Joshua Wong decides to save his city. Rallying thousands of kids to skip school and occupy the streets, Joshua becomes an unlikely leader in Hong Kong and one of Chinaâ??s most notorious dissidents. *World Premiere*

Last Men in Aleppo / Denmark, Syria (Directors: Feras Fayyad, Steen Johannessen) â?? After five years of war in Syria, Aleppoâ??s remaining residents prepare themselves for a siege. Khalid, Subhi and Mahmoud, founding members of The White Helmets, have remained in the city to help their fellow citizensâ??and experience daily life, death, struggle and triumph in a city under fire. *World Premiere*

Machines / India, Germany, Finland (Director: Rahul Jain) â?? This intimate, observant portrayal of the rhythm of life and work in a gigantic textile factory in Gujarat, India, moves through the corridors and bowels of the enormously disorienting structureâ??taking the viewer on a journey of dehumanizing physical labor and intense hardship. *North American Premiere.*

Motherland / U.S.A., Philippines (Director: Ramona Diaz) â?? The planetâ??s busiest maternity hospital is located in one of its poorest and most populous countries: the Philippines. There, poor women face devastating consequences as their country struggles with reproductive health policy and the politics of conservative Catholic ideologies. *World Premiere*

Plastic China / China (Director: Jiu-liang Wang) â?? Yi-Jie, an 11-year-old girl, works alongside her parents in a recycling facility while dreaming of attending school. Kun, the facilityâ??s ambitious foreman, dreams of a better life. Through the eyes and hands of those who handle its refuse, comes an examination of global consumption and culture. *International Premiere.* **THE NEW CLIMATE**

RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked The World / Canada (Directors: Catherine Bainbridge, Alfonso Maiorana) â?? This powerful documentary about the role of Native Americans in contemporary music historyâ??featuring some of the greatest music stars of our timeâ??exposes a critical missing chapter, revealing how indigenous musicians helped shape the soundtracks of our lives and, through their contributions, influenced popular culture*. World Premiere*

Tokyo Idols / United Kingdom, Canada (Director: Kyoko Miyake) â?? This exploration of Japanâ??s fascination with girl bands and their music follows an aspiring pop singer and her fans, delving into the cultural obsession with young female sexuality and the growing disconnect between men and women in hypermodern societies. *World Premiere*

WINNIE / France (Director: Pascale Lamche) â?? While her husband served a life sentence, paradoxically kept safe and morally uncontaminated, Winnie Mandela rode the raw violence of apartheid, fighting on the front line and underground. This is the untold story of the mysterious forces that combined to take her down, labeling him a saint, her, a sinner. *World Premiere*

the-workers-cup.jpg***The Workers Cup*** / United Kingdom (Director: Adam Sobel) â?? Inside Qatarâ??s labor camps, African and Asian migrant workers building the facilities of the 2022 World Cup compete in a football tournament of their own. *World Premiere*. **DAY ONE**

NEXT
Pure, bold works distinguished by an innovative, forward-thinking approach to storytelling populate this program. Digital technology paired with unfettered creativity promises that the films in this section will shape a â??greaterâ?• next wave in American cinema. Presented by Adobe.

Columbus / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Kogonada) â?? Casey lives with her mother in a little-known Midwestern town haunted by the promise of modernism. Jin, a visitor from the other side of the world, attends to his dying father. Burdened by the future, they find respite in one another and the architecture that surrounds them. *Cast: John Cho, Haley Lu Richardson, Parker Posey, Rory Culkin, Michelle Forbes. World Premiere*

dayveon.jpg***Dayveon*** / U.S.A. (Director: Amman Abbasi, Screenwriters: Amman Abbasi, Steven Reneau) â?? In the wake of his older brotherâ??s death, 13-year-old Dayveon spends the sweltering summer days roaming his rural Arkansas town. When he falls in with a local gang, he becomes drawn to the camaraderie and violence of their world. *Cast: Devin Blackmon, Kordell â??KDâ?• Johnson, Dontrell Bright, Chasity Moore, Lachion Buckingham, Marquell Manning. World Premiere*. **DAY ONE**

Deidra & Laney Rob a Train / U.S.A. (Director: Sydney Freeland, Screenwriter: Shelby Farrell) â?? Two teenage sisters start robbing trains to make ends meet after their single motherâ??s emotional meltdown in an electronics store lands her in jail. *Cast: Ashleigh Murray, Rachel Crow, Tim Blake Nelson, David Sullivan, Danielle Nicolet, Sasheer Zamata. World Premiere*

A Ghost Story / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: David Lowery) â?? This is the story of a ghost and the house he haunts. *Cast: Casey Affleck, Rooney Mara, Will Oldham, Sonia Acevedo, Rob Zabrecky, Liz Franke. World Premiere*

Gook / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Justin Chon) â?? Eli and Daniel, two Korean American brothers who own a struggling womenâ??s shoe store, have an unlikely friendship with 11-year-old Kamilla. On the first day of the 1992 L.A. riots, the trio must defend their storeâ??and contemplate the meaning of family, their personal dreams and the future. *Cast: Justin Chon, Simone Baker, David So, Curtiss Cook Jr., Sang Chon, Ben Munoz. World Premiere*

L.A. Times / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Michelle Morgan) â?? In this classically styled comedy of manners set in Los Angeles, sophisticated thirtysomethings try to determine whether ideal happiness exists in coupledom or if the perfectly suited couple is actually just an urban myth. *Cast: Michelle Morgan, Dree Hemingway, Jorma Taccone, Kentucker Audley, Margarita Levieva, Adam Shapiro. World Premiere*

Lemon / U.S.A. (Director: Janicza Bravo, Screenwriters: Janicza Bravo, Brett Gelman) â?? A man watches his life unravel after he is left by his blind girlfriend. *Cast: Brett Gelman, Judy Greer, Michael Cera, Nia Long, Shiri Appleby, Fred Melamed. World Premiere*

Menashe / U.S.A. (Director: Joshua Z Weinstein, Screenwriters: Joshua Z Weinstein, Alex Lipschultz, Musa Syeed) â?? Within Brooklynâ??s ultra-orthodox Jewish community, a widower battles for custody of his son. A tender drama performed entirely in Yiddish, the film intimately explores the nature of faith and the price of parenthood. *Cast: Menashe Lustig. World Premiere*

Person to Person / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Dustin Guy Defa) â?? A record collector hustles for a big score while his heartbroken roommate tries to erase a terrible mistake, a teenager bears witness to her best friendâ??s new relationship and a rookie reporter, alongside her demanding supervisor, chases the clues of a murder case involving a life-weary clock shop owner. *Cast: Abbi Jacobson, Michael Cera, Tavi Gevinson, Philip Baker Hall, Bene Coopersmith, George Sample III. World Premiere*

Thoroughbred / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Cory Finley) â?? Two teenage girls in suburban Connecticut rekindle their unlikely friendship after years of growing apart. In the process, they learn that neither is what she seems to beâ??and that a murder might solve both of their problems. *Cast: Olivia Cooke, Anya Taylor-Joy, Anton Yelchin, Paul Sparks, Francie Swift, Kaili Vernoff. World Premiere*

Three films announced today were funded in part through Kickstarter campaigns: *Dayveon*, *Gook* and *Unrest*.

The Sundance Film FestivalÂ®
The Sundance Film Festival has introduced global audiences to some of the most groundbreaking films of the past three decades, including *Boyhood*, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Fruitvale Station, Whiplash, Brooklyn*, *Twenty Feet from Stardom*, *Life Itself*, *The Cove*, *The End of the Tour*, *Blackfish*, *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl, Super Size Me*, *Dope, Little Miss Sunshine*, *sex, lies, and videotape*, *Reservoir Dogs*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Precious* and *Napoleon Dynamite*. The Festival is a program of the non-profit Sundance InstituteÂ®. 2017 Festival sponsors to date include: Presenting Sponsors â?? Acura, SundanceTV, Chase SapphireÂ®, and Canada Goose; Leadership Sponsors â?? Adobe, AT&T, DIRECTV, and YouTube; Sustaining Sponsors â?? American Airlines, Canon U.S.A., Inc., Francis Ford Coppola Winery, GEICO, Google VR,*The Hollywood Reporter*, IMDb, Jaunt, Kickstarter, Omnicom, Stella ArtoisÂ® and the University of Utah Health. Sundance Institute recognizes critical support from the Utah Governorâ??s Office of Economic Development, and the State of Utah as Festival Host State. The support of these organizations helps offset the Festivalâ??s costs and sustain the Instituteâ??s year-round programs for independent artists. Look for the Official Sponsor seal at their venues at the Festival. sundance.org/festival

Sundance Institute
Founded in 1981 by Robert Redford, Sundance Institute is a nonprofit organization that provides and preserves the space for artists in film, theatre, and new media to create and thrive. The Instituteâ??s signature Labs, granting, and mentorship programs, dedicated to developing new work, take place throughout the year in the U.S. and internationally. The Sundance Film Festival and other public programs connect audiences to artists in igniting new ideas, discovering original voices, and building a community dedicated to independent storytelling. Sundance Institute has supported such projects as *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Fruitvale Station*, *Sin Nombre*, *The Invisible War*, *The Square*, *Dirty Wars*, *Spring Awakening*, *A Gentlemanâ??s Guide to Love and Murder* and *Fun Home*.

(Source: http://www.sundance.org)

Category

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Date Created
December 8, 2016
Author
hollywoodglee