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Sundance Film Festival Director John Cooper to Step Aside

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

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Will Assume Newly-Created Emeritus Director Role Following 2020 Festival, After 30 Years on Staff, 11 as Director

Legacies Include Short Film Category & Competition, New Frontier, Festivals in London & Hong Kong



Sundance Film Festival Director John Cooper announces heâ??s stepping aside after the 2020 Sundance Film Festival.

Following Robert Redfordâ??s lead from last yearâ??s press conference, Sundance Film Festival Director John Cooper stepping aside.



Robert Redford addresses the 2019 Sundance Film Festival Press Conference. (Photo credit: Larry

Los Angeles â?? Sundance Institute announced today that **John Cooper**, Director of the Sundance Film Festival, will move into a newly-created Emeritus Director role following the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. 2020 will mark his 30th Sundance Film Festival, and his 11th year as Festival Director.

The new role will focus on special projects and overseeing the 40th anniversary of the Sundance Institute to be celebrated in 2021. The search for a new Director for the Sundance Film Festival will be led by the Instituteâ??s CEO, **Keri Putnam**.

During his tenure to date, Cooper has kept the Festival vital and competitive with the growing independent film community and industry. Signature achievements in the Festivalâ??s programming include the creation of the Short Film section and competition, as well as the Documentary Premiere, NEXT and New Frontier sections. His cultivation of the global independent film community, including

helming Sundance Film Festival: London and Sundance Film Festival: Hong Kong, have helped build and reinforce the Instituteâ??s year round global presence.

His community-building efforts included creating the Sundance Industry Office and the youth-focused Sundance Ignite Program, as well as early development of the Arthouse Convergence, all the while building systems and staff to handle a growing volume of submissions.

Said Cooper, â??This journey has been exhilarating. Iâ??ve been lucky to find my perfect job. I always had the founding principles, passed down by Robert Redford, to guide me. I attribute any success I have had to being part of an amazing staff (past and present) who strive together to help storytellers follow their dreams and launch careers. Iâ??ve got such confidence and pride in the team, and am excited by all that the future holds. I look forward to remaining a part of this fantastic organization in my new role, and creating a seamless transition for new Festival leadership.â?•

Putnam said, â??Cooperâ??s contributions are immeasurably large and he will be missed in this roleâ?¦but then again, he will be right down the hall in this new capacity. Heâ??ll lend his vision and experience to key projects, as we build towards our 40th anniversary celebration and look ahead to the coming decades of supporting independent creativity.â?•

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 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 *Sorry to Bother You, Eighth Grade, Wonâ??t You Be My Neighbor?, Hereditary, RBG, Call Me By Your Name, Get Out, The Big Sick, Top of the Lake, Winterâ??s Bone, Dear White People, Brooklyn, Little Miss Sunshine, 20 Feet From Stardom, Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Fruitvale Station, Iâ??m Poppy, America to Me, Leimert Park, Spring Awakening*, *A Gentlemanâ??s Guide to Love and Murder* and *Fun Home*. Join Sundance Institute on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

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(Source: Press release provided by Sundance Press Office)
Category

1. #Sundance
2. Sundance
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