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2021 Sundance Film Festival Will Meet Audiences Where They Are

Description

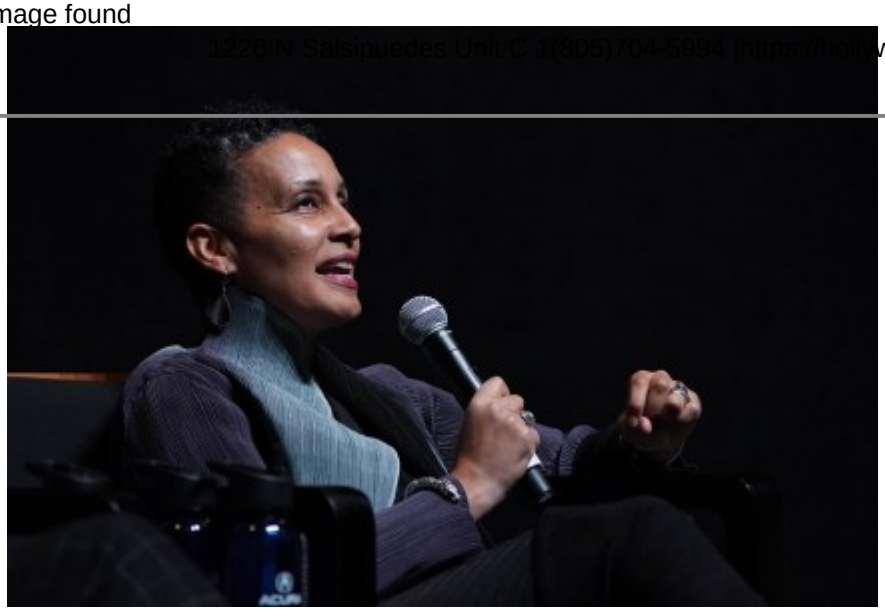
Posted by Larry Gleeson

Festival Offers Robust Online Platform and Announces Screening Partnerships with Independent Cinemas and Cultural Organizations



The Information booth inside the Sundance Film Festival Headquarters at the Park City Marriott on January 23, 2019, in Park City, Utah, the day before the opening of the 2019 Sundance Film Festival. (Photo credit: Larry Gleeson/HollywoodGlee)

PARK CITY, UTAH â?? The nonprofit Sundance Institute today unveiled plans for the seven-day 2021 Sundance Film Festival, offered digitally via a custom-designed online platform (festival.sundance.org) alongside drive-ins, independent arthouses, and a network of local community partnerships. The online expression of the Sundance Film Festival will provide global access for storytellers and audiences alike to come together, experience artistsâ?? new work, connect with one another, and participate in the conversation. All films in the program will be available online in the United States, with certain films opting for global availability. The full talks and events program, as well as the New Frontier section for XR and emerging media, will be available globally. The Festival runs from January 28 through February 3, 2021.



Sundance Documentary Film

Program Director Tabitha Jackson at The Movie That Blew My Mind, a festival panel at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. Â© 2020 Sundance Institute | photo by Maya Dehlin.nn

Even under these impossible circumstances, artists are still finding paths to make bold and vital work in whatever ways they can,â?• says **Tabitha Jackson**, in her first year as Festival Director. â??So Sundance, as a festival of discovery, will bring that work to its first audiences in whatever ways we can. The core of our Festival in the form of an online platform and socially distanced cinematic experiences is responsive to the pandemic and gives us the opportunity to reach new audiences, safely, where they are. And thanks to a constellation of independent cinema communities across the U.S. we are not putting on our Festival alone. At the heart of all this is a belief in the power of coming together, and the desire to preserve what makes a festival unique â?? a collaborative spirit, collective energy, and a celebration of the art, artists, and ideas that leave us changed.â?•



Kerry Putnam

addresses members of the press, January 24, 2019, at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival Press Conference, at the Egyptian Theatre in downtown Park City, Utah. (Photo by Larry Gleeson)

â??Our Festival footprint has changed this year, but we are excited to bring an incredible community together in new ways to engage with new artists and new stories â?? whether theyâ??re joining us for the first year or have been for decades,â?• said Sundance Institute Executive Director **Keri Putnam**. â??Our ambition is for everyone to come together, safely, wherever they may be and participate in screenings on our platform at the same time. The Sundance team has consulted with artists, worked with incredible partners, and built a plan to welcome new audiences and capture a true Festival spirit.â?•

FEATURE FILMS
As at past Sundance Film Festivals, films will premiere throughout the day, with Day One films set to debut Thursday, January 28, at 6 p.m. U.S. Mountain Time. During the 2021 Festival, each of the 70+

feature films will premiere online in a dedicated time slot, followed by a live Q&A. Multiple films will premiere simultaneously roughly every three hours from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. U.S. Mountain Time. This rollout is designed to preserve the energy of a Festival, with an abundance of choices and collective experiences, as audiences can begin the film simultaneously, and participate in the live Q&A which follows (viewers can also begin films any time within three hours of their premiereâ??s start). All films will return to the platform two days after their premiere for a â??second screening,â?• offered on demand for 24 hours. The platformâ??s movie player is powered by Shift72 and developed with best-in-industry security and access practices. In a Festival first, the entire 70+-feature lineup on the platform will be closed-captioned on-demand, and Q&As will be live-captioned.

SHORT FILM, INDIE SERIES PROGRAMS

The Short Film and Indie Series (formerly Indie Episodic) programs, focused on creative storytelling outsid es of four episodic works. These will be f the Festival.



A still from *Breathe* by Diego Galafassi, an official selection of the New Frontier Exhibitions program at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. Courtesy of Sundance Institute.

NEW FRONTIER

Since its launch, the Sundance Film Festivalâ??s New Frontier has served as a showcase for dynamic, innovative work at the crossroads of film, art, and technology â?? and 2021 is no exception, with 14 works in the program. For the first time ever, adventurous audiences around the world will be given the chance to engage with the works, the artists, and each other via a bespoke virtual platform, accessible via computer and VR headsets. The **New Frontier Gallery** hosts the complete slate of live performances, AR, VR, and other emerging media works. **Cinema House** is the Festivalâ??s fully immersive, big-screen theater, and **Film Party** is an interactive social space where the entire community of accredited Festivalgoers can safely gather together again. The environment also features interactive tools such as proximity audio and video chat.

SATELLITE SCREENS

Expanding beyond its Utah home, the Festival has created a network of partnerships to bring feature films and customized local programming â?? talks, events, artist meet-ups â?? to communities across the country. In addition to these Satellite Screen partnerships, the Institute will program screenings at

The Ray in **Park City** and the **Rose Bowl** and **Mission Tiki Drive-Ins** in **Los Angeles,** health and safety guidelines permitting. Each Satellite Screen will create and host their own events, sharing local cultural conversations with broader Festival audiences, with most also screening selections from the 2021 program.

â??These partners are the backbone of independent artistic communities across the country, where filmmakers are born and cinephiles are developed,â?• said Jackson. â??Weâ??re entering these partnerships because a healthy ecosystem for artists and audiences requires that independent cinemas across the country survive and thrive.â?•

Programming details for films at these screens will be available when the program is announced later this month, and these plans will evolve in conjunction with the COVID-19 pandemic health and safety guidelines. Participating U.S. partner organizations and locations include:

Alabama: Birmingham with **Sidewalk Film Festival**
Sidewalk Film Center, Sidewalk Drive-In

Arizona: Tucson with **The Loft Cinema**
The Loft Open Air Cinema

California:
Montclair with **American Cinematheque**
Mission Tiki Drive-In
Pasadena with the **Rose Bowl**
Rose Bowl Drive-In
San Francisco with **The Roxie Theater**
Roxie Theater, Fort Mason Drive-In

Colorado: Denver with **Denver Film**
Sie FilmCenter

Florida:
Key West with **Tropic Cinema**
Tropic Cinema, The Key West Lighthouse, The Truman Little White House, The Ernest Hemingway House and Museum
Miami with **Third Horizon** and **O Cinema**
New World Symphony SoundScape Park and South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

Georgia:
Atlanta with **Atlanta Film Society**
The Plaza Theater, Plaza Drive-In, Dadâ??s Garage Drive-In
Macon with **Macon Film Festival**
Douglass Theatre

Hawaii: Honolulu with Doris Duke Theatre at the **Honolulu Museum of Art (HoMA)**

Iowa: Iowa City with **FilmScene**
FilmScene at The Chauncey

Kansas: Wichita with **mama.film**
mama.film microcinema, Wichita Art Museum, Groover Labs

Kentucky: Louisville with **The Speed Art Museum**
Speed Art Museum

Louisiana: New Orleans with **New Orleans Film Society**
The Broad Theater

Maryland: Baltimore with **Maryland Film Festival**
Stavros Niarchos Foundation Parkway Theater

Massachusetts: Brookline with **Coolidge Corner Theatre**
Coolidge Corner Theatre

Michigan: Detroit with **Cinema Detroit**

Minnesota: Minneapolis-St. Paul with **FilmNorth**
Riverview Theater

New York: Pleasantville with **Jacob Burns Film Center**
Jacob Burns Film Center & Media Arts Lab

Ohio: Columbus with **Gateway Film Center**
Gateway Film Center

Oklahoma: Tulsa with **Circle Cinema**
Circle Cinema, Circle Cinema Drive-In, Admiral Twin Drive-In, Philbrook Museum, OSU-Tulsa, Tulsa University, Gilcrease Museum

Pennsylvania: Philadelphia with **BlackStar Film Festival**

Puerto Rico: San Juan with **AsociaciÃ³n de Documentalistas de Puerto Rico** (AdocPR)
Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico (MAPR)

South Carolina: Columbia with **The Luminal Theater**
Spotlight Cinemas Capitol 8

Tennessee:
Memphis with **Indie Memphis**
Malco Summer Drive-In
Nashville with **Belcourt Theatre**
Belcourt Theatre

Texas:
Austin with **Austin Film Society**
AFS Cinema
Dallas with **Aviation Cinemas**
Texas Theatre

Houston with **Houston Cinema Arts Society**
MoonStruck Drive-In, DeLUXE Theater

Utah:
Park City
The Ray
Salt Lake City with **Salt Lake Film Society**

Washington: Seattle with **Northwest Film Forum**

THE PLATFORM:
One of the fundamental values of the Festival is gathering: itâ??s a place where a global community of independent artists can convene for a generative and open exchange of ideas. This year, that will take place on the platformâ??s **Festival Village**, a free-to-all space where Satellite Screens, partners, and Festival sponsors will host a wide range of events, programming, and offerings to complement and enrich the official program. The platformâ??s **Main Street** will act as both an homage to the iconic Park City thoroughfare and as an extension of the Festivalâ??s core programming, featuring digital partner spaces hosting conversations, musical performances, and more. The **Artist Lounge** will feature a space for creators to gather for artist programming, as well as for the Festivalâ??s Class of â??21 to network and celebrate at private events.

TICKETING DETAILS
Tickets and passes for those who want to experience the Festival for the full run, a single day, or a single screening will be available to the general public beginning January 7; further details will be available later this month. For more information, sign up at Festival.Sundance.org.

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 *Clemency*, *Never Rarely Sometimes Always*, *Zola*, *On The Record, Boys State, The Farewell, Honeyland, One Child Nation, The* ***S****ouvenir, The Infiltrators, Sorry to Bother You, Wonâ??t You Be My Neighbor?, Hereditary, Call Me By Your Name, Get Out, The Big Sick, Mudbound, Fruitvale Station, Whiplash*, *Brooklyn*, *Precious*, *The Cove*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Napoleon Dynamite*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Reservoir Dogs*, and *sex, lies, and videotape*. The Festival is a program of the non-profit Sundance Institute. 2021 Festival sponsors to date include: Presenting Sponsors â?? Acura, SundanceTV, Chase Sapphire, Adobe; Leadership Sponsors â?? Amazon Studios, AT&T, DoorDash, Dropbox, Netflix, Omnicom Group, Southwest AirlinesÂ® , WarnerMedia; Sustaining Sponsors â?? AMC, Audible, Canada Goose, Canon U.S.A., Inc., Dell Technologies, Documentary Plus, GEICO, IMDbPro, Stella ArtoisÂ® , Unity Technologies, University of Utah Health, White Claw Hard Seltzer, Zoom; Media Sponsors â?? The Atlantic, IndieWire, Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, NPR, Variety, Vulture, The Wall Street Journal. Sundance Institute recognizes critical support from 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. sundance.org/festival

Sundance Institute
As a champion and curator of independent stories for the stage and screen, the nonprofit Sundance Institute provides and preserves the space for artists in film, theater, film composing, and digital media to create and thrive. Founded in 1981 by Robert Redford, the Instituteâ??s signature Labs, granting,

and mentorship programs which are dedicated to developing new work and take place throughout the year in the U.S. and internationally, are supported largely through contributed revenue. Sundance Co//ab, a digital community platform, brings artists together to learn from each other and Sundance Advisors and connect in a creative space, developing and sharing works in progress. The Sundance Film Festival and other public programs connect audiences and artists to ignite new ideas, discovering original voices, and build a community dedicated to independent storytelling. Sundance Institute has supported such projects as *Clemency, Never Rarely Sometimes Always*, *Zola*, *On The Record, Boys State, The Farewell, Honeyland*, *One Child Nation*, *The Souvenir, The Infiltrators, Sorry to Bother You, Wonâ??t You Be My Neighbor?, Hereditary, Call Me By Your Name, Get Out, The Big Sick, Mudbound, Fruitvale Station*, *City So Real, Top of the Lake, Between the World & Me, Wild Goose Dreams* and *Fun H* YouTube.

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HollywoodGlee inside the Sundance Film Festival Headquarters at the Park City Marriott on January 23, 2019, in Park City, Utah, the day before the opening of the 2019 Sundance Film Festival. (Photo credit: Larry Gleeson/HollywoodGlee)

Category

1. television

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