

2022 Sundance Film Festival: Feature Films, Indie Episodic, New Frontier Lineups!

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

Itâ??s that time of year again.

82 Features, 6 Indie Episodic, 15 New Frontier Projects to Debut



Ticket Packages On Sale December 17; Individual Tickets On Sale January 6

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PARK CITY, UTAH â?? The nonprofit Sundance Institute announced the showcase of new independent work selected across the Feature Film, Indie Episodic, and New Frontier categories for the 2022 Sundance Film Festival. The Festival will take place in Park City, Salt Lake City and the Sundance Mountain Resort in Utah, as well as digitally via our enhanced online platform at Festival.Sundance.org; on The Spaceship, a bespoke immersive platform; and in person at seven Satellite Screens venues around the country during the Festivalâ??s second weekend. The Festival takes place January 20â??30, 2022; ticket packages go on sale on December 17 at 10am MT and single film tickets go on sale January 6 at 10am MT.

Festival audiences will attend in a number of ways. Feature films will premiere in person in Utah, before premiering online with a live Q&A and premiere party on The Spaceship. Subsequent screenings will take place in-person and in on-demand windows on the platform. The New Frontier program will be globally accessible online via The Spaceship platform from January 20-28, with in-person augmentation and live performances at The Craft, a new artist-centered venue in Park City. Short films and Indie Episodic work will play in person in Utah and be available on the platform; the Shorts lineup will be announced in a December 10 news release. All in-person attendees are required to be fully vaccinated and wear masks. The latest health safety protocols for the well-being of Festival attendees is available here.

The Sundance Film Festival is the flagship public program of Sundance Institute. Throughout the year, the majority of the Instituteâ??s resources support independent artists around the world as they make and develop new work through access to Labs, direct grants, fellowships, residencies, and other strategic and tactical support.

â??This year, we look forward to celebrating this generationâ??s most innovative storytellers as they share their work across a wide range of genres and forms,â?• said Sundance Institute founder and president Robert Redford. â??These artists have provided a light through the darkest of times, and we look forward to welcoming their unique visions out into the world and experiencing them together.â?•

â??Iâ??m so impressed by, and proud of, the work that the curatorial and production teams have done to plan this Festival,â?• said Joana Vicente, the Instituteâ??s CEO. â??I think audiences will be extremely excited to convene and engage with the incredible stories these artists are telling.â?•

â??Weâ??re excited to return to our home in Utah, but also to come together in new ways,â?• said Festival director Tabitha Jackson. â??Building on our experience last year, weâ??ve discovered new possibilities of convergence, and we embrace the fact that we are now an expanded community in which active participation matters, and audience presence â?? however it manifests â?? is essential to our mission.â?•

â??This yearâ??s program reflects the unsettling and uncertain times weâ??ve been living in for the past year and a half. The artists in the program, through their bold and innovative storytelling, and their sheer determination to create work in this moment, challenge us to look at the world through different lenses and examine and reevaluate how these stories impact us now and in the future,â?• said the Festivalâ??s director of programming Kim Yutani.

The Festival will open on January 20 with an experiment in biodigital convergence as audiences gather online and in person for a special New Frontier presentation of *Sam Greenâ??s 32 Sounds*, taking place simultaneously in Park Cityâ??s Egyptian Theatre and in The Spaceshipâ??s Cinema House. An exciting slate of Day One films will then open the Festival in Park City: 11 features and a shorts program will illustrate the scope of Festival work across genre and form. Day One Features are *Emergency, Fire of Love, Fresh, La Guerra Civil, A Love Song, Marte Um (Mars One), The Princess, Tantura, When You Finish Saving the World*, and *The Worst Person in the World. Lucy and Desi* is the 2022 Sundance Film Festivalâ??s Salt Lake City Opening Night Gala Film, premiering at the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center on January 21.

After Yang, screening in the Spotlight section, has been named the winner of the Alfred P. Sloan Feature Film Prize.

Eight feature films have been selected for the Festivalâ??s Satellite Screens, and will play at those seven independent arthouse cinemas across the United States for local audiences during the Festivalâ??s closing weekend, Friday, January 28, through Sunday, January 30, 2022. The films are *Alice; Emergency; Every Day in KaimukÄ«; Free Chol Soo Lee; Honk for Jesus, Save Your Soul; La Guerra Civil; Marte Um (Mars One)*; and *Sirens*, with additional Short Film participation to be announced. This program will play at Amherst Cinema in Amherst, Massachusetts; a/perture cinema in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Digital Gym Cinema in San Diego, California; Indie Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee; mama.film in Lawrence, Kansas; Northwest Film Forum in Seattle, Washington; and SNF Parkway Theatre, home of the Maryland Film Festival in Baltimore, Maryland.

The full slate of works announced today includes 82 feature-length films representing 28 countries, and 39 of 92 (42%) feature film directors are first-time feature filmmakers. Fifteen of the feature films and projects announced today were supported by Sundance Institute in development through direct granting or residency labs.

Seventy-five, or 91%, of the Festivalâ??s feature films announced today will be world premieres.

These films were selected from 14,849 submissions, including 3,762 feature-length films. Of the 3,762 feature film submissions, 1,652 were from the U.S., and 2,110 were international. Director demographics are available in an editorâ??s note below.

U.S. DRAMATIC COMPETITION

Presenting the world premieres of fiction feature films, the Dramatic Competition offers Festivalgoers a first look at groundbreaking new voices in American independent film. Films that have premiered in this category in recent years include *CODA*, *Passing*, *Minari, Never Rarely Sometimes Always, The Farewell, Clemency, Eighth Grade* and *Sorry to Bother You*.

892 / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Abi Damaris Corbin, Screenwriter: Kwame Kwei-Armah, Producers: Ashley Levinson, Salman Al-Rashid, Sam Frohman, Kevin Turen, Mackenzie Fargo) â?? When Brian Brown-Easleyâ??s disability check fails to materialize from Veterans Affairs, he finds himself on the brink of homelessness and breaking his daughterâ??s heart. No other options, he walks into a Wells Fargo Bank and says â??Iâ??ve got a bomb.â?? *Cast: John Boyega, Michael Kenneth Williams, Nicole Beharie, Connie Britton, Olivia Washington, Selenis Leyva. World Premiere.*

Alice / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Krystin Ver Linden, Producer: Peter Lawson) â?? When a woman in servitude in 1800s Georgia escapes the 55-acre confines of her captor, she discovers the shocking reality that exists beyond the treelineâ?¦itâ??s 1973. Inspired by true events. *Cast: Keke Palmer, Common, Jonny Lee Miller, Gaius Charles. World Premiere.*

blood / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Bradley Rust Gray, Producers: David Urrutia, Bradley Rust Gray, So Yong Kim, Elika Portnoy, Alex Orlovsky, Jonathon Komack Martin) â?? After the death of her husband, a young woman travels to Japan where she finds solace in an old friend. But when comforting turns to affection, she realizes she must give herself permission before she can fall in love again. *Cast: Carla Juri, Takashi Ueno, Gustaf SkarsgÃ¥rd, Futaba Okazaki, Issey Ogata. World Premiere.*

Cha Cha Real Smooth / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Cooper Raiff, Producers: Dakota Johnson, Ro Donnelly, Erik Feig, Jessica Switch, Cooper Raiff) â?? A directionless college graduate embarks on a relationship with a young mom and her teenage daughter while learning the boundaries of his new bar mitzvah party-starting gig. *Cast: Dakota Johnson, Cooper Raiff, Vanessa Burghardt, Evan Assante, Brad Garrett, Leslie Mann. World Premiere.*

Dual / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Riley Stearns, Producers: Nate Bolotin, Aram Tertzakian, Lee Kim, Riley Stearns, Nick Spicer, Maxime Cottray) â?? After receiving a terminal diagnosis, Sarah commissions a clone of herself to ease the loss for her friends and family. When she makes a miraculous recovery, her attempt to have her clone decommissioned fails, and leads to a court-mandated duel to the death. *Cast: Karen Gillan, Aaron Paul, Beulah Koale. World Premiere.*



Emergency / U.S.A. (Director: Carey Williams, Screenwriter: KD Davila, Producers: Marty Bowen, Isaac Klausner, John Fischer) â?? Ready for a night of partying, a group of Black and Latino college students must weigh the pros and cons of calling the police when faced with an unusual emergency. *Cast: RJ Cyler, Donald Watkins, Sebastian Chacon, Sabrina Carpenter*. *World Premiere.* DAY ONE

Master / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Mariama Diallo, Producers: Joshua Astrachan, Brad Becker-Parton, Andrea Roa) â?? Three women strive to find their place at an elite New England university. As the insidious specter of racism haunts the campus in increasingly supernatural fashion, each fights to survive in this space of privilege. *Cast: Regina Hall, Zoe Renee, Talia Ryder, Talia Balsam, Amber Gray. World Premiere.*

Nanny / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Nikyatu Jusu, Producers: Nikkia Moulterie, Daniela Taplin Lundberg) â?? Aisha is an undocumented nanny working for a privileged couple in New York City. As she prepares for the arrival of the son she left behind in Senegal, a violent supernatural presence invades her reality, threatening the American dream she is painstakingly piecing together. *Cast: Anna Diop, Michelle Monaghan, Sinqua Walls, Morgan Spector, Rose Decker, Leslie Uggams. World Premiere.*

Palm Trees and Power Lines / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Jamie Dack, Screenwriter: Audrey Findlay, Producers: Leah Chen Baker, Jamie Dack) â?? Seventeen-year-old Lea spends her summer aimlessly tanning with her best friend, tiptoeing around her fragile mother, and getting stoned with a group of boys from school. This monotony is disrupted by an encounter with Tom, a man twice her age, who promises an alternative to Leaâ??s unsatisfying adolescent life. *Cast: Lily McInerny, Jonathan Tucker, Gretchen Mol. World Premiere.*

Watcher / U.S.A. (Director: Chloe Okuno, Screenwriter: Zack Ford, Producers: Roy Lee, Steven Schneider, Derek Dauchy, John Finemore, Aaron Kaplan, Mason Novick) â?? A young woman moves into a new apartment with her fiancÃ© and is tormented by the feeling that she is being stalked by an unseen watcher in an adjacent building. *Cast: Maika Monroe, Karl Glusman, Burn Gorman, Ciubuciu Bogdan Alexandru. World Premiere.*

U.S. DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

World-premiere American documentaries that illuminate the ideas, people and events that shape the present day. Films that have premiered in this category in recent years include *Summer of Soul (or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised), Boys State, Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution*, *APOLLO 11, Knock Down The House, One Child Nation, American Factory*, *Three Identical Strangers* and *On Her Shoulders*.

Aftershock / U.S.A. (Directors and Producers: Paula Eiselt, Tonya Lewis Lee) â?? Following the preventable deaths of their partners due to childbirth complications, two bereaved fathers galvanize activists, birth-workers and physicians to reckon with one of the most pressing American crises of our time â?? the U.S. maternal health crisis. *World Premiere.*

Descendant / U.S.A. (Director: Margaret Brown, Producers: Essie Chambers, Kyle Martin) â?? *Clotilda*, the last ship carrying enslaved Africans to the United States, arrived in Alabama 40 years after African slave trading became a capital offense. It was promptly burned, and its existence denied. After a century shrouded in secrecy and speculation, descendants of the *Clotildaâ??*s survivors are reclaiming their story. *World Premiere.*

The Exiles / U.S.A. (Directors: Ben Klein, Violet Columbus, Producers: Maria Chiu, Ben Klein, Violet Columbus) â?? Documentarian Christine Choy tracks down three exiled dissidents from the Tiananmen Square massacre, in order to find closure on an abandoned film she began shooting in 1989. *World Premiere.*



Fire Of Love / U.S.A. (Director: Sara Dosa, Producers: Shane Boris, Ina Fichman, Sara Dosa) â?? Intrepid scientists and lovers Katia & Maurice Krafft died in a volcanic explosion doing the very thing that brought them together: unraveling the mysteries of volcanoes by capturing the most explosive imagery ever recorded. A doomed love triangle between Katia, Maurice and volcanoes, told through their archival footage. *World Premiere.* DAY ONE

Free Chol Soo Lee / U.S.A. (Directors: Julie Ha, Eugene Yi, Producers: Su Kim, Jean Tsien, Sona Jo, Julie Ha, Eugene Yi) â?? After a Korean immigrant is wrongly convicted of a 1973 San Francisco Chinatown gang murder, Asian Americans unite as never before to free Chol Soo Lee. A former street hustler becomes the symbol for a landmark movement. But once out, he self-destructs, threatening the

movementâ??s legacy and the man himself. *World Premiere.*

I Didnâ??t See You There / U.S.A. (Director: Reid Davenport, Producer: Keith Wilson) â?? Spurred by the spectacle of a circus tent that goes up outside his Oakland apartment, a disabled filmmaker launches into an unflinching meditation on freakdom, (in)visibility, and the pursuit of individual agency. *World Premiere.*

The Janes / U.S.A. (Directors: Tia Lessin, Emma Pildes, Producers: Emma Pildes, Daniel Arcana, Jessica Levin) â?? In the spring of 1972, police raided an apartment on Chicagoâ??s South Side. Seven women were arrested. The accused were part of a clandestine network. Using code names, blindfolds and safe houses, they built an underground service for women seeking safe, affordable, illegal abortions. They called themselves JANE. *World Premiere.*

Jihad Rehab / U.S.A. (Director: Meg Smaker, Producers: Meg Smaker, Bryan Storkel) â?? A group of Al-Qaeda members are transferred from Guantanamo to a secretive rehabilitation center for Islamic extremists. *World Premiere.*

TikTok, Boom. / U.S.A. (Director: Shalini Kantayya, Producers: Ross M. Dinerstein. Shalini Kantayya, Danni Mynard) â?? With TikTok now crowned the worldâ??s most downloaded app, these are the personal stories of a cultural phenomenon, told through an ensemble cast of Gen-Z natives, journalists and experts alike. This film seeks to answer, â??why is an app, best known for people dancing, the target of so much controversy?â?? *World Premiere.*

WORLD CINEMA DRAMATIC COMPETITION

Ten films from emerging filmmaking talents around the world offer fresh perspectives and inventive styles. Films that have premiered in this category in recent years include *Hive, Luzzu, The Souvenir, The Guilty, Monos, Yardie*, *The Nile Hilton Incident* and *Second Mother*.

Brian And Charles / U.K. (Director: Jim Archer, Screenwriters: David Earl, Chris Hayward, Producer: Rupert Majendie) â?? A story of friendship, love, and letting go. And a 7ft tall robot that eats cabbages. A comedy shot in documentary format. *Cast: David Earl, Chris Hayward, Louise Brealey, Jamie Michie, Lowri Izzard, Mari Izzard. World Premiere.*

The Cow Who Sang A Song Into The Future / Chile/France/U.S.A/Germany (Director and Screenwriter: Francisca AlegrÃa, Screenwriters: Fernanda Urrejola, Manuela Infante, Producers: Tom Dercourt, Alejandra GarcÃa) â?? Cecilia and her children travel to her aging fatherâ??s dairy farm after he has a heart attack. Back in her childhood home, Cecilia is met by her mother, a woman dead for many years, whose presence brings to life a painful past chorused by the natural world around them. *Cast: Leonor Varela, Mia Maestro, Alfredo Castro, Marcial Tagle, Enzo Ferrada, Luis DuboÌ•. World Premiere.*

Dos Estaciones / Mexico (Director and Screenwriter: Juan Pablo GonzÃ¡lez, Screenwriters: Ana Isabel FernÃ¡ndez, Ilana Coleman, Producers: Jamie GonÃ§alves, Ilana Coleman, Bruna Haddad, Makena Buchanan) â?? In the bucolic hills of Mexicoâ??s Jalisco highlands, iron-willed businesswoman Maria Garcia fights the impending collapse of her tequila factory. *Cast: Teresa SÃ¡nchez, TatÃn Vera, Rafaela Fuentes, Manuel GarcÃa-Rulfo. World Premiere.*

Gentle / Hungary (Directors: Anna Eszter Nemes, LÃ¡szlÃ³ Csuja, Screenwriters: LÃ¡szlÃ³ Csuja, Anna Eszter Nemes, Producers: AndrÃ¡s Muhi, GÃ¡bor Ferenczy) â?? Edina, a female bodybuilder, is ready to sacrifice everything for the dream she shares with Adam, her partner and trainer: to win the world championship. The odd love she finds on her way there makes her see the difference between her dreams and her true self. *Cast: Eszter Csonka, GyÃ¶rgy TurÃ³s, Csaba Krisztik. World Premiere.*

Girl Picture / Finland (Director: Alli Haapasalo, Screenwriters: Ilona Ahti, Daniela Hakulinen, Producers: Leila LyytikÃ¤inen, Elina Pohjola) â?? Mimmi, Emma and RÃ¶nkkÃ¶ are girls at the cusp of womanhood, trying to draw their own contours. In three consecutive Fridays two of them experience the earth moving effects of falling in love, while the third goes on a quest to find something sheâ??s never experienced before: pleasure. *Cast: Aamu Milonoff, Eleonoora Kauhanen, Linnea Leino. World Premiere.*

Klondike / Ukraine/Turkey (Director and Screenwriter: Maryna Er Gorbach, Producers: Maryna Er Gorbach, Mehmet Bahadir Er, Sviatoslav BulakovskyI) â?? The story of a Ukrainian family living on the border of Russia â?? Ukraine during the start of war. Irka refuses to leave her house even as the village gets captured by armed forces. Shortly after they find themselves at the center of an air crash catastrophe on July 17, 2014. *Cast: Oxana Cherkashyna, Sergey Shadrin, Oleg Scherbina, Oleg Shevchuk, Artur Aramyan, Evgenij Efremov. World Premiere.*

Leonor Will Never Die / Philippines (Director and Screenwriter: Martika Ramirez Escobar, Producers: Monster Jimenez, Mario Cornejo) â?? Fiction and reality blur when Leonor, a retired filmmaker, falls into a coma after a television lands on her head, compelling her to become the action hero of her unfinished screenplay. *Cast: Sheila Francisco, Bong Cabrera, Rocky Salumbides, Anthony Falcon. World Premiere.*



Marte Um (Mars One) / Brazil (Director and Screenwriter: Gabriel Martins, Producer: Thiago MacÃªdo Correia) â?? In Brazil, a lower-middle-class Black family of four tries to keep their spirits up and their dreams going in the months that follow the election of a right-wing president, a man who represents everything they are not. *Cast: Rejane Faria, Carlos Francisco, Camilla Souza, CÃcero Lucas. World Premiere.* DAY ONE

Utama / Bolivia/Uruguay/France (Director and Screenwriter: Alejandro Loayza Grisi, Producers: Santiago Loayza Grisi, Federico Moreira, Marcos Loayza, Jean-Baptiste Bailly-Maitre) â?? In the Bolivian highlands, an elderly Quechua couple has been living the same daily life for years. When an uncommon long drought threatens their entire way of life, Virginio and his wife Sisa face the dilemma of resisting or being defeated by the environment and time itself. *Cast: Jose Calcina, Luisa Quispe, Santos Choque. World Premiere.*

You Wonâ??t Be Alone / Australia (Director and Screenwriter: Goran Stolevski, Producers: Kristina Ceyton, Sam Jennings) â?? In an isolated mountain village in 19th century Macedonia, a young feral witch accidentally kills a peasant. She assumes the peasantâ??s shape to see what life is like in her skin, igniting a deep-seated curiosity to experience life inside the bodies of others. *Cast: Noomi Rapace, Anamaria Marinca, Alice Englert, Carloto Cotta, FÃ©lix Maritaud, Sara Klimoska. World Premiere.*

WORLD CINEMA DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

Ten documentaries by some of the boldest filmmakers working around the world today. Films that have premiered in this category in recent years include *Flee, Honeyland, Sea of Shadows*, *Shirkers*, *This Is Home*, *Last Men in Aleppo* and *Hooligan Sparrow*.

All That Breathes / India, U.K. (Director and Producer: Shaunak Sen, Producers: Aman Mann, Teddy Leifer) â?? Against the darkening backdrop of Delhiâ??s apocalyptic air and escalating violence, two brothers devote their lives to protect one casualty of the turbulent times: the bird known as the Black Kite. *World Premiere.*

Calendar Girls / Sweden (Directors, Screenwriters and Producers: Maria Loohufvud, Love Martinsen) â?? A coming-of-golden-age look at Floridaâ??s most dedicated dance team for women over 60, shaking up the outdated image of â??the little old lady,â?• and calling for everyone to dance their hearts out, while they still can. *World Premiere.*

A House Made of Splinters / Denmark (Director: Simon Lereng Wilmont, Producer: Monica HellstrÃ¶m) â?? In Eastern Ukraine, follow the daily life of children and staff in a special kind of home: an institution for children who have been removed from their homes while awaiting court custody decisions. Staff do their best to make the time children have there safe and supportive. *World Premiere.*

Midwives / Myanmar (Director: Snow Hnin Ei Hlaing, Producers: Bob Moore, Ulla Lehman, Mila Aung-Thwin, Snow Hnin Ei Hlaing) â?? Two midwives work side-by-side in a makeshift clinic in Myanmar. *World Premiere.*

The Mission / Finland (Director and Screenwriter: Tania Anderson, Producers: Isabella Karhu, Juho-Pekka Tanskanen) â?? A revelation of the inner lives of young LDS missionaries, as they leave their homes for the first time and embark upon the most emotionally, physically and psychologically challenging period of their life. *World Premiere.*

Nothing Compares / Ireland, U.K. (Director: Kathryn Ferguson, Producers: Eleanor Emptage, Michael Mallie) â?? The story of SinÃ©ad Oâ??Connorâ??s phenomenal rise to worldwide fame and subsequent exile from the pop mainstream. Focusing on SinÃ©adâ??s prophetic words and deeds

from 1987 to 1993, the film reflects on the legacy of this fearless trailblazer through a contemporary feminist lens. *World Premiere.*

Sirens / U.S.A., Lebanon (Director, Screenwriter and Producer: Rita Baghdadi, Producer: Camilla Hall) â?? On the outskirts of Beirut, Lilas and Shery, co-founders and guitarists of the Middle Eastâ??s first all-female metal band, wrestle with friendship, sexuality and destruction in their pursuit of becoming thrash metal rock stars. *World Premiere.*



Tantura / Israel (Director and Screenwriter: Alon Schwarz, Screenwriter and Producer: Shaul Schwarz. Producer: Maiken Baird) â?? In 1948, the State of Israel was established and war broke out. Hundreds of Palestinian villages were destroyed with their inhabitants killed or exiled. The film focuses on one village: Tantura, bringing to light Israelâ??s founding myth and its societyâ??s inability to come to terms with its dark past. *World Premiere.* DAY ONE

The Territory / Brazil/Denmark/United States (Director: Alex Pritz, Producers: Will N. Miller, Sigrid DyekjÃ¦r, Lizzie Gillett, Anonymous) â?? When a network of Brazilian farmers seizes a protected area of the Amazon rainforest, a young Indigenous leader and his mentor must fight back in defense of the land and an uncontacted group living deep within the forest. *World Premiere.*

We Met in Virtual Reality / U.K. (Director, Screenwriter and Producer: Joe Hunting) â?? Filmed entirely inside the world of VR, this vÃ©ritÃ© documentary captures the excitement and surprising intimacy of a burgeoning cultural movement, demonstrating the power of online connection in an isolated world. *World Premiere.*

NEXT

Pure, bold works distinguished by an innovative, forward-thinking approach to storytelling populate this program. Films that have premiered in this category in recent years include *The Infiltrators*, *Searching*, *Skate Kitchen*, *A Ghost Story* and *Tangerine*. NEXT is presented by Adobe.

The Cathedral / Italy, U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Ricky Dâ??Ambrose, Producer: Graham Swon) â?? An only childâ??s account of an American familyâ??s rise and fall over two decades. *Cast:*

Brian dâ??Arcy James, Monica Barbaro, Mark Zeisler, Geraldine Singer, William Bednar-Carter. North American Premiere. Fiction.

Every Day In KaimukÄ« / U.S.A. (Director: Alika Tengan, Screenwriters: Naz Kawakami, Alika Tengan. Producers: Jesy Odio, Chapin Hall, Alika Tengan, Naz Kawakami) â?? A young man is determined to give his life meaning outside of KaimukÄ«, the small Hawaiian town where he grew up, even if it means leaving everything heâ??s ever known and loved behind. *Cast: Naz Kawakami, Rina White, Holden Mandrial-Santos. World Premiere. Fiction.*

Framing Agnes / Canada, U.S.A. (Director: Chase Joynt, Producers: Samantha Curley, Shant Joshi, Chase Joynt) â?? After discovering case files from a 1950s gender clinic, a cast of transgender actors turn a talk show inside out to confront the legacy of a young trans woman forced to choose between honesty and access. *World Premiere. Documentary.*



A Love Song / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Max Walker-Silverman, Producers: Dan Janvey, Jesse Hope, Max Walker-Silverman) â?? Two childhood sweethearts, now both widowed, share a night by a lake in the mountains. A love story for those who are alone. *Cast: Dale Dickey, Wes Studi, Michelle Wilson, Benja K. Thomas, John Way, Marty Grace Dennis. World Premiere. Fiction.* DAY ONE

Mija / U.S.A. (Director: Isabel Castro, Producers: Tabs Breese, Isabel Castro, Yesenia Tlahuel) â?? Doris MuÃ±oz is a young, ambitious music manager whose undocumented family depends on her ability to launch pop stars. When she loses her biggest client, Doris hustles to discover new talent and finds Jacks, another daughter of immigrants for whom â??making itâ?• isnâ??t just a dream: itâ??s a necessity. *World Premiere. Documentary.*

RIOTSVILLE, USA / U.S.A. (Director: Sierra Pettengill, Producers: Sara Archambault, Jamila Wignot) â?? Welcome to Riotsville, a fictional town built by the U.S. military. Using footage shot by the media and government, the film explores the militarization of the police and the reaction of a nation to the uprisings of the late â??60s, creating a counter-narrative to a critical moment in American history. *World Premiere. Documentary.*

Something In The Dirt / U.S.A. (Directors: Justin Benson, Aaron Moorhead, Screenwriter: Justin Benson, Producers: David Lawson, Aaron Moorhead, Justin Benson) â?? When neighbors John and Levi witness supernatural events in their Los Angeles apartment building, they realize documenting the paranormal could inject some fame and fortune into their wasted lives. An ever-deeper, darker rabbit hole, their friendship frays as they uncover the dangers of the phenomena, the city, and each other. *Cast: Justin Benson, Aaron Moorhead. World Premiere. Fiction.*

PREMIERES

A showcase of world premieres of some of the most highly anticipated fiction and nonfiction films of the coming year. Documentaries that have screened in Premieres include *The Dissident, On the Record,* and *Miss Americana,* and past fiction features include *Kajillionaire, Promising Young Woman, The Report, Late Night,* and *The Big Sick*.

2nd Chance / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Ramin Bahrani, Producers: Daniel Turcan, Johnny Galvin, Charles Dorfman, Ramin Bahrani, Jacob Grodnik) â?? Bankrupt pizzeria owner Richard Davis invented the modern-day bulletproof vest. To prove that it worked, he shot himself 192 times. He launched a multi-million-dollar company and became a cult figure among police. Davisâ?? rise and fall reveals a man of contradictions and the nature of power and impunity in America. *World Premiere. Documentary.*

AM I OK? / U.S.A. (Directors: Stephanie Allynne, Tig Notaro, Screenwriter: Lauren Pomerantz, Producers: Jessica Elbaum, Will Ferrell, Erik Feig, Dakota Johnson, Ro Donnelly, Lauren Pomerantz) â?? Lucy and Jane have been best friends for most of their lives and think they know everything there is to know about each other. But when Jane announces sheâ??s moving to London, Lucy reveals a long-held secret. As Jane tries to help Lucy, their friendship is thrown into chaos. *Cast: Dakota Johnson, Sonoya Mizuno, Jermaine Fowler, Kiersey Clemons, Molly Gordon, Sean Hayes. World Premiere. Fiction.*

Brainwashed: Sex-Camera-Power / U.S.A. (Director and Producer: Nina Menkes) â?? Based on Nina Menkesâ?? acclaimed talk â??Sex & Power: The Visual Language of Cinemaâ?•, a mesmerizing journey into how shot design intersects with the twin epidemics of sexual abuse/ assault and employment discrimination against women. Containing over 175 film clips, will unalterably change the way we view and make movies. *World Premiere. Documentary.*

Call Jane / U.S.A. (Director: Phyllis Nagy, Screenwriters: Hayley Schore, Roshan Sethi, Producers: Robbie Brenner, David Wulf, Kevin McKeon, Lee Broda, Claude Amadeo, Michael Dâ??Alto) â?? Chicago, 1968: after having a life-saving secret abortion, a suburban housewife seeks to give women access to healthy and safe abortions through an underground collective of women known as â??Jane.â?• *Cast: Elizabeth Banks, Sigourney Weaver, Chris Messina, Kate Mara, Wunmi Mosaku, Cory Michael Smith. World Premiere. Fiction.*

DOWNFALL: The Case Against Boeing / U.S.A. (Director: Rory Kennedy, Screenwriters: Mark Bailey, Keven McAlester, Producers: Rory Kennedy, Mark Bailey, Sara Bernstein, Justin Wilkes, Keven McAlester, Amanda Rohlke) â?? An investigation of the two Boeing 737 MAX crashes that killed 346 people, exploring both the root causes and the human cost. At once a chilling portrait of a crumbling corporate culture and a fierce indictment of Wall Streetâ??s corrupting influence. *World Premiere. Documentary.*

Emily the Criminal / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: John Patton Ford, Producers: Tyler Davidson, Aubrey Plaza, Drew Sykes) â?? Down on her luck and saddled with debt, Emily gets involved in a credit card scam that pulls her into the criminal underworld of Los Angeles, ultimately leading to deadly consequences. *Cast: Aubrey Plaza, Theo Rossi, Megalyn Echikunwoke, Gina Gershon. World Premiere. Fiction.*

FINAL CUT / France (Director and Screenwriter: Michel Hazanavicius, Producers: John Penotti, NoÃ«mie Devide, Alain de la Mata, Brahim Chioua, Michel Hazanavicius, Vincent Maravalr) â?? Things go badly for a small film crew shooting a low-budget zombie movie when they are attacked by real zombies. *Cast: Romain Duris, BÃ©rÃ©nice Bejo, GrÃ©gory Gadebois, Finnegan Oldfield, Matilda Lutz, RaphaÃ«l Quenard. World Premiere. Fiction.*

Godâ??s Country / U.S.A. (Director: Julian Higgins, Screenwriters: Shaye Ogbonna, Julian Higgins, Producers: Miranda Bailey, Halee Bernard, Julian Higgins, Amanda Marshall) â?? When a grieving college professor confronts two hunters she catches trespassing on her property, sheâ??s drawn into an escalating battle of wills with catastrophic consequences. *Cast: Thandiwe Newton, Jeremy Bobb, Joris Jarsky, Jefferson White, Kai Lennox, Tanaya Beatty. World Premiere. Fiction.*

Good Luck to You, Leo Grande / U.K. (Director: Sophie Hyde, Screenwriter: Katy Brand, Producers: Debbie Gray, Adrian Politowski) â?? Nancy Stokes, a retired school teacher, is yearning for some adventure, and some sex. Good sex. And she has a plan: she hires a young sex worker named Leo Grande. *Cast: Emma Thompson, Daryl McCormack. World Premiere. Fiction.*

Honk for Jesus, Save Your Soul / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Adamma Ebo, Producers: Daniel Kaluuya, Adanne Ebo, Rowan Riley, Amandla Crichlow, Jesse Burgum, Matthew Cooper) â?? In the aftermath of a huge scandal, Trinitie Childs, the first lady of a prominent Southern Baptist megachurch, attempts to help her pastor husband, Lee-Curtis Childs, rebuild their congregation. *Cast: Regina Hall, Sterling K. Brown. World Premiere. Fiction.*

jeen-yuhs: A Kanye Trilogy / U.S.A. (Directors: Clarence â??Coodieâ?• Simmons, Chike Ozah, Producers: Coodie Simmons, Chike Ozah, Leah Thomas) â?? Kanye West in three acts. The story beyond the iconic music, an intimate and empathetic chronicle featuring never-before-seen footage from 21 years in the life of a captivating figure. *World Premiere. Documentary.*



La Guerra Civil / U.K. (Director: Eva Longoria BastÃ³n, Producers: Eva Longoria BastÃ³n, Grant Best, Bernardo Ruiz, Ben Spector, Andrea Cordoba) â?? The epic rivalry between iconic boxers Oscar De La Hoya and Julio CÃ©sar ChÃ¡vez in the 1990s sparked a cultural divide between Mexican nationals and Mexican-Americans. A chronicle of a battle that was more than a boxing rivalry, and examines a fascinating slice of the Latino experience in the process. *World Premiere. Documentary.* **DAY ONE**

Living / U.K. (Director: Oliver Hermanus, Screenwriter: Kazuo Ishiguro, Producers: Stephen Woolley, Elizabeth Karlsen) â?? In 1952 London, veteran civil servant Williams has become a small cog in the bureaucracy of rebuilding England post-WWII. As endless paperwork piles up on his desk, he learns he has a fatal illness. Thus begins his quest to find some meaning in his life before it slips away. *Cast: Bill Nighy, Aimee Lou Wood, Alex Sharp, Tom Burke. World Premiere. Fiction.*

Lucy and Desi / U.S.A (Director: Amy Poehler, Producers: Michael Rosenberg, Justin Wilkes, Nigel Sinclair, Jeanne Elfant Festa, Amy Poehler, Mark Monroe) â?? Lucille Ball had an immense influence on the creation of TV syndication, as she rose to become a true entrepreneur and multi-faceted mogul. Through interviews and archival, a tribute to one of the greatest trailblazers in comedy and entertainment. *World Premiere. Documentary.*

SALT LAKE CITY OPENING NIGHT

My Old School / U.K. (Director: Jono McLeod, Producers: John Archer, Olivia Lichtenstein) â?? The astonishing true story of Scotlandâ??s most notorious imposter. Itâ??s 1993 and 16 year old Brandon is the new kid in school. Soon heâ??s top of the class, acing exams and even taking the lead in the school musical. Heâ??s the model pupil, until heâ??s unmaskedâ?¦ *Cast: Alan Cumming. World Premiere. Documentary.*



The Princess / U.K. (Director: Ed Perkins, Producers: Simon Chinn, Jonathan Chinn) â?? Princess Dianaâ??s story is told exclusively through contemporaneous archive creating a bold and immersive narrative of her life and death. Turning the camera back on ourselves, it also illuminates the profound impact she had and how the publicâ??s attitude to the monarchy was, and still is, shaped by these events. *World Premiere. Documentary.* DAY ONE

Resurrection / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Andrew Semans, Producers: Tory Lenosky, Alex Scharfman, Drew Houpt, Lars Knudsen, Tim Headington, Lia Buman) â?? Margaretâ??s life is in order. She is capable, disciplined, and successful. Soon, her teenage daughter, who Margaret raised by herself, will be going off to a fine university, just as Margaret had intended. Everything is under control. That is, until David returns, carrying with him the horrors of Margaretâ??s past. *Cast: Rebecca Hall, Tim Roth, Grace Kaufman, Michael Esper, Angela Wong Carbone. World Premiere. Fiction.*

Sharp Stick / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Lena Dunham, Producers: Lena Dunham, Michael P. Cohen, Kevin Turen, Katia Washington) â?? Sarah Jo is a naive 26-year-old living on the fringes of Hollywood with her mother (longing for money) and sister (longing for exposure). She just longs to be seen. When she begins an affair with her older employer, she is thrust into an education on sexuality, loss and power. *Cast: Kristine Froseth, Jon Bernthal, Scott Speedman, Lena Dunham, Taylour Paige, Jennifer Jason Leigh. World Premiere. Fiction.*

To The End / U.S.A. (Director: Rachel Lears, Producers: Sabrina Schmidt Gordon) â?? Stopping the climate crisis is a question of political courage, and the clock is ticking. Over three years of turbulence and crisis, four remarkable young women of color fight for a Green New Deal, and ignite a historic shift in US climate politics. *World Premiere. Documentary.*

We Need to Talk About Cosby / U.S.A. (Director: W. Kamau Bell, Producers: Andrew Fried, Katie A. King, Geraldine L. Porras, Dane Lillegard, Sarina Roma, Jordan Wynn) â?? Can you separate the art from the artist? Should you even try? While there are many people about whom we could ask those questions, none pose a tougher challenge than Bill Cosby. *World Premiere. Documentary.*



When You Finish Saving the World / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Jesse Eisenberg, Producers: Ali Herting, Dave McCary, Emma Stone) â?? Evelyn and her oblivious son Ziggy seek out replacements for each other as Evelyn desperately tries to parent an unassuming teenager at her shelter, while Ziggy fumbles through his pursuit of a brilliant young woman at school. *Cast: Julianne Moore, Finn Wolfhard. World Premiere. Fiction.* DAY ONE

MIDNIGHT

From horror and comedy to works that defy genre classification, these films will keep you wide awake, even at the most arduous hour. Films that have premiered in this category in recent years include *Hereditary, Mandy, Relic*, *Assassination Nation,* and *The Babadook*.

Babysitter / Canada (Director: Monia Chokri, Screenwriter: Catherine LÃ©ger, Producers: Martin Paul-Hus, Catherine LÃ©ger, Pierre-Marcel Blanchot, Fabrice Lambot) â?? After a sexist joke goes viral, CÃ©dric loses his job and embarks on a therapeutic journey to free himself from sexism and misogyny. His girlfriend Nadine is exasperated by his narcissistic introspection, until they hire a mysterious and liberated babysitter to help shake things up. *Cast: Patrick Hivon, Monia Chokri, Nadia Tereszkiewcz, Steve Laplante, Hubert Proulx. World Premiere. Fiction.*



FRESH / U.S.A. (Director: Mimi Cave, Screenwriter: Lauryn Kahn, Producers: Adam McKay, Kevin Messick, Maeve Cullinane) â?? The horrors of modern dating seen through one young womanâ??s defiant battle to survive her new boyfriendâ??s unusual appetites. *Cast: Daisy Edgar-Jones, Sebastian Stan, Jojo T. Gibbs, Charlotte Le Bon, Andrea Bang, Dayo Okeniyi. World Premiere. Fiction.* DAY ONE

Hatching / Finland (Director: Hanna Bergholm, Screenwriter: Ilja Rautsi, Producers: Mika Ritalahti, Nico Ritalahtit) â?? While desperately trying to please her demanding mother, a young gymnast discovers a strange egg. She tucks it away and keeps it warm, but when it hatches, what emerges shocks everyone. *Cast: Jani Volanen, Siiri Solalinna, Sophia HeikkilÃ¤, Saija Lentonen, Reino Nordin, Oiva Ollila. World Premiere. Fiction.*

Meet Me In The Bathroom / U.K. (Directors: Dylan Southern, Will Lovelace, Producers: Vivienne Perry, Sam Bridger, Marisa Clifford, Thomas Benski, Danny Gabai, Suroosh Alvi) â?? An immersive journey through the New York music scene of the early 2000s. Set against the backdrop of 9/11, the film tells the story of how a new generation kickstarted a musical rebirth for New York City that reverberated around the world. Inspired by the book by Lizzy Goodman. *World Premiere. Documentary.*

PIGGY / Spain (Director and Screenwriter: Carlota Pereda, Producers: Merry Colomer, David Atlan-Jackson) â?? Sara deals with constant teasing from girls in her small town. But it comes to an end when a stranger kidnaps her tormentors. Sara knows more than sheâ??s saying and must decide between speaking up and saving the girls or saying nothing to protect the strange man who spared

her. *Cast: Laura GalÃ¡n. World Premiere. Fiction.*

Speak No Evil / Denmark (Director and Screenwriter: Christian Tafdrup, Screenwriter: Mads Tafdrup, Producer: Jacob Jarek) â?? A Danish family visits a Dutch family they met on a holiday. What was supposed to be an idyllic weekend slowly starts unraveling as the Danes try to stay polite in the face of unpleasantness. *Cast: Morten Burian, Sidsel Siem Koch, Fedja van HuÃªt, Karina Smulders, Liva Forsberg, Marius Damslev. World Premiere. Fiction.*

SPOTLIGHT

The Spotlight section is a tribute to the cinema we love from throughout the past year. Films that have played in this category in recent years include *The Biggest Little Farm, Birds of Passage, The Rider, Ida* and *The Lobster*.

After Yang / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Kogonada, Producers: Andrew Goldman, Caroline Kaplan, Paul Mezey, Theresa Park) â?? In the near future, a father and daughter try to save the life of Yang, their beloved robotic family member. *Cast: Colin Farrell, Jodie Turner-Smith. Justin H. Min, Malea Emma Tjandrawidjaja, Haley Lu Richardson. North American Premiere. Fiction.*

Happening / France (Director and Screenwriter: Audrey Diwan, Screenwriter: Alice Girard, Producers: Edouard Weil, Alice Girard) â?? France, 1963. Anne is a bright student with a promising future. But when she falls pregnant, she sees the opportunity to escape the constraints of her social background disappearing. With final exams approaching and her belly growing, Anne resolves to act, even if she must risk prison to do so. *Cast: Anamaria Vartolomei, Kacey Mottet-Klein, Luana Bajrami, Louise Chevillotte, Pio Marmai. Fiction.*

Neptune Frost / U.S.A./Rwanda (Directors: Anisia Uzeyman, Saul Williams, Screenwriter: Saul Williams, Producers: Ezra Miller, Stephen Hendel, Dave Guenette, Maria Judice) â?? In an otherworldly e-waste dump camp, a subversive hacking collective attempts a takeover of the authoritarian regime exploiting the regionâ??s natural resources â?? and its people. When an intersex runaway and an escaped coltan miner find each other through cosmic forces, their connection sparks glitches within the greater divine circuitry. *Cast: Cheryl Isheja, Elvis Ngabo â??Boboâ?•, Bertrand Ninteretse â??Kaya Freeâ?•, Eliane Umuhire, Rebecca Muciyo, TrÃ©sor Niyongabo. Fiction.*

Three Minutes â?? A Lengthening / Netherlands (Director and Screenwriter: Bianca Stigter, Producer: Floor Onrust) â?? Three minutes of footage are the only moving images known of the Jewish inhabitants of Nasielsk in Poland before the Holocaust. An examination of that film â?? in color, random, full of life â?? reveals historical and personal dimensions. Narrated by Helena Bonham Carter. *Documentary.*



The Worst Person in the World / Norway (Director: Joachim Trier, Screenwriter: Eskil Vogt, Joachim Trier, Producer: Thomas Robsahm, Andrea Berentsen Ottmar) â?? Four years in the life of Julie, a young woman who navigates the troubled waters of her love life and struggles to find her career path, leading her to take a realistic look at who she really is. *Cast: Renate Reinsve, Anders Danielsen Lie, Herbert Nordrum. Fiction.* DAY ONE

KIDS

This section of the Festival is especially for our youngest independent film fans. Programmed in cooperation with Utah Film Center, which presents the annual Tumbleweeds Film Festival, Utahâ??s premiere film festival for children and youth. Films that have played in this category in recent years include *The Elephant Queen, Science Fair, My Life as a Zucchini, The Eagle Huntress* and *Shaun the Sheep.*

Maika / Vietnam (Director and Screenwriter: Ham Tran, Producers:Jenni Trang Le, Duy Ho, Anderson Le, Bao Nguyen) â?? After a meteor falls to earth, 8-year-old Hung meets an alien girl from the planet Maika, searching for her lost friend. As Hung helps her otherworldly friend search, the alien inadvertently helps Hung make new friends and heal a broken heart. But danger lurks everywhereâ?¦ *Cast: Phu Truong, Diep Anh Tru, Tin Tin, Ngoc Tuong, Kim Nha. World Premiere. Fiction.*

Summering / U.S.A. (Director: James Ponsoldt, Screenwriters: Benjamin Percy, James Ponsoldt, Producers: Peter Block, P. Jennifer Dana) â?? During their last days of summer and childhood â?? the weekend before middle school begins â?? four girls struggle with the harsh truths of growing up and embark on a mysterious adventure. *World Premiere. Fiction.*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS featuring extended conversations following the screening, to allow audiences and storytellers to connect more deeply.

LAST FLIGHT HOME / U.S.A. (Director: Ondi Timoner, Producers: Ondi Timoner, David Turner) â?? An examination of Eli Timonerâ??s intentional death and his familyâ??s emotional turmoil as they grapple with his decision to end his own life. The family journeys back through Eliâ??s remarkable, painful life to discover what true love looks like and help him shed shame heâ??s carried for forty years.

World Premiere. Documentary.

FROM THE COLLECTION

Archival screenings are made possible by the Sundance Institute Collection at UCLA, and give audiences the opportunity to discover and rediscover the films that have shaped the heritage of both Sundance Institute and independent storytelling. To address the specific preservation risks posed to independent film, Sundance Institute partnered with UCLA Film & Television Archive in 1997 to form the Sundance Institute Collection at UCLA and preserves independent films supported by Sundance Institute. The Collection has grown to over 4,000 holdings representing nearly 2,300 titles. From the Collection screenings have included *The Blair Witch Project, Hours and Times, River of Grass, Paris is Burning, Desert Hearts, Daughters of the Dust, El Mariachi, sex, lies, and videotape, Hoop Dreams*, and *Paris, Texas*.

Just Another Girl on the I.R.T*.* / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Leslie Harris, Producers: Leslie Harris, Erwin Wilson) â?? A Brooklyn young woman, smart, witty, and confident, is not just another teenager on the NYC subway. Determined to make it out of her neighborhood and become a doctor, she confronts adversity while navigating challenging waters to achieve her dreams and goalsâ?¦ *Cast: William Badget, Chequita Jackson, Ebony Jerido, Ariyan Johnson, Kevin Thigpen, Jerad Washington. 1993 Sundance Film Festival â?? winner of the Special Jury Prize for Outstanding Achievement in a First Feature.*

Digitally restored from the original 16mm A/B negatives, and a new DCP created in collaboration between Sundance Institute, the Academy Film Archive, and UCLA Film & Television Archive.

INDIE EPISODIC PROGRAM

A dedicated showcase for emerging creators of independently produced content for episodic platforms. Past projects that have premiered within this category include *Work in Progress, State of the Union, Gentefied, Wu Tang Clan: Of Mics and Men* and *Quarter Life Poetry*. The Indie Episodic Program is presented by DoorDash.

Bring on the Dancing Horses / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Michael Polish, Producers: Kate Bosworth, Michael Polish) â?? An assassin is out to complete her list of targets and exact her own brand of justice. *Cast: Kate Bosworth, Jasper Polish, Lance Henriksen, Happy Anderson, DJ Qualls, Thomas Francis Murphy. World Premiere. Fiction.*

Chiqui / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Carlos Cardona, Producers: Daniel FermÃn Pfeffer, Sophia de Baun) â?? Itâ??s 1987. Chiqui and Carlos immigrate from Colombia to the United States to find a better life for themselves and their unborn son. Upon their arrival, they quickly realize that the American dream is not as easy to achieve as they thought. *Cast: Brigitte Silva, SebastiÃ¡n Beltranini, Catherine French, Gregg Prosser. World Premiere. Fiction.*

CULTURE BEAT / U.S.A. (Directors: Andre Hyland, Kitao Sakurai, Screenwriters: Andre Hyland, Kitao Sakurai, Eric Andre, Producers: Eric Andre, Kitao Sakurai, Andre Hyland) â?? A show that investigates high culture institutions through the lowbrow lens of various characters. The 2021 love child of *Da Ali G Show* and *Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations*. *Cast: Andre Hyland. World Premiere. Documentary.*

The Dark Heart / Sweden (Director: Gustav MÃ¶ller, Screenwriter: Oskar SÃ¶derlund, Producers: Anna Carlsten, Caroline Landerberg) â?? Sweden: in a mythological landscape, search parties roam through forests of spruce, secret conversations are whispered in open fields, and verbal duels fought on narrow country roads. A story of family feuds, inheritances and forbidden love. *Cast: Aliette Opheim, Clara Christiansson Drake, Gustav Lindh, Peter Andersson. World Premiere. Fiction.*

Instant Life / U.S.A. (Directors: Mark Becker, Aaron Schock, Producers: Mark Becker, Aaron Schock, Julie Gaynin) â?? Destitute without electricity and running water, Yolanda Signorelli Von Braunhut has lost control of her late husband Haroldâ??s iconic Amazing Live Sea Monkeys novelty. Yet she alone knows their secret formula, and from her crumbling estate on the Potomac, Yolanda wages legal and existential battles to fully win them back. *World Premiere. Documentary.*

My Trip to Spain / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Theda Hammel, Producers: Allie Jane Compton, John Early) â?? Alexis, a successful trans woman, is heading to Spain to get some cosmetic surgery. She has asked her embittered old friend Charlie to housesit while sheâ??s away. During the handoff, he tries his best to convince her to cancel, while simultaneously pursuing a sexual liaison with her brooding gardener Bruno. *Cast: John Early, Theda Hammel, Gordon Landenberger. World Premiere. Fiction.*

NEW FRONTIER

The 2022 edition of the Festivalâ??s New Frontier section will be a fully biodigital showcase, presented simultaneously on a bespoke WebXR spatialized virtual venue, The Spaceship, that has touchpoints in a newly conceived, free-to-access venue in Park City, The Craft. Ticketed New Frontier performances will also be presented in Park Cityâ??s iconic Egyptian Theatre, with simultaneous presentations on The Spaceship.

The Spaceship, globally accessible via laptop or VR headset, houses spaces for Festivalgoers to see the official New Frontier lineup, interact with others and gather together to watch programs and performances in an immersive arthouse theater. This year, Sundance, working again with the creative studio Active Theory, will unveil a number of upgrades to enhance The Spaceshipâ??s functionality and accessibility. Festival attendees, both on the ground in Park City and online, can interact with each other in avatar and maintain the sense of community that the Festival always aims to provide, including a bleeding-edge human-scale Biodigital Bridge that allows Festivalgoers in Park City to gather with those attending The Spaceship online from anywhere in the world â?? establishing the Festival as a metaverse that overlays the physical event with a virtual one.

Since 2007, the New Frontier exhibition has showcased multimedia storytelling, art installations, and biodigital performances that make use of emerging technologies like virtual reality, haptic tech and AI, among other tools. The 2022 edition is visualized as a human-scale and person-first digital experience that balances connection with a wondrous and meaningful sense of place.

The Sundance Institute New Frontier Program is supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Unity, Adobe, Dell Technologies, Rally, Metaplex Studios and Canon USA, Inc.



32 Sounds / U.S.A. (Lead Artist: Sam Green) â?? An immersive documentary and sensory film experience that explores the elemental phenomenon of sound and its power to bend time, cross borders, and profoundly shape our perception of the world around us. The film will be presented in its â??live cinemaâ?• form, featuring live music and live narration. World Premiere. DAY ONE

Atua / New Zealand (Lead Artists: Tanu Gago, Jermaine Dean, Key Collaborators: Kat Lintott, Carthew Neal, Nacoya Anderson) â?? Reimagining the realm of Pacific gods in this sculptural AR experience. Claiming space for gender diverse communities impacted by colonial contact, to see themselves reflected as vital to their cultural heritage and an intrinsic part of the cosmos. *World Premiere.*

Child of Empire / U.K. (Lead Artists: Sparsh Ahuja, Erfan Saadati, Stephen Stephenson, Omi Zola Gupta, Key Collaborators: Sam Dalyrmple, Saadia Gardezi, Jayosmita Ganguly) â?? Experience the largest forced migration in human history, the 1947 Partition of India and Pakistan. Embody the childhood memories of two survivors, as they reflect on their journeys across a divided homeland. *World Premiere.*

Cosmogony / Switzerland (Lead Artists: Gilles Jobin, Susana PanadÃ©s Diaz, Camilo de Martino, Tristan Siodlak, Key Collaborator: Pierre-Igor Berthet) â?? A live digital performance in which 3 dancers are motion captured in Geneva and projected remotely in real time. *North American Premiere.*

Diagnosia / U.S.A. (Lead Artists: Mengtai Zhang, Lemon Guo, Producers: Mengtai Zhang, Lemon Guo, Yue Huang) â?? In this VR experience, the director locks us inside his teenage memories of being incarcerated in a military-operated internet addiction camp in Beijing in 2007, where internet addiction and other youth issues were treated as severe mental disorders, and sometimes by violent means. *North American Premiere.*

Flat Earth VR / Brazil (Lead Artist: Lucas Rizzotto) VR is known as the ultimate empathy machine that lets users experience othersâ?? perspectives. But what happens when those perspectives are delusional? Experience the ultimate flat-earther fantasy: ascend into the stars and prove all globe-earthers wrong by taking photos of the planet as it truly is: flat like a pancake. *World Premiere.*

Gondwana / Australia **(**Lead Artists: Ben Joseph Andrews, Emma Roberts, Key Collaborators: Lachlan Sleight, Michelle Brown, The Convoy) â?? A durational VR experience that runs over 24 hours, and a constantly-evolving virtual ecosystem chronicling the possible futures of the worldâ??s oldest tropical rainforest, the Daintree. Powered by climate data, each showing is unrepeatable and speculative, a meditation on time, change and loss in an irreplaceable landscape. World Premiere.

On the Morning You Wake (To the End of the World) / U.K. (Lead Artists: Dr. Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio, Mike Brett, Steve Jamison, Arnaud Colinart, Pierre Zandrowicz, Key Collaborators: Jo-Jo Ellison, Bobby Krlic) â?? On a regular Saturday morning in January 2018, as Hawaiian citizens went about their daily routines, the entire state population received an SMS from the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, which read: â??BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND TO HAWAII. SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL.â?• World Premiere.

Seven Grams / France (Lead Artist: Karim Ben Khelifa, Key Collaborators: TT Hernandez, Quentin Noirfalisse) â?? An entirely new way for people to understand the human cost that went into producing their smartphones. This project brings the Democratic Republic of Congoâ??s tragic mining industry straight to the smartphone that its mineral resources helped make, via an app on both IOS and Android systems. *North American Premiere.*

Sugaâ??- A Live Virtual Dance Performance / U.S.A. (Lead Artist: Valencia James, Key Collaborators: Thomas Wester, Simon Boas) â?? An immersive experience that features live dance performance as volumetric video in social virtual reality space. The performance weaves together movement, family stories, and cultural heritage to imagine virtual environments as a site for healing and reclamation of spaces that were historically filled with pain and injustice.

Surrogate / U.S.A. (Lead Artist: Lauren Lee McCarthy, Key Collaborators: Dorothy R. Santos, David Leonard, Stefanie Tam) â?? How do we relate to the future while living in a world in crisis? Amidst climate change, inequity, and pandemic, itâ??s no longer possible to view ourselves as separate from past and future. How much control should we have over a birthing personâ??s body, and a life before itâ??s born? *North American Premiere.*

The Inside World / U.S.A. (Lead Artists: Jennifer McCoy, Kevin McCoy, Key Collaborators: Annie J. Howell, Peter Rostovsky) â?? The city of Las Vegas is now operated by artificial intelligence. Fourteen AI â??Managersâ?• handle every sector of the city. The problem is, one of them is secretly humanâ?¦ Digital Art NFTs meet gameplay in this community driven mystery. *World Premiere*.

The State of Global Peace / U.S.A (Lead Artists: Daanish Masood Alavi, Key Collaborators: Igal Nassima, Erica Newman) â?? The prime minister of a fictitious country â?? played by you â?? is about to deliver a speech at a virtual UN General Assembly in the near future. A group of students hijacks the security system and takes over the screens, asking to have a dialogue. *World Premiere.*

They Dream in My Bones â?? Insemnopedy II / France (Lead Artist: Faye Formisano, Key Collaborators: Ludovic De Oliveira, Lilou-Magali Robert, Cindy Coutant) â?? Immersed on virtual veils, this VR360 experience tells the story of Roderick Norman, a researcher in onirogenetics, the science he founded, which makes it possible to extract dreams from an unidentified skeleton at the frontier of gender and the human. *North American Premiere.*

This Is Not A Ceremony / Canada (Lead Artist: Ahnahktsipiitaa (Colin Van Loon), Key Collaborators: Olivier Leroux, James Monkman, Jessica Dymond) â?? Darkly humorous and occasionally caustic, this cinematic VR experience offers insights into the struggles and conflicts of growing up an Indigenous man. *World Premiere.*

The Sundance Film Festival

The Sundance Film Festival has introduced global audiences to some of the most groundbreaking films of the past three decades, including *Flee, CODA, Passing, Summer Of Soul (â?¦or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised), 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, 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*.

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Sundance Institute

As a champion and curator of independent stories for the stage and screen, Sundance Institute provides and preserves the space for artists in film, theatre, film composing, and digital media to create and thrive.

Founded in 1981 by Robert Redford, 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. Sundance Collab, 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, discover 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 Home*. Join the Sundance Institute on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

Category

1. television

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