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SUNDANCE INSTITUTE PRESENTS
SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 2020

Sundance Institute Announces Tabitha Jackson as Incoming Festival Director

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

Concludes Global Search With First New Festival Director in 11 Years

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Tabitha Jackson

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Park City, Utah â?? Today, Sundance Institute announced Tabitha Jackson as the new Director of the Sundance Film Festival. Jackson was chosen from a worldwide search and follows outgoing Director, John Cooper, who served in the role for 11 years and will assume a newly-created Emeritus Director role. An award-winning filmmaker, she has served as Director of the Instituteâ??s Documentary Film Program for the last six years. Jackson will oversee the Festivalâ??s overall vision and strategy, while leading a senior team in close collaboration with Director of Programming, Kim Yutani. In his new role, Cooper will oversee special projects including preparations for the Instituteâ??s 40th anniversary in 2021.



Keri Putnam

â??It gives me immense pleasure to announce, Tabitha Jackson, as the new Director of the Sundance Film Festival,â?• said Sundance Instituteâ??s Executive Director, Keri Putnam. â??Tabitha is fiercely devoted to independent artists, has been a visionary member of the Sundance Instituteâ??s leadership team for the last 6 years. Her authenticity, experience and perspective will serve her well in leading the Festival forward as a beacon for independent artists and audiences.â?•



Robert Redford

â??I founded Sundance Institute with the clear mission of celebrating and supporting independent artists, said Sundance Institute founder Robert Redford, â??and the Festival is the platform where we can showcase their stories. As we approach our fortieth anniversary, Iâ??m pleased to have Tabitha lead us as we move into the future and meet the next generation of artists and their stories.â•

Jackson has served as the Director of the Instituteâ??s Documentary Film Program since 2013, and in that time has overseen the creation of innovative new programs and resources that support nonfiction filmmakers worldwide with a special passion for expanding the art of non-fiction storytelling. A focus of Jacksonâ??s new role will be shaping the nonprofit Instituteâ??s full slate of global public programming throughout the year â?? including Sundance Film Festivals in Hong Kong and London and a nationwide Short Film Tour â?? as well as leading the community of artists and audiences those programs serve.

Prior to joining the Institute, Jackson worked in arts and entertainment for more than 25 years as an award-winning filmmaker. Prior to joining the Institute in 2013, she served as Head of Arts and Performance at Channel 4 Television in London, where she supported the independent and alternative voice and sought to find fresh and innovative ways of storytelling. She executive produced a number of projects for the UKâ??s Film 4 including Mark Cousinsâ?? cinematic odyssey *The Story of Film*, Clio Barnardâ??s formally experimental *The Arbor*, Sophie Fiennesâ?? essay *The Pervertâ??s Guide to Ideology*, Bart Laytonâ??s thriller *The Imposter*, and Iain and Janeâ??s innovative Nick Cave biography *20,000 Days on Earth.*



Tabitha Jackson

â??It is exciting to be amplifying the voices and work of independent artists in these challenging and fast-changing times,â??â?• said Jackson. â??My role, working with a team at the top of their game, will be to ensure that the festival remains as effective, vital and transformational in the years going forward as it has been in the past â?? and to make sure that we have fun doing it. I canâ??t wait to get started.â?•

The Sundance Film Festivalâ??s scope and ambition have evolved over John Cooperâ??s tenure, including programmatic innovation and thoughtful global expansion. The 2020 Festival received over 15,100 submissions from around the world, featured over 200 new works from a diverse array of voices, welcomed more than 125,000 guests to Utah, and reaches millions more who watch festival news and content online.

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 *Sorry to Bother You*, *Wonâ??t You Be My Neighbor?*, *Eighth Grade*, *Get Out*, *The Big Sick*, *Mudbound*, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *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 InstituteÂ®. 2020 Festival sponsors include: Presenting Sponsors â?? Acura, SundanceTV, Chase Sapphire; AT&T; Leadership Sponsors â?? Adobe, Amazon Studios, DIRECTV,

Dropbox, Netflix, Omnicom Group, Southwest AirlinesÂ®, Stella Artois**Â®**, WarnerMedia; Sustaining Sponsors â?? Audible, Canada Goose, Canon U.S.A., Inc., Dell Technologies, Fire TV, GEICO, High West Distillery, Hulu, IMDbPro, Lyft, Unity Technologies, University of Utah Health; Media Sponsors â?? The Atlantic, IndieWire, Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, Variety, 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. Look for the Official Partner 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 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. 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, discover original voices, and build a community dedicated to independent storytelling. Sundance Institute has supported such projects as *The Farewell, Late Night, The Souvenir, The Infiltrators, 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, Little Miss Sunshine, Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Fruitvale Station, State of the Union, Indecent, Spring Awakening*, *A Gentlemanâ??s Guide to Love and Murder* and *Fun Home*. Join Sundance Institute on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

(Source: Sundance Press release)

Category

1. television

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