2017 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GLOBAL INDEPENDENT CREATIVITY REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Ceremony Caps Snowy Festival; Top Prizes Go To *Dina*, *I donâ??t feel at home in this world anymore.*, *Last Men in Aleppo*, *The Nile Hilton Incident*

Chasing Coral, *Crown Heights*, *Joshua: Teenager vs. Superpower*, *SueÃ±o en otro idioma (I Dream in Another Language)* and *Gook* Win Audience Awards



(L-R) ***I don't feel at home in this world anymore.***, Credit:Allyson Riggs; ***Chasing Coral***, Credit: The Ocean Agency/XL Catlin Seaview Survey/Aaron Spence; ***Crown Heights***, Credit: Ben Kutchins.

Park City, Utah â?? After 10 days, 119 feature films and three feet of snow, an evening of humor and humanity marked the 2017 Sundance Film Festivalâ??s Awards Ceremony, with host Jessica Williams

emceeing and jurors presenting 27 prizes for feature filmmaking in Park City, Utah. Honorees, named in total below, range from sharp comedies to provocative and timely documentaries and represent new achievements in global independent storytelling. Human stories prevailed across categories, with Grand Jury Prizes awarded to *Dina* (U.S. Documentary), *Last Men in Aleppo* (World Documentary), *I donâ??t feel at home in this world anymore.* (U.S. Dramatic) and *The Nile Hilton Incident* (World Dramatic). *Chasing Coral*, showcased in the Festivalâ??s environmental program The New Climate, won an Audience Award in the U.S. Documentary category.



John Cooper, Director of the Sundance Film Festival (Photo via twitter)

John Cooper, Director of the Sundance Film Festival, said, â??This has been one of the wildest, wackiest and most rewarding Festivals in recent memory. From a new government to the independently organized Womenâ??s March on Main, to power outages, a cyberattack and snow at record levels, the work of our artists rose above it all and challenged and changed us these last 10 days. I am most proud that, through it all, we have formed a community that is bound tighter by the art we make and the ideas we support.â?•



Keri Putnam, Executive Director of Sundance Institute (Photo via Sundance Institute)

Keri Putnam, Executive Director of Sundance Institute, added, â??Letâ??s take the amazing energy we feel here at the Festival when we share stories with one another, and work together on behalf of the arts for the future we want to see.â?•

The awards ceremony marked the culmination of the 2017 Festival, where 119 feature-length and 68 short films â?? selected from 13,782 submissions â?? were showcased in Park City, Salt Lake City and Sundance, Utah, alongside new episodic work, panels, music and New Frontier. The ceremony was live-streamed; video is available at youtube.com/sff.

This yearâ??s jurors, invited in recognition of their accomplishments in the arts, technical craft and visionary storytelling, deliberated extensively before presenting awards from the stage; this yearâ??s jurors were Diego BuÃ±uel, Julie Goldman, Robert Greene, Susan Lacy, Larry Wilmore, Gael GarcÃa Bernal, Peter Dinklage, Jody Hill, Jacqueline Lyanga, Jeannine Oppewall, Nai An, Sonia Braga, Athina Rachel Tsangari, Carl Spence, Marina Stavenhagen and Lynette Wallworth. Festival audiences voted for the Audience Awards in each of the U.S. and World Competitions and NEXT.

Feature film award winners in previous years include: *Weiner*, *Sand Storm*, *The Birth of a Nation*, *Whiplash, Fruitvale Station, Beasts of the Southern Wild, Twenty Feet from Stardom, Searching for Sugarman, The Square, Me and Earl and the Dying Girl, Cartel Land, The Wolf Pack, The Diary of a Teenage Girl, Dope, Dear White People, The Cove* and *Man on Wire.*

FILM FESTIVAL FEATURE FILM AWARDS

The **U.S. Grand Jury Prize: Documentary** was presented by Larry Wilmore to:
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.

The **U.S. Grand Jury Prize: Dramatic** was presented by Peter Dinklage to:
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.*

The **World Cinema Grand Jury Prize: Documentary** was presented by Lynette Wallworth to:
Last Men in Aleppo / Denmark, Syria (Director: Feras Fayyad) 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.

The **World Cinema Grand Jury Prize: Dramatic** was presented by Sonia Braga to:
The Nile Hilton Incident / Sweden, Germany, Denmark (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.*

The **Audience Award: U.S. Documentary**, Presented by Acura was presented by Barbara Kopple to:
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.

The **Audience Award: U.S. Dramatic**, Presented by Acura was presented by Taylor Sheridan to:
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.*

The **Audience Award: World Cinema Documentary** was presented by Barbara Kopple to:
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.

The **Audience Award: World Cinema Dramatic** was presented by Taylor Sheridan to:
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.*

The **Audience Award: NEXT**, Presented by Adobe was presented by Bridget Everett to:
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.*

The **Directing Award: U.S. Documentary** was presented by Susan Lacy to:
Peter Nicks for his film ***The Force*** / U.S.A. (Director: Peter 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.

The **Directing Award: U.S. Dramatic** was presented by Jody Hill to:
Eliza Hittman for her film ***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.*

The **Directing Award: World Cinema Documentary** was presented by Marina Stavenhagen to:
Pascale Lamche, for her film ***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.

The **Directing Award: World Cinema Dramatic** was presented by Athina Tsangari to:
Francis Lee, for his film ***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.*

The **Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award: U.S. Dramatic** was presented by Gael Garcia Bernal to:
Matt Spicer and David Branson Smith, for their film ***Ingrid Goes West*** / U.S.A. (Director: Matt Spicer, Screenwriters: Matt Spicer, David Branson Smith) â?? A young woman becomes obsessed with an Instagram â??influencerâ?• 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.*

A **U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award for Inspirational Filmmaking** was presented by Julie Goldman to:
STEP / U.S.A. (Director: Amanda Lipitz) â?? With dreams of becoming the first in their families to attend college, a group of seniors from an inner-city Baltimore girls high school strives to make their step dance team a success against a backdrop of social unrest in a troubled city.

A **U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award for Storytelling** was presented by Robert Greene to:
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.

A **U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award for Editing** was presented by Diego BuÃ±uel to:
Editors Kim Roberts and Emiliano Battista for ***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.

A **U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award: The Orwell Award** was presented by Diego BuÃ±uel to:
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.

A **U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Award for Best Cinematography** was presented by Gael Garcia Bernal to:
Director of Photography Daniel Landin for ***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.*

A **U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Award for Breakthrough Performance** was presented by Jacqueline Lyanga to:
ChantÃ© Adams, in ***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.*

A **U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Award for Breakthrough Director** was presented by Jeannine Oppewall to:
Maggie Betts, for her film ***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.*

A **World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award for Excellence in Cinematography** was presented by Marina Stavenhagen to:
Cinematographer Rodrigo Trejo Villanueva for ***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.

A **World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award for Commanding Vision** was presented by Carl Spence to:
Motherland / U.S.A., Philippines (Director: Ramona S. Diaz) â?? Taking us into the heart of the planetâ??s busiest maternity hospital, the viewer is dropped like an unseen outsider into the hospitalâ??s stream of activity. At first, the people are strangers. As the film continues, itâ??s absorbingly intimate, rendering the women at the heart of the story increasingly familiar.

A **World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award for Masterful Storytelling** was presented by Lynette Wallworth to:
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*. Cast: Robbie Robertson, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Martin Scorsese, Tony Bennett, Steven Tyler, Iggy Pop.*

A **World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award for Cinematography** was presented by Athina Tsangari to:
Cinematographer Manu Dacosse for ***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.*

A **World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award for Cinematic Vision** was presented by Sonia Braga to:
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: Xu Gang, Zhang Zhiyong, Xue Baohe, Gu Benbin, Zhang Xun, Yuan Liguo.*

A **World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award for Screenplay** was presented by Nai An to:
Screenwriter Kirsten Tan for ***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.*

The following awards were presented at separate ceremonies at the Festival:

SHORT FILM AWARDS:
Jury prizes and honorable mentions in short filmmaking were presented at a ceremony in Park City on January 24. The Short Film Grand Jury Prize was awarded to: ***And so we put goldfish in the pool.*** / Japan (Director and screenwriter: Makoto Nagahisa). The Short Film Jury Award: U.S. Fiction was presented to: ***Lucia, Before and After*** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Anu Valia). The Short Film Jury Award: International Fiction was presented to: ***And The Whole Sky Fit In The Dead Cowâ??s Eye*** / Chile, U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Francisca AlegrÃa). The Short Film Jury Award: Non-Fiction was presented to: ***Alone*** / U.S.A. (Director: Garrett Bradley). The Short Film Jury Award: Animation was presented to: ***Broken â?? The Womenâ??s Prison at Hoheneck*** / Germany (Directors: Volker Schlecht, Alexander Lahl, Screenwriters: Alexander Lahl, Max MÃ¶nch). A Short Film Special Jury Award for Cinematography was presented to: ***Dadyaa â?? The Woodpeckers of Rotha*** / Nepal, France (Directors and screenwriters: Pooja Gurung, Bibhusan Basnet, Cinematographer: Chintan Rajbhandari),
and a Short Film Special Jury Award for Editing was presented to: ***Laps*** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Charlotte Wells, editor Blair McClendon).

The Short Film jurors were costume designer and wardrobe stylist Shirley Kurata, comedian, actor and writer Patton Oswalt and filmmaker David Lowery. The Short Film program is presented by YouTube.

GLOBAL FILMMAKING AWARDS:
The winning directors and projects of the 2017 Sundance Institute Global Filmmaking Awards, in recognition and support of emerging independent filmmakers from around the world on the basis of their next screenplay, are:
Yalda (Iran) / Massoud Bakhshi

Mignonnes (France) / Maimouna Doucoure

The Hanged (Brazil) / Fernando Coimbra

Untitled Rock Opera (Poland) / Agnieszka Smoczynska

The Sundance Institute / NHK Award was presented to: ***I Came By*** (United Kingdom) / Babak Anvari

SUNDANCE INSTITUTE | ALFRED P. SLOAN FEATURE FILM PRIZE
The 2017 Alfred P. Sloan Feature Film Prize, presented to an outstanding feature film about science or technology, was presented to ***Marjorie Prime***, written and directed by Michael Almereyda. The filmmaker received a $20,000 cash award from Sundance Institute with support from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

SUNDANCE INSTITUTE | AMAZON STUDIOS PRODUCERS AWARDS
Anish Savjani and **Neil Kopp** (producers, *I donâ??t feel at home in this world anymore.*) and **Joslyn Barnes** (producer, *Strong Island*) received the 2017 Sundance Institute | Amazon Studios Producers Awards. The award recognizes bold vision and a commitment to continuing work as a creative producer in the independent space, and grants money (via the Sundance Institute Feature Film Program and Documentary Film Program) to emerging producers of films at the Sundance Film Festival.

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 *Manchester by the Sea*, *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 include: Presenting Sponsors â?? Acura, SundanceTV, Chase SapphireÂ®, and Canada Goose; Leadership Sponsors â?? Adobe, AT&T, DIRECTV, Omnicom, Stella ArtoisÂ® and YouTube; Sustaining Sponsors â?? American Airlines, Canon U.S.A., Inc., Creators League Studio, Daydream, Francis Ford Coppola Winery, GEICO, *The Hollywood Reporter*, IMDb, Jaunt, Kickstarter, Oculus 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*. Join Sundance Institute on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

# # #

(Source: Press release courtesy of sundance.org)

Category

1. Sundance Film Festival

Tags

1. Art
2. Cinema
3. Competition
4. Conversation
5. creativity
6. entertainment
7. Film
8. film awards
9. Film Festival
10. Filmmaking
11. inspiration
12. Larry Gleeson
13. marketing
14. Media
15. News
16. photography
17. platform
18. Programming
19. Society
20. Women
21. writing

Date Created
January 29, 2017
Author
hollywoodglee