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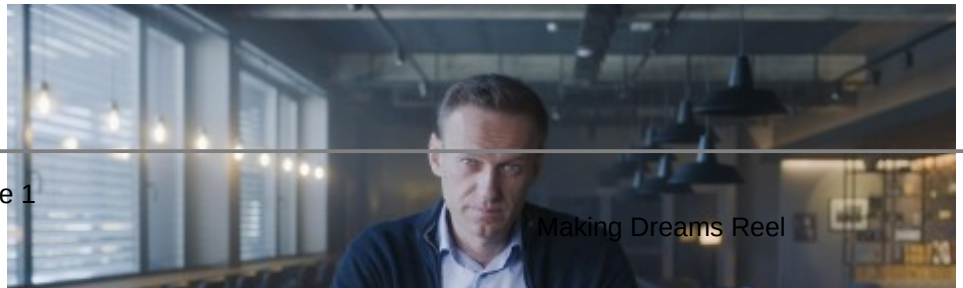
Sundance Grabs History with Navalny

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

sundance
FILM
FESTIVAL
2022

PARK CITY, UT (January 25, 2022) â?? After a surprise announcement yesterday, todayâ??s sixth day of the Sundance Film Festival saw the debut of the mystery film, Navalny, on the very same day that Russia added the Putin critic and subject of the documentary, Alexei Navalny, to their â??terroristâ?? list. In conjunction with this explosive moment, today the United States denounced this act and called for his immediate release. Never before in the history of Sundance has a filmâ??s real-life circumstances reverberated so strongly in the culture and conversation of the day.



A still from *Navalny*, an official selection of the U.S. Documentary section at the 2022 Sundance

Sundance Film Festival completed the sixth day of its online festival programming featuring conversations with Daniel Roher, John Early, Kogonada, Lisa Joy, Donald Elise Watkins, Lily McInerny, and was home to the World Premiere of *Navalny* on the very same day that Russia added Alexei Navalny to their terror list. Never before in the history of Sundance has a film and real-life circumstances been more timely.

Hereâ??s background from Sundanceâ??s BT â??

In August 2020 while on a plane traveling from Siberia to Moscow, Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was poisoned with Novichok, a nerve agent implicated in attacks on other opponents of the Russian government.

Taken to a local Siberian hospital and eventually evacuated to Berlin, doctors confirmed that he had been poisoned with Novichok, a nerve agent implicated in attacks on other opponents of the Russian government. President Vladimir Putin immediately cast doubt on the findings and denied any involvement.

While recovering, Navalny and his team â?? already with a large social media following in tow â?? partnered with the data investigative journalism outlet Bellingcat as well as other international news organizations to investigate his attempted assassination and find proof of the Kremlinâ??s involvement. In *NAVALNY*, filmmaker Daniel Roher reveals a courageous and controversial would-be president at the precipice of sacrificing everything in order to bring reform to his homeland. â??BT

***Navalny* Panel Members**





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Producers Diane Becker,
Director Daniel Roher and
Dasha Navalny. Photo
courtesy of Sundance
Institute.; Navalny, an
official selection of the U.S.
Documentary section at the
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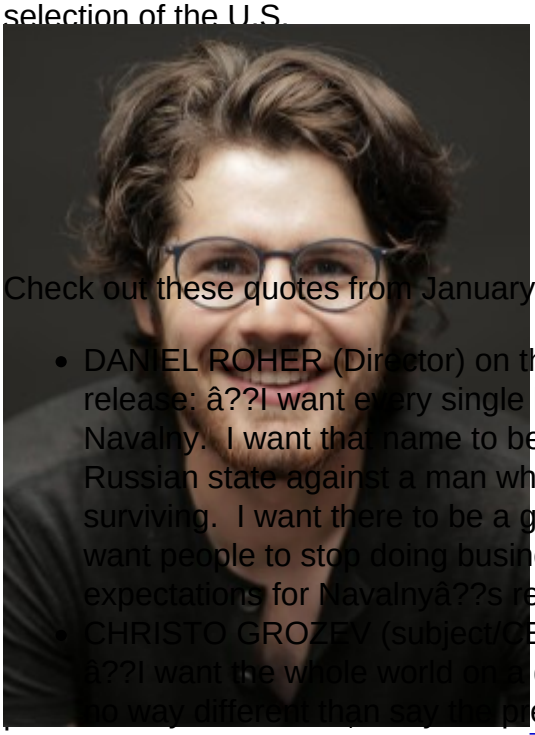
Producers Diane Becker, Director Daniel Roher and Dasha Navalny. Photo courtesy of Sundance Institute.; Navalny, an official selection of the U.S. Documentary section at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival. Â© 2022 Sundance Institute

Participants Q&A following the virtual premiere of *Navalny*, an official selection of the U.S. Documentary section at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival. Â© 2022 Sundance Institute

Documentary section at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival. Â© 2022 Sundance



Maria Pevchikh and Christo Grozev attend a Q&A following the virtual premiere of Navalny, an official selection of the U.S.



Shane Boris, Melanie Miller, and Odessa Rae attend a Q&A following the virtual premiere of Navalny, an official selection of the U.S. Documentary section at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival. Courtesy of Sundance Institute.

Daniel Roher, director of Navalny, an official selection of the U.S. Documentary section at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival. Courtesy of Sundance Institute.

Check out these quotes from January 25th, 2022, *Navalny* panel (included below):

- DANIEL ROHER (Director) on the best case scenario this film could have on Navalnyâ??s release: â??I want every single human being on the planet earth to know the name Alexei Navalny. I want that name to be associated with a grotesque injustice being perpetrated by the Russian state against a man who survived a murder attempt and then was arrested for merely surviving. I want there to be a global outrage and outcry because of Alexeiâ??s detainment, and I want people to stop doing business with the Russians, and I want there to be reasonable expectations for Navalnyâ??s release.â?•
- CHRISTO GROZEV (subject/CEO Bellingcat) on how he wants the world to treat President Putin: â??I want the whole world on a daily basis to be confronting President Putin and treating him in no way different than say the president of North Korea. This is not a civilized country, this is not a civilized establishment. Just think of the glaring irony that on the day of the release of the film that documents that Alexei Navalny was poisoned by his government â?? his government branded him a terrorist. The people who are the terrorists brand him as a terrorist. This is something that should be known and be remembered by as many people as possible on a daily basis.â?•
- MARIA PEVCHIKH (Executive Producer) on making the film accessible to Russians: â??We are doing everything possible, and then a little bit more on top of it, to make it accessible to the Russian audience because we are convinced that they deserve it more than anybody else.â?•
- DARIA NAVALNAYA (Subject/Alexeiâ??s Daughter) on how her family is doing: â??we are doing good, considering everything. Our primary thinking with this movie coming out is that we want Alexei to be released. My dad is doing okay, but excited to see the movie if he ever gets to.â?•

Each year, Sundance serves as a cultural launchpad, helping to expand audience horizons through film and the conversations that occur the minute that credits roll. Continuing to foster this spirit of discussion into 2022, Sundance Film Festival programs a series of panels across discipline and topic to keep the conversation going.

Stay tuned for more on Navalny!

Category

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Tags

1. Daniel Roher
2. Donald Elise Watkins
3. John Early
4. Kogonada
5. Lily McInerny
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