



Writers, directors, actors, critics, volunteers, patrons of the arts—we all file into the theaters here at the Sundance Film Festival as individuals, our minds preoccupied by the things we have going on in our day-to-day lives and our concerns about the wider world we live in. But something magical happens when the lights finally dim, the chatter quiets down, the phones go dark, and the curtain opens. From the moment the images begin to flicker across the screens before us, we become one, experiencing for the very first time the deeply personal visions of uncompromising independent creators from all walks of life.

It is our great joy and privilege to help deliver these thought-provoking stories out into the world over the next 10 days, and we hope you will join us in continuing the important conversations they spark in the year ahead.

None of this would be possible without the incredible Sundance Institute staff, including John Cooper, who is passing the baton as Festival director after 11 years as he moves on to do other important work within the Institute. A tremendous thank-you to him for his invaluable contributions to the work that we do.

Welcome to Sundance. Buckle in.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Robert Redford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "R" at the beginning.

Robert Redford
President and Founder
Sundance Institute