

Sundance Institute Fact Sheet



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. Artist programs offer support across multiple disciplines through a series of Labs, grants, mentorships and workshops, providing storytellers with the resources to create and share their stories with the world. The Sundance Film Festival and a series of festivals, screenings and events invite audiences to discover the new work and original voices, and to join 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 Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* and *Fun Home*.

Executive Director Keri Putnam oversees all programs of the Institute, which has offices in Park City, Utah, Los Angeles and New York City.

SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

- Founded in 1985 and takes place in Park City, Salt Lake City, Ogden and Sundance, Utah
- Approximately 200 feature-length and short films are selected each year. For the 2016 Festival, 12,793 film submissions from 120 countries were received.
- The Festival also presents panels, music programming and the New Frontier exhibition of new media work.
- The 2016 Festival was attended by more than 46,000 people and generated \$143.3 million in economic activity and \$72.5 in gross state product to Utah.
- The 2017 Festival will be January 19-29.
- Notable films introduced at the Festival include *The Birth of a Nation*, *Whiplash*, *Boyhood*, *Rich Hill*, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Fruitvale Station*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *sex, lies, and videotape*, *Reservoir Dogs*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Precious* and *Napoleon Dynamite*.

OTHER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

- Thousands of people each year attend the Institute's other events:
 - Sundance Film Festival: London (June)
 - Sundance NEXT FEST in Los Angeles (August)
 - Sundance Film Festival: Hong Kong (September)
- The Institute tours packages of short films from the Sundance Film Festival to art house theaters, museums, colleges and general event spaces across the country, providing rare opportunities for audiences to see short films on the big screen.
- Institute-supported titles are available on top digital platforms and retailers such as Netflix and iTunes through the support of the Institute's Artist Services program. Titles include *Citizenfour*, *Detropia*, *Upstream Color*, *BURN*, *Bones Brigade*, *Western* and *Particle Fever*.



- More than 6,000 Utah residents enjoy free outdoor screenings in the summer months through the Institute's Utah Summer Series.
- The Film Forward and Ignite programs bring screenings and conversations to campuses, libraries, community centers, local arts organizations and other venues in regions across the U.S. annually.

LABS

- Each year the Institute's residential Labs support more than 200 independent artists working in film, theatre, new media and episodic content (TV/online). The Institute covers the cost of each artist's travel, lodging, meals and Lab activities. Each Lab ranges from four to 24 days, and approximately half take place in the summer. Each artist is given critique, mentorship and support to realize his or her creative vision, in an environment where risk-taking is encouraged.
- The Institute annually receives more than 6,500 submissions to its Labs.
- In 2015, the Institute hosted 24 residential Labs across the U.S. and internationally.
- After seeding Labs in Brazil, Mexico, Central Europe and around East Africa, the Institute currently hosts Labs in Jordan, Turkey, India, China, Japan and Morocco.
- Notable films supported by the Institute's Labs include *Reservoir Dogs*, *Boys Don't Cry*, *Trouble the Water*, *Sin Nombre*, *Requiem for a Dream*, *Half Nelson*, *The Queen of Versailles*, *Beasts of the Southern Wild* and *Fruitvale Station*.
- Plays and musicals supported by the Institute's Labs include the two most recent Tony Award winners for Best Musical, *Fun Home* and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, as well as *Toots*, *Appropriate*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *An Iliad*, *The Lily's Revenge*, *The Good Negro*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Passing Strange*, *Stuck Elevator*, *Spring Awakening*, *Laramie Project* and *I Am My Own Wife*.

WORKSHOPS

- Open to all artists, and held around the country, workshops offer participants premium resources and expert advice on topics ranging from screenwriting to digital distribution. These intensive versions of our Lab experience provide opportunities for artists to be inspired in their storytelling and empowered to advance their projects to the next phase.
- In 2015, the Institute hosted 11 selective workshops and 12 public workshops on topics including Theatre, Documentary Filmmaking and Screenwriting intensives, Innovative Distribution and Marketing, and Financial Skills and Networking.

GRANTS

- The Institute grants more than \$2.5 million to independent artists and their projects each year.
- The Institute annually receives more than 1,500 grant submissions.
- Notable films supported by the Institute's grant programs include *Rich Hill*, *Powerless*, *Chuck Norris v. Communism*, *Best of Enemies*, *The Square*, *3½ Minutes*, *Ten Bullets*, *The Look of Silence*, *Cartel Land*, *(T)error*, *CITIZENFOUR*, *The Witch*, *Birth of a Nation* and *War Story*.

Images and more information at sundance.org/press.

Questions? Comments? Interviews? press@sundance.org

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Facebook: facebook.com/sundance

Twitter: [@sundancefest](https://twitter.com/sundancefest) | [@sundanceorg](https://twitter.com/sundanceorg)

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