

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. The Institute'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 *Boyhood*, *Swiss Army Man*, *Manchester By the Sea*, *Brooklyn*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Life*, *Animated*, *Sonita*, *20 Feet From Stardom*, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Fruitvale Station*, *Sin Nombre*, *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, and Sundance, Utah
- Approximately 200 feature-length and short films are selected each year. For the 2017 Festival, 13,782 film submissions from 147 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 million in gross state product to Utah. Figures for the 2017 Festival will be available later this year.
- The 2018 Festival will be January 18-28.
- Notable films introduced at the Festival include *Whiplash*, *Rich Hill*, *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 Creative Distribution Initiative. Titles include *First Girl I Loved*, *BURN*, *Uncle Howard*, *Nuts!*, *As You Are*, and *Christmas, Again*, among others.
- More than 6,000 Utah residents enjoy free outdoor screenings in the summer months through the Institute's Utah Summer Series.
- Sundance Ignite offers individuals ages 18-24 the Ignite Ticket Package, an exclusive chance to see the newest films at the Sundance Film Festival, and the Ignite Fellows Program, a competitive and year-round Festival and industry experience.

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 5,000 submissions to its Labs.
- In 2016, the Institute hosted 26 residential Labs across the U.S. and internationally.
- The Institute has seeded or hosted Labs in Brazil, Mexico, Jordan, India, Morocco, France, Greece, China, and around East Africa and Central Europe.
- Notable films supported by the Institute's Labs include *Reservoir Dogs*, *Boys Don't Cry*, *The Birth of a Nation*, *Sin Nombre*, *Requiem for a Dream*, *Half Nelson*, *The Queen of Versailles*, *Swiss Army Man*, *Patti Cake\$*, *Drunktown's Finest*, *The Diary of a Teenage Girl*, and *Beach Rats*.
- Plays and musicals supported by the Institute's Labs include two recent Tony Award winners for Best Musical, *Fun Home* and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, as well as *Toast*, *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 2016, the Institute hosted 13 selective workshops and 18 public workshops on topics including creative distribution, short filmmaking, documentary film editing, and more.

GRANTS

- The Institute grants more than \$3 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*, *The Birth of a Nation* and *War Story*.



Images and more information at sundance.org/press.
Questions? Comments? Interviews? press@sundance.org

Website: sundance.org

Facebook: facebook.com/sundance

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

Instagram: [@sundanceorg](https://www.instagram.com/sundanceorg)

Tumblr: sundanceinstitute.tumblr.com | sundancearchives.tumblr.com

LinkedIn: [Sundance Institute](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sundance-institute)

#sundance