

Sundance “deepens the resolve of artists by bringing them together in a creative community so that they know they are not alone.”

- Robert Redford

The Sundance Institute Theatre Program is excited to launch a significantly new structure for its artistic programming in 2015/2016. This new constellation of play development opportunities intensifies our core mission to extend support to theatre artists across the globe, as well as to provide early development time to teams of generating artists.

Our Theatre Labs serve as “the space in between” the conception of a work and its eventual production - providing artists time for reflection, rehearsal, experimentation and mentoring within the context of an intimate peer-level artistic community. Focused on supporting the power of individual & collective artistic voices, the Theatre Program has increasingly engaged a broad spectrum of both US-based and artists from abroad who work in diverse styles and express a wide range of content.

This season, the Theatre Program announces open submissions for two different Lab opportunities: one for both US-based theatre-makers as well as artists from the Middle East/North Africa (MENA region); and a second Lab for US-based artists only. In place of our annual July Lab, Sundance offers a pilot **Theatre Lab in MENA**, available to theatre artists from the United States as well as from the Middle East/North Africa (MENA). This 21-Day Program, which will utilize actors in workshop, will take place outside Marrakech, Morocco in May 2016. In addition, we will offer a new program: a 10-day **Theatre-Makers Residency at the Sundance Resort** for two-person collaborative teams of artists or solo artists generating new work.

Theatre Lab in MENA May 8-29, 2016	Theatre-Makers Residency June 23-July 2, 2016
21-day Theatre Lab for US and MENA artists at Fellah Hotel/Dar Al-Ma'mûn outside Marrakech, Morocco	10-day Residency where US artists work solo or in collaborative teams at the Sundance Resort in Utah

Participants in both Labs will be selected through an open application process.

Interested applicants may only apply to ONE Lab

Click [here](#) to read more about *The Space In Between* about the Theatre Program’s values & goals in MENA

The 2016 Theatre Lab in MENA

The Sundance Institute Theatre Program will reconfigure its historic U.S. Theatre Lab (traditionally held in July in Utah) to become a Lab for **both** US-based and international artists at a venue in the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) as part of the Theatre Program's new MENA initiative. The 2016 Theatre Lab in MENA will take place at [Fellah Hotel/Dar al-Ma'mûn](#) outside of Marrakech, Morocco.

Building upon its 14-year commitment to theatre makers in East Africa, the Theatre Program has established a new 5-year initiative to create meaningful engagement between US & MENA theatre artists through a series of peer-to-peer exposure & exchange activities. Since 2013, Theatre Program staff has traveled to the region and MENA artists have participated at the US Lab in Utah as artists-in-residence and Fellows. Now led by MENA Manager Jumana Al-Yasiri, the MENA initiative seeks to discover a meaningful exchange between US and MENA artists, welcoming artists inspired by major transformations in the region as well as artists interested in building bridges & alliances through artistic practice. As we look now to other areas of the world where theatre-makers are telling vital stories, we are reaching out across America and to the Middle East and North Africa, where playwrights & directors (creating in English, Arabic and local languages) are rigorously engaged with deep-current shifts in their lives and their communities. Sundance wishes to emphasize that the impulse inspiring this exchange is not political, nor are we looking for stories about or set in the Middle East. We welcome an entire of range of content.

The Sundance Institute is a global platform for the world's storytellers working in film and the performing arts; the Theatre Program's international vision is to create open, reciprocal and meaningful artist-to-artist and people-to-people exchange over time and across borders of politics, economics and culture. Our cornerstone Theatre Lab (traditionally held in Utah) will be replaced in 2016 with a combined **Theatre Lab in MENA**, welcoming artists from the US and from the MENA region.

We will select up to eight projects for the 2016 Theatre Lab in Morocco (50% from the US and 50% from the MENA region). Sundance will provide the same level of support and development that has traditionally been offered in Utah (an acting company, a "day-on, day-off" rehearsal schedule over 21 days, and rigorous dramaturgical support), as well as underwrite all related expenses (including transportation costs, accommodations, meals, stipends, and support personnel).

Sundance Institute is pleased to partner with the following on the 2016 Theatre Lab in MENA:
[Fellah Hotel](#), [Dar al-Ma'mûn](#), [Sahara Experiences](#), [Morocco National Tourist Office](#) and [Royal Air Maroc](#).

The 2016 Theatre-Makers Residency

In addition, we also introduce a new second Lab for US-based artists, for artists with projects *not yet ready for actors, but who need time and space away to think and plan & collaborate on nascent ideas*. This **Theatre-Makers Residency**, will take place over 10 days in June 2015 at the Sundance Resort in Utah. We welcome applications from either playwrights and/or two-person collaborative teams which could include:

Playwright	Playwright/ Playwright Team	Playwright/ Director Team	Playwright/ Designer Team	Director/ Designer Team	Composer/ Librettist Team
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In total, six artists will be selected for this 10-day residency at our home in Utah. We are excited to announce that this residency will take place alongside the renowned Sundance Institute [Screenwriters](#) and [Documentary Edit](#) Labs. This affords theatre-makers the opportunity to interface with some activities of each of those Labs – a cross pollination of artistic genres.

**If you are a US artist, please think carefully about which of the two Sundance Labs are right for your project.
 You can only apply for one or the other, not both.**

MENA artists are invited to apply to the 2016 Theatre Lab in MENA

GUIDELINES

We are profoundly excited to introduce you to these new pilot programs for 2016

Is your project ready for actors?

21 Days
Every other day rehearsal schedule
Up to 4 US & 4 MENA Projects
Marrakech, Morocco



2016 Theatre Lab in MENA

May 8-29, 2016

The annual Theatre Lab, traditionally held in Utah each summer, will be moving to [Fellah Hotel/Dar al-Ma'mûn](#) outside of Marrakech, Morocco in May 2016 (travel for some participants may begin on May 7, 2016). Note that this Theatre Lab replaces the Lab typically held in July in Utah. Projects will be selected from both US and artists from the MENA region. This is re-invention of our centerpiece Theatre Lab that directly champions our notion of community.

We are now offering a *single* Lab that brings together artists from the United States and the MENA region. In our international exchange - particularly when we are on foreign soil - we learn a powerful lesson: that real-time, in-person interaction with artists from disparate cultures touches us to our very core. We are thrown off balance in the most productive ways, pushed to our limits, and made aware of our artistic and creative assumptions about making art. We “see” our countries and our place in the world differently. This new Lab offers our community the possibility to re-discover, re-imagine, re-contextualize theatre in a global way.

Do you need time alone or with a collaborator?

10 Days
Design your own experience
6 US Artists
Sundance, Utah



2016 Theatre-Makers Residency

June 23-July 2, 2016

This new Lab for US-based playwrights and/or collaborative teams of two will take place over 10 days at the [Sundance Resort](#) in Utah. This unique Lab offers writers or teams (i.e., playwright/director, bookwriter/ composer, director/designer) to work with one another with support of a Sundance dramaturg. The Lab is created for early development without actors or performers. A bonus element of this new Lab is the opportunity to engage with artists attending the Sundance Screenwriters and Documentary Edit Labs, which will happen concurrently.

Although similar to our Playwrights & Composers Retreat at Ucross Foundation, the Theatre-Makers Residency varies from it by being project-driven. All applicants are required to apply with a single project in mind. This project can be already in script form or a detailed outline with fleshed out ideas.

2016 Theatre Lab in MENA	2016 Theatre-Makers Residency
<p>ELIGIBILITY</p> <p>Artists from the United States and from MENA are encouraged to apply. Theatre-makers creating in Arabic are encouraged to apply, but artists creating in other languages will be considered. Submitted work cannot have been previously produced, but may have received prior workshops or readings. Commissioned work is eligible for submission; however, playwrights must obtain written permission from their commissioning organization prior to applying.</p> <p>Playwrights, directors, composers, ensembles, performance artists, or choreographers may submit applications. Playwrights may suggest a collaborative director, but Sundance retains the right to make final decisions on personnel. If you do not have a director attached to your project, please note that Sundance Institute will help to match you up with a director if your play is selected for inclusion in the Theatre Lab. Director-generated projects are also welcome to apply.</p> <p>Sundance Institute is interested in both established and emerging theatre artists, as well as artists making a transition from areas outside of theatre. We welcome solo performers and projects for young audiences.</p> <p>NOTE: Artists may only submit one application. Previous applicants may reapply, but not with previously submitted material.</p>	<p>ELIGIBILITY</p> <p>United States-based theatre artists are encouraged to apply. Submitted work cannot have been previously produced, but may have received prior workshops or readings. Commissioned work is eligible for submission; however, playwrights must obtain written permission from their commissioning organization prior to applying.</p> <p>Sundance Institute is interested in both established and emerging theatre artists, as well as artists making a transition from areas outside of theatre. We welcome solo performers and projects for young audiences.</p> <p>NOTE: Artists may only submit one application. Previous applicants may reapply, but not with previously submitted material.</p>
<p>PROJECT SELECTION</p> <p>Projects may be submitted in any language (including Arabic). If you are a MENA artist and would like to submit a project in a language other than Arabic or French, please contact us to verify that your working language can be supported by our MENA-based Lab. Submissions are accepted in English, Arabic and French.</p> <p>Through open submissions, we consider an estimated hundreds of projects. Sundance Institute looks for original, compelling human stories that reflect the independent vision of the theatre artist. We are interested in supporting a diverse and daring group of theatre artists who tell unique stories, present material in a new form, or conceptualize existing material with an innovative vision. We look for writers and collaborators who are interested in genuinely exploring their material. Sundance is an environment that encourages and supports risk-taking, experimentation, and rigorous rewriting and re-imagining. It is not a place to simply rehearse your text, or to polish what you feel is a nearly completed draft.</p> <p>NOTE: All applicants must be available for the entire duration of each Lab.</p>	

2016 Theatre Lab in MENA	2016 Theatre-Makers Residency
<p>WHAT SUNDANCE INSTITUTE PROVIDES</p> <p>Sundance Institute provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International Roundtrip Economy Airfare ● Airport Transfers ● Private Accommodation in Shared Housing ● Three meals/day ● \$500 USD/week stipend = \$1500 USD total ● Inclusive of parties & excursions <p>Additionally, the Theatre Program provides actors, dramaturgs, rehearsal space, and stage management for the collaborative team working on each project. Projects rehearse on alternating days, giving writers the opportunity to rewrite or regroup when they're not in rehearsal. At the end of the Theatre Lab, projects will culminate in an informal presentation for the Lab community only, followed by an artist-led conversation with Sundance Institute artistic staff and/or guest Creative Advisors.</p> <p>Each full-time Fellow (playwright, director, or other creative collaborator) is assigned a company of actors (if applicable), selected by Sundance Institute in collaboration with the Fellows, to support their project. Actors are selected from the US and the MENA region for their professionalism, versatility, suitability for the development process and of course fluency in the language of the project.</p> <p>We strongly encourage that each rehearsal room is open to members of the Lab community for quiet observation. If you do not feel comfortable allowing colleagues to observe your rehearsal process, the Theatre Lab may not be the most appropriate place for you.</p>	<p>WHAT SUNDANCE INSTITUTE PROVIDES</p> <p>Sundance Institute provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Roundtrip Economy Airfare ● Airport Transfers ● Private Accommodation in Shared Housing ● Three meals/day ● \$500 USD/week stipend = \$714 USD total ● Inclusive of receptions <p>Additionally, the Theatre Program will provide access to a Sundance dramaturg as well as opportunities to engage with the Screenwriters & Documentary Edit Labs. Artists will be provided with a writing space (which may be in one's accommodation).</p>
<p>DRAMATURGY</p> <p>Dramaturgy is a core value of the Sundance Institute Theatre Program—it is “the how and the why” of new play development, a process of inquiry and exploration practiced by all of the artists in the room, not just the dramaturg. That said, Sundance dramaturgs, who have wide experience in the support of new work, are uniquely qualified to provide engaged, considered, and empowering guidance to each project’s generative artists, and to offer fresh perspectives on the work at hand. There is no “one size fits all” dramaturgical model at Sundance; once a project is accepted to a Lab, there is opportunity to discuss the kind of dramaturgical support that best suits it. The MENA Lab will host dramaturgs from both the US and MENA region, who will work collaboratively.</p>	

GIVING BACK TO SUNDANCE INSTITUTE

Sundance Institute was founded by Robert Redford as a way to give back, to support other film and theatre artists by providing them with an opportunity to develop their projects and skills. Sundance Institute does not request payments or royalties on projects supported by the Theatre Program. Artists own their work fully, but are required to publish Sundance Institute's logo, bio, staff listing, and credit:

"[Title of Project] was developed, in part, at the 2016 Sundance Institute [Theatre Lab]"

This credit is required on the title page of all printed materials of future readings, workshops, productions, recordings, and publications of their projects. This and other requirements are detailed in a Memo of Understanding that Sundance Institute enters into with the generators of each selected project.

HOW TO APPLY

IMPORTANT NOTE:

We have implemented significant changes to our traditional application process, so please review the steps below and follow them accordingly

September 15- October 15	November 15- December 1	February 15
ROUND 1	ROUND 2	FINALISTS SELECTED

Theatre Lab in MENA

ROUND ONE (September 15-October 15, 2015)

US applicants should complete the online application (link below). After submitting your materials online, you will receive an email confirmation. Applicants from MENA should download the application in the language of your choice and submit materials via email to MENAtheatre@sundance.org.

- **10-Page Portion of Your Script**
(unprotected Word or PDF document)
- **Artistic Statements**
International cultural exchange & engagement is a core value of the Sundance Institute Theatre Program and this Lab represents a desire to re-imagine new play development within a global context. There are two equally vital goals for us:
 - To shepherd your new play & process with the highest degree of dramaturgical support so that you can see and celebrate progress in your work
 - To create a vital & thoroughly engaged community of world artists

Theatre-Makers Residency

ROUND ONE (September 15-October 15, 2015)

Complete the online application. After submitting your materials online, you will receive an email confirmation.

- **Outline and/or 10-Page Portion of Your Script**
(unprotected Word or PDF document)
- **Artistic Statement**
In 500 words or less describe the status of the project, including prior readings and workshops, and what you hope to accomplish at the Residency. Include comments on the content, style of the piece, and the team's objectives for the Residency. It is especially important to specifically describe how you would utilize the Residency to further your project. If applying as a playwright/director team, we require a statement from both the playwright and director).
- **Letter of Acknowledgement** from a commissioning organization (if applicable)
- **\$35 Non-Refundable Application Fee**
(payable by credit card)

ROUND TWO (November 15-December 1, 2015)

Complete the online application form and upload requested materials electronically. After submitting your materials online, you will receive an email confirmation. Materials to include:

- **Full or Partial Script** of your play or musical (unprotected Word or PDF document)
- **Resumes/Bios** for each member of the creative team
- **Uploadable .mp3 Files of Music** (if applicable)

- **Artistic Statements (continued)**

In order to best assess you and your project's candidacy for this Lab, please answer the following questions with as much specificity as possible in 350 words or less per question.

- *Question #1* - What is your work strategy/goal for the duration of the Lab?
- *Question #2* - How do you feel that participating in a three-week Theatre Lab in Morocco -alongside a wide range of complementary international colleagues - will specifically support and enhance your play and your process?
- *Question #3* - What do you imagine is the most effective way for you to interact with fellow participants who may not principally speak or work in your language?
- *Question #4* -What experience might you bring to & what commitment can you make to this Lab experience in a global community?
- *Question #5* - Do you have past experience working internationally? If so, please describe.

- **Cast Breakdown** (please make sure to include ages, ethnicities & any other information that would be pertinent to the casting process)

- **Technical/Rehearsal Requirements** (we will do our best to accommodate any requests, but reserve the right to suggest alternatives, if needed)

- **Letter of Acknowledgement** from a commissioning organization (if applicable)

- **\$35 Non-Refundable Application Fee** (payable by credit card)

The Application Fee is generously waived for all artists applying from the Middle East/North Africa.

ROUND TWO (November 15-December 1, 2015)

US applicants should complete the online application form and upload requested materials electronically. After submitting your materials online, you will receive an email confirmation.

Applicants from MENA should submit the following materials via [email](#) if selected to move on to Round Two. Materials to include:

- **Full Script** of your play or musical (unprotected Word or PDF document)
- **Resumes/Bios** for each member of the creative team
- **Uploadable .mp3 Files of Music** (if applicable)

Selected Round One applicants will be invited to complete Round Two of the application process.

NOTE: If you are an American applicant and do not have access to the Internet, please email us at theatre@sundance.org and we will work with you to submit your materials using alternative methods. Please make every effort to utilize the online application as it ensures the safe delivery of your application and supports the Greening Initiative of Sundance Institute.

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

- **September 15, 2015** - Online application opens for Round One
- **October 15, 2015 at 5:00pm EST** - Round One Deadline
- **November 15, 2015** - All Round One applicants notified of the status of their applications & select applicants invited to complete Round Two of the application process.
- **December 1, 2015 at 5:00pm EST** - Round Two Deadline
- **February 15, 2016** - Fellow & project selection complete & Round Two applicants notified

Please do not call or email us to inquire about the status of your project. Sundance Institute will contact you if additional information is required.

QUESTIONS

Applicants can find answers to many questions on [the FAQ page](#).

- US Inquiries: theatre@sundance.org
- MENA Inquiries: MENAtheatre@sundance.org