Miguel Arteta

Miguel Arteta is a Puerto Rican filmmaker who has lived and worked in Los Angeles since 1990. His films include Star Maps, Chuck & Buck, The Good Girl, Youth in Revolt, and the 2011 Sundance Film Festival premiere Cedar Rapids, starring Ed Helms and John C. Reilly. His television work includes Freaks and Geeks, Six Feet Under, The Office, and the upcoming HBO series Enlightened, starring Laura Dern and Luke Wilson. Arteta is a graduate of the film program at Wesleyan University and the Sundance Institute Screenwriters Lab.

Gina Belafonte

Born and raised in New York City, Gina Belafonte has spent most of her life surrounded by entertainment and activism. Today, her professional work encompasses these two arenas. As the youngest child of Julie and Harry Belafonte, whose life's work is reflective of entertainment and progressive social activism, her passions should come as no surprise. Belafonte began her entertainment career in the theatre at the age of 14 as an actress. She continued to work with great regularity in film and theatre and toured with the National Shakespeare Company. She took a stint with the Mirror Repertory Company in New York under the artistic direction of John Strasberg. While at the Mirror, she worked with Geraldine Page, F. Murray Abraham, Anne Jackson, Elisabeth Franz, and more.

Most recently, Belafonte played a leading role in producing the documentary Sing Your Song—a film focused on the personal history and extraordinary events of Harry Belafonte's life and legacy. Sing Your Song was selected for the 2011 Sundance Film Festival U.S. Documentary Competition. Belafonte resides in Los Angeles with her husband and daughter. She works internationally with many different artists and organizations developing the concepts of and promoting the belief in interdependence. She continues to produce, act and direct for theatre, television, and film.

Harry Belafonte

Award-winning Harry Belafonte is as well known for his social activism and pursuit of social justice as he is for his acting and musical talent. His album Calypso made him the first artist in history to sell more than one million albums. He won a Tony award for his Broadway debut in John Murray Anderson’s Almanac and an Emmy award for An Evening with Belafonte, for which he was the first black television producer. He was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Clinton. He has been equally recognized in the social justice arena, with honors such as the Albert Einstein Award from Yeshiva University, the Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Prize, and the Nelson Mandela Courage Award, as well as awards from the American Jewish Congress, the NAACP, the City of Hope, Fight for Sight, the Urban League, the National Conference of Black Mayors, the Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith, the ACLU, the State Department, the Boy Scouts of America, Hadassah International, and the Peace Corps.

Over the decades, Belafonte has worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Eleanor Roosevelt, President John F. Kennedy, and Nelson Mandela. He was the driving force behind the 1985 “We Are the World” project to help people affected by war, drought, and famine in Africa. He has served as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and is a recipient of the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors for excellence in the performing arts. He currently resides in New York City with his wife Pamela.
Sean Durkin
Sean Durkin’s short film *Mary Last Seen* premiered at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival before going on to win the Prix SFR at the Directors’ Fortnight at the 2010 Cannes International Film Festival. *Martha Marcy May Marlene*, selected for the 2011 Sundance Film Festival U.S. Dramatic Competition, is Durkin’s first feature film and was selected for the 2010 Sundance Institute Screenwriters and Directors Labs. He is a graduate of NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts and is cofounder of Borderline Films.

Vera Farmiga
An Oscar-nominated and award-winning actress, Vera Farmiga makes her directorial debut with *Higher Ground*, selected for the 2011 Sundance Film Festival U.S. Dramatic Competition. Farmiga recently starred in *Up in the Air*, for which she received Academy Award, BAFTA, SAG and Golden Globe nominations. Her acting credits include *The Departed, Orphan, The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, the upcoming *Source Code* and *Henry’s Crime*, and *Down to the Bone*, for which she received a Special Jury Prize for acting at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival and an Independent Spirit Award nomination.

America Ferrera
America Ferrera made her Sundance Film Festival debut in 2002 with *Real Women Have Curves*, which earned her a Special Jury Prize for acting. Since then, she has starred in the Festival films *How the Garcia Girls Spent Their Summer, Steel City, La Mísma Luna*, and *The Dry Land* (which she also executive-produced). Ferrera is best known for her portrayal of Betty Suarez on the hit television comedy *Ugly Betty*, a role that has earned her an Emmy, a Golden Globe and a SAG Award. She has starred in both parts of *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, Our Family Wedding*, and voiced Astrid in *How to Train Your Dragon*. She currently serves as an artist ambassador for the global humanitarian organization Save the Children, most recently helping to build an elementary school in Diassadeni, Mali. This year, Ferrera returned to the Sundance Film Festival as a member of the 2011 U.S. Dramatic Competition Jury. She is also a member of the 2011 Sundance Institute Alumni Advisory Board.

Magda Giannikou
Born in Athens, Greece, Giannikou studied piano and musical theory at the National Conservancy of Greece and Nakas Jazz School. After working as an in-house arranger/producer for Legend Recordings’ children’s division, Giannikou attended Berklee College of Music, where she received the Georges Delerue Award for Achievement in Film Scoring. In addition to film composing, Giannikou has explored big band music and has performed as an accordionist and vocalist, including for her own band, Mellow Bellow. Magda was a 2009 Sundance Institute Composers Lab Fellow.

Danny Glover
One of the most acclaimed actors of our time, Danny Glover’s career has spanned 30 years, including roles in *Places in the Heart, The Color Purple*, the *Lethal Weapon* series and the award-winning *To Sleep with Anger*. Glover has also produced, executive-produced and financed numerous projects for film, television, and theatre including *Good Fences, 3 AM, Freedom Song, Get on the Bus, Deadly Voyage, Buffalo Soldiers, The Saint of Fort Washington, To Sleep with Anger*, and the series *Courage and America’s Dream*. Since cofounding Louverture Films, Glover has executive-produced *Bamako, Africa Unite, Trouble the Water, Salt of This Sea, Soundtrack for a Revolution, The Time that Remains, Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives, The Disappearance of McKinley Nolan, Dum Maaro Dum*, and *The Black Power Mixtape 1967–1975*, selected for the 2011 Sundance Film Festival World Cinema Documentary Competition.

Shahzad Ismaily
Shahzad Ismaily plays guitar, banjo, double bass, accordion, flute, and percussion. He has performed and recorded with Laurie Anderson, Booker T, John Haskell, Will Oldham, Marc Ribot, Tom Waits, John Zorn, and others and has composed for dance companies such as Tadashi Endo, the Frankfurt Ballet, and Min Tanaka. A self-taught musician, he has a degree in biochemistry. Ismaily was a 2007 Sundance Institute Composers Lab fellow whose debut film score for *Frozen River* premiered at the Festival in 2008.

iZLER
iZLER is a Czech-born, English-raised composer and multi-instrumentalist living in Los Angeles. Selected in 2008 for the Sundance Institute Composers Lab, he is responsible for scores to movies such as *Humboldt County, Whatever It Takes* and Jonathan van Tulleken’s BAFTA-nominated horror film *Off Season*. He has also written songs for numerous films and
television shows, including *ER*, *My Best Friend’s Girl*, *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip*, *This Revolution*, *Thief*, and *Shameless*. His song “Superblind” appears on the new multi-platinum selling album by Robbie Williams, produced by Trevor Horn and based on izLER’s original production and orchestral arrangement.

izLER has toured, recorded, and written with artists and producers as diverse as Robbie Williams, Ryan Adams, Dave Stewart, Imogen Heap, Jesse Malin, Kylie Minogue, Tom Jones, Brian May, Holly Johnson, and many others. He comes to the 2011 Sundance Film Festival with the thriller *On the Ice*.

**Steve James**
Steve James is best known as the award-winning director, producer, and coeditor of *Hoop Dreams*, which premiered at the 1994 Sundance Film Festival, and won every major critics award, as well as a Peabody Award and Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award in 1995. The film earned James the Directors Guild of America Award, The MTV Movie Awards Best New Filmmaker, and an Oscar nomination for editing. *Hoop Dreams* was selected for the Library of Congress’s National Film Registry, signifying the film’s enduring importance to American film history. His other award-winning films include *Stevie*, winner of major awards at the Sundance, Amsterdam, Yamagata, and Philadelphia film festivals; the PBS series *The New Americans*, which won the prestigious 2004 International Documentary Association Award for Best Limited Series; *At the Death House Door*, which won numerous festivals and was James’s fourth film to be officially short-listed for the Academy Award; and *No Crossover: The Trial of Allen Iverson* for ESPN Films’ International Documentary Association-winning series 30 for 30.

*The Interrupters* is James’s fifth film to play at the Sundance Film Festival. It will be broadcast on PBS’s *Frontline* in late 2011. His other work includes *The War Tapes*, which he produced and edited, and which won the 2006 Tribeca Film Festival Grand Prize.

**Barry Jenkins**
Barry Jenkins is an award-winning writer and director. His feature-film debut, *Medicine for Melancholy*, garnered three Independent Spirit Award nominations and a Gotham Award nomination, as well as awards from the San Francisco International Film Festival and the Sarasota and Woodstock film festivals. The picture also earned Jenkins a slot among *Filmmaker* magazine’s “25 Faces of Independent Film” before he embarked on an international festival tour highlighted by screenings at the Vienna and Toronto international film festivals and the BFI London Film Festival. After spotlighting the microbudget film as a critic’s pick, A.O. Scott of the *New York Times* hailed it as one of the best releases of 2009. Jenkins’s recent projects include the short films *Tall Enough*, *A Young Couple*, and *Remigration*. Jenkins is member of the 2011 Sundance Film Festival Shorts Competition Jury.

**Miranda July**
Miranda July is a filmmaker, artist and writer. Her videos, performances and web-based projects have been presented at the Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim Museum and in two Whitney Biennials. July wrote, directed, and starred in her first feature film, *Me and You and Everyone We Know*, which won a Special Jury Prize at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival and four awards at the Cannes International Film Festival, including the Camera d’Or. Her fiction has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Harper’s* and *The New Yorker*; her collection of stories, *No One Belongs Here More Than You*, won the Frank O’Connor International Short Story Award and has been published in 20 countries. July created the participatory website learningtoloveyoumore with artist Harrell Fletcher, and a companion book was published in 2007; the work is now in a collection at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. "Eleven Heavy Things," an interactive sculpture garden she designed for the 2009 Venice Biennale, was on view in Union Square in New York in the summer of 2010. Raised in Berkeley, California, she currently lives in Los Angeles. Her new movie *The Future* premieres at the 2011 Sundance and Berlin film festivals.

**John Kelly**
John Kelly is a performance and visual artist whose work runs the gamut from mixed-media dance theatre works, to vocal concerts, to exhibitions. He has performed at The Kitchen, Lincoln Center, Dance Theater Workshop, the Warhol Museum, the Whitney Biennial, BAM’s Next Wave Festival, and the Tate Modern. Kelly has received two Bessie Awards, two Obie Awards, an American Choreographer Award, and an Alpert Award. His fellowships include the American Academy in Rome, the Radcliffe Institute, the Civitella Ranieri Center, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the
Time Warner Storytelling Fellowship at the Sundance Institute Theatre Program. He has collaborated and recorded with composers David Del Tredici, Laurie Anderson, Antony and the Johnsons, and The Jazz Passengers. Kelly’s acting credits include the Broadway production of *James Joyce’s The Dead*, Christopher Marlowe’s *Dido, Queen of Carthage* at A.R.T. (2005 Elliot Norton Award for Best Actor), Rinde Eckert’s *Orpheus X* at A.R.T., and *The Clerk’s Tale*, a film by James Franco.

**Carla Kihlstedt**
Composer, violinist, and vocalist Carla Kihlstedt is a founding member of the pioneering and iconic musical projects Sleepytime Gorilla Museum, Tin Hat, and 2 Foot Yard. A veteran of folk/pop, classical, jazz, and experimental music, she has performed at many festivals across North America and Europe, including the Vancouver, San Francisco, and Saalfelden jazz festivals, and the Ojai, Caramoor, and Other Minds music festivals. She has contributed to the soundtracks of *Sweet Land, Everything Is Illuminated, The Good Girl, and La Giusta Distanza*, and to the recordings of Tom Waits, Tracy Chapman, Fred Frith, and Madeleine Peyroux. She has written pieces for the Rova Saxophone Quartet and the Bang on a Can All-Stars, and received the Gerbode Foundation’s Emerging Composers Award in 2007. Her song cycle *Necessary Monsters*, based on Jorge Luis Borges’s *The Book of Imaginary Beings* and written with poet Rafael Oses, will have its West Coast premiere this summer at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco.

**Braden King**
Filmmaker Braden King attended the 2007 Sundance Institute Directors Lab with his first feature film, *HERE*. *HERE* received support from Sundance Institute’s Feature Film Program through a Sundance/NHK International Filmmakers Award, and grants from the Annenberg Foundation and a Cinereach Project at Sundance Institute Fellowship. King also participated in the Composers Lab Experiment at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival. He codirected and produced the 1998 feature documentary *Dutch Harbor: Where the Sea Breaks Its Back*, made in collaboration with filmmaker and photographer Laura Moya. King has directed music videos and visual live concert accompaniments for Tortoise, Dirty Three, Low, Brokeback, Sparklehorse, Ken Vandermark and Paul Lytton, Tren Brothers, and Giant Sand, among others. He has directed several documentary short films. King premieres *HERE* at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, and is also a member of the 2011 Sundance Institute Alumni Advisory Board.

**Lynn Nottage**
Lynn Nottage’s Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Ruined* is currently playing Off-Broadway at the Manhattan Theatre Club (a coproduction with Goodman Theatre in Chicago). *Ruined* has also received an Obie Award, the Lucille Lortel Award, New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play, Drama Desk Award, and Outer Critics Circle Award. Other plays include *Intimate Apparel* (New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play); *Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine* (Obie Award); *Crumbs from the Table of Joy; Las Meninas; Mud, River, Stone; Por’knockers*; and *Poof*! Nottage is the recipient of numerous awards including the 2007 John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation “Genius Grant,” the National Black Theatre Festival’s August Wilson Playwriting Award, the 2004 PEN/Laura Pels Award for Drama, the 2005 Guggenheim Grant for Playwriting, as well as fellowships from the Lucille Lortel Foundation, Manhattan Theatre Club, New Dramatists, and the NYFA. Nottage’s most recent publications include *Intimate Apparel* and *Fabulation*, and an anthology of her plays *Crumbs from the Table of Joy and Other Plays*.

Lynn has been an active participant and supporter of the Sundance Institute Theatre Lab and was instrumental in securing the Governors Island location for Sundance Institute’s upcoming spring Theatre Lab in New York. On several occasions, she has served as a creative advisor at the lab. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild, an alumna of New Dramatists, and a graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Drama, where she is a visiting lecturer. She resides in Brooklyn with her husband and daughter. Nottage is a member of the Sundance Institute Board of Trustees.

**Mark Orton**
Mark Orton studied composition at the Peabody Conservatory. He served as chief engineer at The Knitting Factory, working with John Zorn, Bill Frisell, The Lounge Lizards, and others. He is a multi-instrumentalist and founding member of the San Francisco Bay area–based Tin Hat (Trio). He has written scores for dance and the circus, including work for Pilobolus, Donald Byrd, and The Pickle Family Circus. His music can be heard in films such as *The Good Girl, Everything Is Illuminated, The Real Dirt on Farmer John*, and *The Loss of a Teardrop Diamond*. Orton was a 2010 Sundance Institute Composers Lab Fellow.
Stacy Peralta
Stacy Peralta is a director and entrepreneur, and was previously a professional skateboarder. He has premiered three documentaries at the Sundance Film Festival: *Dogtown and Z-Boys* (for which he received a 2001 Documentary Directing Award), *Riding Giants*, and *Made in America*. He was also a member of the 2005 Sundance Film Festival U.S. Documentary Competition Jury. Peralta is a member of the 2011 Sundance Institute Alumni Advisory Board.

Laura Poitras
Laura Poitras is working on a trilogy of films about America after 9/11. The first film, *My Country, My Country*, was nominated for an Academy Award, Independent Spirit Award, and Emmy Award. The second film, *The Oath*, received the Excellence in Cinematography Award at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival, the Grand Jury Prize at the Edinburgh International Film Festival, Special Jury Prizes at Hot Docs and the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, the True Vision Award at True/False Film Fest, and the Gotham Award for best documentary. Poitras received a Peabody Award and was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for *Flag Wars*. She is the recipient of fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, United States Artists, and the Rockefeller Foundation. She has also attended the Sundance Institute Documentary Edit and Story Lab as both a fellow and creative advisor. Her work has been supported by Sundance Institute, ITVS, POV, Creative Capital, Vital Projects Fund, Tribeca Film Institute, Chicken & Egg Pictures, and the Gucci Tribeca Documentary Fund. Poitras is on the 2011 Sundance Film Festival U.S. Documentary Competition Jury.

Heather Rae
Heather Rae is a producer, director, and actress of Cherokee descent. She produced *Frozen River*, which won the Dramatic Grand Jury Prize at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival and garnered two Academy Award nominations. One of her first films is a documentary short film entitled *Birth Our Own*, produced in 1990. Rae has also worked as an actress in films such as *Silent Tears*, *Backroads*, *Norman Waiting*, and *Disappearance*.

Rae has been involved with Sundance Institute on many levels. She served as the head of the Sundance Institute Native American Program from 1997 to 2001, as a creative advisor at the Institute’s Native Lab, and has been involved in the Creative Producers Initiative. Rae is also a member of the Sundance Institute Board of Trustees. She is married to screenwriter/director Russell Friedenberg and has three children.

Morgan Spurlock
Filmmaker Morgan Spurlock’s first film, *Super Size Me*, premiered at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival, and won the Documentary Directing Award. The film went on to garner an Academy Award nomination for Best Feature Documentary. Since then Spurlock has directed, produced and distributed multiple film and television projects, including the critically acclaimed FX television series *30 Days*, and the films *Where in the World Is Osama bin Laden?* and *What Would Jesus Buy?*, and the film adaptation of the bestselling book *Freakonomics*. Spurlock was a member of the 2010 Sundance Film Festival U.S. Documentary Competition Jury, and An Artist at the Table at the 2010 Festival. He premieres his latest film, *The Greatest Movie Ever Sold*, at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. Spurlock is a member of the 2011 Sundance Institute Alumni Advisory Board.

Lucy Walker
Lucy Walker has directed four award-winning documentaries: *Devil’s Playground* about Amish teenagers, which premiered at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival; *Blindsight* (2006) about blind Tibetan teenagers climbing Mt. Everest; *Countdown to Zero* about nuclear weapons, and *Waste Land* about artist Vik Muniz’s transformational project with recyclable-materials pickers in the largest landfill in the world in Rio de Janeiro, both of which premiered at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival. *Waste Land* has won more than 25 awards including Audience Awards at the Sundance and Berlin film festivals, and the Independent Documentary Association’s award for the best documentary film. Walker grew up in London, graduated top of her class from Oxford University, started directing theatre productions, and won a Fulbright scholarship to attend the master’s film program at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. She also directed Nickelodeon’s *Blue’s Clues* and was a DJ. Walker is a member of the 2011 Sundance Film Festival World Cinema Documentary Competition Jury.

Tracey Scott Wilson
Tracey Scott Wilson’s productions include *The Good Negro* and *The Story* at The Public Theater/NYSF, *Order My Steps* for Cornerstone Theater’s Black Faith/AIDS project in Los Angeles, *Exhibit #9* which was produced in New York City by New Perspectives Theatre and Theatre Outrageous, *Leader of the People* produced at New Georges Theatre, two 10-minute plays produced at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, and a 10-minute play produced at Actors Theatre of Louisville. Wilson has had readings at the New York Theatre Workshop, New Georges Theatre, the Public Theatre and Soho Theatre Writers Centre in London.

She earned two Van Lier fellowships from the New York Theatre Workshop, and residencies at the Sundance Institute Playwrights Retreat at Ucross and the Sundance Institute Theatre Lab. Wilson is the winner of the 2001 Helen Merrill Emerging Playwright Award, the 2003 AT&T Onstage Award, the 2004 Whiting Award, the 2004 Kesserling Prize, the 2007 Weissberger Playwriting Award, and the 2007 Time Warner Storytelling Fellowship. Wilson holds a master’s degree in English literature from Temple University.