

# SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 12

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## 2012 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES FILMS IN SPOTLIGHT, PARK CITY AT MIDNIGHT, NEXT <=> AND NEW FRONTIER

**Park City, UT** — Sundance Institute announced today the films selected to screen in the 2012 Sundance Film Festival out-of-competition sections Spotlight, Park City at Midnight, NEXT <=> and New Frontier. The Festival takes place from January 19 through 29 in Park City, Salt Lake City, Ogden and Sundance, Utah. The complete list of films is available at [www.sundance.org/festival](http://www.sundance.org/festival).

Trevor Groth, Director of Programming for the Sundance Film Festival, said, "In many ways, the extremes of the Festival's program are most readily apparent in our out-of-competition sections, which showcase the wildest comedies, the most terrifying horror films and uncompromised visions from singular voices springing up from around the country and the world. We hope audiences experiment with their film selections to an equal degree as these filmmakers have experimented with their storytelling."

### SPOTLIGHT

Regardless of where these films have played throughout the world, the Spotlight program is a tribute to the cinema we love.

***Corpo Celeste*** / Italy (Director and screenwriter: Alice Rohrwacher) — After moving back to southern Italy with her mother and older sister, 13-year-old Marta struggles to find her place, restlessly testing the boundaries of an unfamiliar city and the catechism of the Catholic church. *Cast: Yle Vianello, Salvatore Cantalupo, Anita Caprioli, Renato Carpentiere.*

***Declaration Of War*** / France (Director: Valérie Donzelli, Screenwriters: Jérémie Elkaïm, Valérie Donzelli) — A young couple embark upon a painful, enlightening journey when they discover that their newborn child is very ill. *Cast: Valérie Donzelli, Jérémie Elkaïm, César Desseix. North American Premiere*

***Elena*** / Russia (Director: Andrei Zvyagintsev, Screenwriter: Oleg Negin) — A meditative, modern-noir tale about an older woman, Elena, who marries the wealthy business man for whom she worked and, when his health fails, is forced to deal with his estranged daughter who threatens her inheritance. *Cast: Andrey Smirnov, Nadezhda Markina, Elena Lyadova, Alexey Rozin.*

***Monsieur Lazhar*** / Canada (Director and screenwriter: Philippe Falardeau) — An elegant reflection on loss and death focused on an Algerian immigrant teacher who brings emotional stability to a Montreal middle school class shaken by the suicide of their well-liked teacher. *Cast: Fellag, Sophie Nélisse, Émilien Néron, Danielle Proulx, Brigitte Poupart.*

***The Orator (O le Tulafale)*** / New Zealand (Director and screenwriter: Tusi Tamasese) — A Samoan villager must defend his land and family when they are threatened by powerful adversaries. *Cast: Fa'afiaula Sagote, Tausili Pushparaj, Salamasina Mataia, Ioata Tanielu.*

**The Raid** / Indonesia (Director and screenwriter: Gareth Evans) — All hell breaks loose when an elite SWAT team, given orders to raid a run-down Jakarta apartment building that houses the city's most notorious crime boss, is forced to fight their way to freedom or die trying. *Cast: Iko Uwais, Yayan Ruhian, Joe Taslim, Doni Alamsyah. U.S. Premiere*

**Where Do We Go Now?** / France, Lebanon, Italy, Egypt (Director: Nadine Labaki, Screenwriters: Nadine Labaki, Jihad Hojeily, Rodney Al Haddad, with the collaboration of Thomas Bidegain) — A group of Lebanese women try to ease religious tensions between Christians and Muslims in their village. *Cast: Claude Baz Moussawbaa, Layla Hakim, Nadine Labaki, Yvonne Maalouf, Antoinette Noufaily. U.S. Premiere*

**Wuthering Heights** / United Kingdom (Director: Andrea Arnold, Screenwriters: Andrea Arnold, Olivia Hetreed) — A freshly conceived retelling of Emily Bronte's classic novel about Heathcliff and Cathy, two teenagers whose passionate love for each other creates a storm of vengeance. *Cast: Kaya Scodelario, James Howson, Solomon Glave, Shannon Beer, Steve Evets. U.S. Premiere*

**Your Sister's Sister** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Lynn Shelton) — While still mourning the recent death of his brother, a bereft and confused man finds love and direction in a most unexpected place. *Cast: Emily Blunt, Rosemarie DeWitt, Mark Duplass. U.S. Premiere*

#### **PARK CITY AT MIDNIGHT**

From horror flicks to comedies to works that defy any genre, these unruly films will keep you edge-seated and wide awake. Each is a world premiere.

**Black Rock** / U.S.A. (Director: Katie Aselton, Screenwriter: Mark Duplass) — Three childhood friends set aside their personal issues and reunite for a girls' weekend on a remote island off the coast of Maine. One wrong move turns their weekend getaway into a deadly fight for survival. *Cast: Katie Aselton, Lake Bell, Kate Bosworth.*

**Excision** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Richard Bates, Jr.) — A disturbed and delusional high school student with aspirations of a career in medicine goes to extremes to earn the approval of her controlling mother. *Cast: AnnaLynne McCord, Traci Lords, Ariel Winter, Roger Bart, John Waters.*

**Grabbers** / Ireland, United Kingdom (Director: Jon Wright, Screenwriter: Kevin Lehane) — When the residents of an idyllic Irish fishing village are attacked by mysterious, blood-sucking sea creatures, a high blood alcohol content could be the only thing that gets them through the night. *Cast: Richard Coyle, Ruth Bradley, Russell Tovey, Bronagh Gallagher.*

**The Pact** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Nicholas McCarthy) — As a woman struggles to come to grips with her past in the wake of her mother's death, an unsettling presence emerges in her childhood home. *Cast: Caity Lotz, Casper Van Dien.*

**SHUT UP AND PLAY THE HITS** / United Kingdom (Directors: Dylan Southern, Will Lovelace) — A film that follows LCD Soundsystem front man James Murphy over a crucial 48-hour period, from the day of their final gig at Madison Square Garden to the morning after, the official end of one of the best live bands in the world.

**Tim and Eric's Billion Dollar Movie** / U.S.A. (Directors and screenwriters: Tim Heidecker, Eric Wareheim) — After two guys are given a billion dollars to make a movie, their Hollywood dreams run off course and they decide to rehabilitate a run-down shopping mall in an attempt to make the money back. *Cast: Tim Heidecker, Eric Wareheim.*

**V/H/S** / U.S.A. (Directors: Adam Wingard, David Bruckner, Ti West, Glenn McQuaid, Joe Swanberg, Radio Silence, Screenwriters: Simon Barrett, David Bruckner, Ti West, Glenn McQuaid, Radio Silence) —

When a group of misfits is hired by an unknown third party to burglarize a desolate house and acquire a rare VHS tape, they discover more found footage than they bargained for. *Cast: Joe Swanberg, Calvin Reeder, Adam Wingard, Sophia Takal, Kate Lyn Sheil.*

#### **NEXT <=>**

NEXT <=> encompasses a selection of pure, bold works by promising filmmakers distinguished by an innovative, forward-thinking approach to storytelling. Presented by Adobe Systems Incorporated. Each is a world premiere.

**COMPLIANCE** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Craig Zobel) — When a prank caller convinces a fast food restaurant manager to interrogate an innocent young employee, no one is left unscathed. Based on true events. *Cast: Ann Dowd, Pat Healy, Dreema Walker, Bill Camp, Philip Ettinger.*

**I AM NOT A HIPSTER** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Destin Daniel Cretton) — Based in San Diego's indie music and art scene, *I AM NOT A HIPSTER* features original song performances and explores what it means to be creative in the face of tragedy. *Cast: Dominic Bogart, Alvaro Orlando, Brad William Henke, Tammy Minoff, Kandis Erickson, Lauren Coleman.*

**KID-THING** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: David Zellner) — A rebellious girl whose existence is devoid of parental guidance, spends her time roaming the land, shoplifting, and vandalizing. Her routine is broken one day while playing in the woods when she hears a woman calling from a mysterious hole in the ground, asking for help. *Cast: Sydney Aguirre, Susan Tyrrell, Nathan Zellner, David Zellner.*

**Mosquita y Mari** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Aurora Guerrero) — A friendship between two 15-year-old Latinas becomes complex as they struggle to recognize the sexual undercurrent in their relationship. *Cast: Fenessa Pineda, Venecia Troncoso, Joaquín Garrido, Laura Patalano, Dulce Maria Solís.*

**My Best Day** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Erin Greenwell) — Karen's life as a small-town receptionist is turned upside down when the father she never knew calls for a refrigerator repair. That day she encounters a sister addicted to off track betting, a brother struggling with grade school heartache and bullies, and a load of fireworks. *Cast: Rachel Style, Ashlie Atkinson, Raúl Castillo, Jo Armeniox, Robert Salerno, Harris Doran.*

**Pursuit of Loneliness** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Laurence Thrush) — An elderly patient dies in a county hospital leaving no known next of kin. Over the next 24 hours, four central characters try to find a family member to contact regarding the death of this anonymous individual. *Cast: Joy Hille, Sandra Escalante, Sharon Munfus, Kirsi Toivanen, Natalie Fourn.*

**Sleepwalk With Me** / U.S.A. (Director: Mike Birbiglia, Screenwriters: Mike Birbiglia, Ira Glass, Joe Birbiglia, Seth Barrish) — Reluctant to confront his fears of love, honesty, and growing up, a budding standup comedian has both a hilarious and intense struggle with sleepwalking. *Cast: Mike Birbiglia, Lauren Ambrose, Carol Kane, James Rebhorn, Cristin Milioti.*

**That's What She Said** / U.S.A. (Director: Carrie Preston, Screenwriter: Kellie Overbey) — A film about a big date, a bitter best friend and a total stranger who can't stop talking about her hoo-hah. *Cast: Anne Heche, Marcia DeBonis, Alia Shawkat.*

**28 Hotel Rooms** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Matt Ross) — Seen only as fragments in the secret world of hotel rooms, a long-term affair becomes perhaps the most significant relationship of a couple's lives. *Cast: Chris Messina, Marin Ireland.*

## NEW FRONTIER

With media installations, multimedia performances, transmedia experiences, panels, film screenings, and more, New Frontier highlights work that celebrates experimentation and the expansion of cinema culture through the convergence of film, art, and new media technology. These films complement the previously announced installations and performances in the New Frontier venue at the Festival.

***Bestiaire*** / Canada, France (Director: Denis Côté) — The boundaries we place around animals are provocatively and formally explored in this meditation on the relationship between nature and humanity. *World Premiere*

***An Oversimplification of Her Beauty*** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Terence Nance) — A quixotic young man humorously courses live action and various animated landscapes as he tries to understand himself after a mystery girl stands him up. *Cast: Terence Nance, Namik Minter, Chanelle Pearson. World Premiere*

***THE PERCEPTION OF MOVING TARGETS*** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Weston Currie) — A segmenting journey into the dreams of four neighbors. *Cast: Brigid Thomas, Cherie Blackfeather, Gerald Casey, Tom Wood, Jin Camou.*

***Room 237*** / U.S.A. (Director: Rodney Ascher) — This experimental documentary explores the numerous theories about the real meaning of Stanley Kubrick's film *The Shining*. *World Premiere*

***whiteonwhite:algorithmicnoir*** / U.S.A., Kazakhstan (Directors: Eve Sussman | Rufus Corporation, Screenwriters: Eve Sussman, Kevin Messman, Jeff Wood) — A computer program assembles raw elements of music, dialogue, sound and footage shot in Kazakhstan into a generative noir mystery film in this live algorithmic performance. *Cast: Jeff Wood, Marina Fedorenko.*

## The Sundance Film Festival

A program of the non-profit Sundance Institute, the Festival has introduced global audiences to some of the most ground-breaking films of the past two decades, including *sex, lies, and videotape*, *Maria Full of Grace*, *The Cove*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Precious*, *Trouble the Water*, and *Napoleon Dynamite*, and through its New Frontier initiative, has showcased the cinematic works of media artists including Isaac Julien, Doug Aitken, Pierre Huyghe, Jennifer Steinkamp, and Matthew Barney. The 2012 Sundance Film Festival sponsors include: Presenting Sponsors – *Entertainment Weekly*, HP, Acura, Sundance Channel and Chase Sapphire<sup>SM</sup>; Leadership Sponsors – Adobe Systems Incorporated, Bing<sup>TM</sup>, Canon, DIRECTV, Focus Forward, a partnership between GE and CINELAN, Southwest Airlines, Sprint and Yahoo!; Sustaining Sponsors – Bertolli® Frozen Meal Soups, FilterForGood®, a partnership between Brita® and Nalgene®, Grey Goose® Vodka, Hilton HHonors and Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts, L'Oréal Paris, Stella Artois®, Timberland, Time Warner Inc. and YouTube<sup>TM</sup>. Sundance Institute recognizes critical support from the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development, and the State of Utah as Festival Host State. The support of these organizations will defray costs associated with the 10-day Festival and the nonprofit Sundance Institute's year-round programs for independent film and theatre artists. [www.sundance.org/festival](http://www.sundance.org/festival)

## Sundance Institute

Sundance Institute is a global nonprofit organization founded by Robert Redford in 1981. Through its artistic development programs for directors, screenwriters, producers, composers and playwrights, the Institute seeks to discover and support independent film and theatre artists from the United States and around the world, and to introduce audiences to their new work. The Institute promotes independent storytelling to inform, inspire, and unite diverse populations around the globe. Internationally recognized for its annual Sundance Film Festival, Sundance Institute has nurtured such projects as *Born into Brothels*, *Trouble the Water*, *Son of Babylon*, *Amreeka*, *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Spring Awakening*, *I Am My Own Wife*, *Light in the Piazza* and *Angels in America*. Join [Sundance Institute](http://www.sundance.org) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

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For images go to <http://press.sundance.org/press>.