



5900 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 800, Los Angeles, CA 90036
1825 Three Kings Dr., Park City, UT 84060
321 W 44th Street, Suite 805, New York, NY 10036

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 11, 2017

Media Contact:
Spencer Alcorn
310.360.1981

spencer_alcorn@sundance.org

ANNOUNCING THE JURY MEMBERS OF THE 2017 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

Jessica Williams to Host Live-Streamed Awards Show

Park City, UT — Sundance Institute will convene 24 experts in film, art, culture and science to award feature-length work shown at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival with 28 prizes, announced at a ceremony January 28 that will be livestreamed at sundance.org, and on YouTube and Facebook. Short Film Awards will be announced at a separate ceremony on January 24 and will also be live streamed. The Festival takes place January 19-29 in Park City, Salt Lake City and Sundance, Utah.

Hosting that Awards ceremony: actress, comedian, correspondent and podcast host **Jessica Williams**. Star of the Jim Strouse film *The Incredible Jessica James*, playing in the Festival's Premieres section, she also acts as on-air correspondent with *The Daily Show* and co-hosts a podcast with friend and fellow comedian Phoebe Robinson titled *2 Dope Queens*.

The awards, which recognize standout artistic and story elements, are voted on by each of six section juries. Additionally, as in years past, Festival audiences have a role in deciding the 2017 Audience Awards, which will recognize five films in the U.S. Competition, World Competition and NEXT categories.

U.S. Documentary Jury

Diego Buñuel

Diego Buñuel is a French filmmaker born in 1975 and the host and director of the National Geographic Channel series, *Don't Tell My Mother*. He is also the host of a television news show in France called *Les Nouveaux Explorateurs*, broadcast on Canal Plus. In 2014 he was appointed director of documentaries and factual entertainment at Canal Plus.

Julie Goldman

Julie Goldman is an Emmy Award-winning producer and executive producer of documentary feature films. Julie produced *Life*, *Animated* and executive produced *Weiner*, which premiered and won awards at the Sundance Film Festival. She also executive produced 2015 Festival premieres *3½ Minutes*, *Ten Bullets*; and *Best of Enemies: Buckley vs. Vidal*; as well as *1971* and the Oscar shortlisted films *Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry*; *The Kill Team*; and *Art and Craft*. Julie produced *Gideon's Army*; *Manhunt: The Inside Story of the Hunt for Bin Laden*; *God Loves Uganda*; *The Great Invisible*; and *Buck*, which was Oscar shortlisted and one of 2011's top five grossing documentaries. Julie consulted on the Academy Award-winning *The Cove* and produced the Oscar shortlisted *Sergio*. In 2016 Julie was awarded the Amazon Studios Sundance Institute Producer's Award and the Cinereach producer award.

Robert Greene

Robert Greene is a filmmaker and writer. His films include the 2016 Sundance Film Festival award-winning *Kate Plays Christine*, the Gotham Awards-nominated *Actress* (2014), *Fake It So Real* (2011), and the Gotham Awards-nominated *Kati With An I* (2010). Robert has edited over a dozen features, including *Golden Exits* (2017), *Queen of Earth* (2015), and *Listen Up Philip* (2014) by Alex Ross Perry; the award-winning *Approaching the Elephant* (2014) by Amanda Wilder; and the Independent Spirit Awards-nominated *Christmas, Again* (2014) by Charles Poekel. Robert writes about documentary for *Sight & Sound* and serves as the filmmaker-in-chief at the Murray Center for Documentary Journalism at the University of Missouri. His first book, *Present Tense: Notes On American Nonfiction Cinema, 1998–2013* is coming in 2017.

Susan Lacy

During her 30 years as series creator and executive producer of *American Masters* on PBS, Susan Lacy produced over 215 documentaries about our nation's cultural giants. Under her watch, the series garnered an unprecedented 71 Emmy nominations and 28 wins (including 10 for Outstanding Nonfiction Series), 12 Peabody Awards, and three Grammys. She directed and produced multiple award-winning films for the series too, portraits of David Geffen, Judy Garland, Joni Mitchell, Leonard Bernstein, Rod Serling, and Lena Horne. In 2013, Susan began a new chapter in her documentary career, forming her own company, Pentimento Productions. She's now focused solely on directing and producing—her first films are already underway, all part of her company's exclusive multi-picture deal with HBO.

Larry Wilmore

Emmy Award-winner Larry Wilmore has been a television producer, actor, comedian, and writer for more than 25 years. He is perhaps best known for his role as host of Comedy Central's critically acclaimed *The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore*. Offscreen, he serves as co-creator and consulting producer on *Insecure* and also helped launch ABC's *Black-ish* as an executive producer. His additional television work includes *Larry Wilmore's Race, Religion & Sex*, memorable appearances on *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart, and writing for *In Living Color*, *The PJs* (which he co-created), *The Office*, and *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. He also served as creator, writer, and executive producer of *The Bernie Mac Show*, which earned him a 2002 Emmy Award and a 2001 Peabody Award.

U.S. Dramatic Jury

Gael García Bernal

Gael García Bernal recently gained critical acclaim—and a Golden Globe Award for best actor in a comedy series—for his role in *Mozart in the Jungle*. The series also won a Golden Globe Award for best comedy series, and the show returned for its third season in December 2016. Having worked as an actor since his childhood in Mexico, Bernal made his feature film debut in Alejandro G. Iñárritu's Academy Award-nominated *Amores Perros*. His next roles were in the Academy Award nominees *Y Tu Mamá También* and *El Crimen del Padre Amaro*. Bernal was last seen in the 2016 films *Desierto* and *Neruda*, and he will be starring in the upcoming film *Z*, directed by Jonás Cuarón.

Peter Dinklage

Peter Dinklage's breakout role came in 2003, when he redefined the concept of a leading man in the Sundance Film Festival Audience Award-winner *The Station Agent*. Since then, Peter has been a constant force in the acting world, best known for his role as Tyrion Lannister in *Game of Thrones*, for which he has won two Emmy Awards and a Golden Globe Award. He has starred in such films as *X-Men: Days of Future Past*, *Death at a Funeral*, *Living in Oblivion*, and many others. Peter will next be seen in Martin McDonagh's *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, opposite Frances McDormand and Sam Rockwell, and in Mark Palansky's *Rememory*, with Anton Yelchin and Julia Ormond.

Jody Hill

A native of Concord, North Carolina, Jody is a graduate of the filmmaking program at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where he met future collaborators Ben Best and Danny McBride. Years after graduation, the trio reconnected to make *The Foot Fist Way*, Jody's debut feature, an ultra-low-budget taekwondo comedy. The film premiered at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival and caught the attention of Will Ferrell and Adam McKay, who championed its release through their production company, Gary Sanchez Productions. Jody's sophomore film, *Observe and Report*, which he wrote and directed, was released in 2009. He reteamed with Best and McBride as co-creator of the HBO sports comedy series *Eastbound & Down*, which aired from 2009 to 2013. Jody's most recent series for HBO, *Vice Principals*, also co-created with McBride, premiered in 2016.

Jacqueline Lyanga

Jacqueline Lyanga has been the director of AFI Fest—the American Film Institute's annual film festival in Los Angeles—since 2010. She has worked for AFI as a film programmer and producer since 2005, and has been a guest and moderator of industry panels at the Berlin International Film Festival, the Cannes Film Festival, and the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). She has reviewed grants for the Austin Film Society and the National Endowment for the Arts, and she has served on international film festival juries at the Edinburgh International Film Festival, Outfest, and TIFF, among others. In 2014, Jacqueline was featured in *Variety's Women's Impact Report* as one of the entertainment industry's female leaders deemed a game changer and innovator.

Jeannine Oppewall

Jeannine Oppewall started her career working with Charles and Ray Eames, who were among the most famous American designers and filmmakers of the twentieth century. The first film that Jeannine designed was *Tender Mercies*. She has received Academy Award nominations for her production design on *L.A. Confidential*, *Pleasantville*, *Seabiscuit*, and *The Good Shepherd*. Other films for which she is known are *Catch Me If You Can*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, *The Music Box*, and her most recent film, Warren Beatty's *Rules Don't Apply*. Oppewall served on the Board of Governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for nine years, and she is currently on the Academy's Foreign Language Film Award Executive Committee.

World Cinema Dramatic Jury**Nai An**

After graduating from the Central Academy of Drama, Nai An started producing feature films as an independent producer. She also founded Dream Factory, which is dedicated to discovering, cultivating, and helping promising young Chinese directors. Nai An has produced several films directed by Lou Ye including *Purple Butterfly* (2003), *Summer Palace* (2006), and *Spring Fever* (2009), which were all selected by in competition at the Cannes Film Festival. *Spring Fever* was awarded Best Screenplay at Cannes and Grand Prix at the Chinese Independent Film Festival. *Blind Massage*, also produced by Nai An, played at the 2014 Berlin International Film Festival and won the Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution. As an actress, Nai An was awarded Best Actress at the 65th Festival del film Locarno in 2012 with *When Night Falls*.

Sonia Braga

Sonia Braga was born in 1950 and made her acting debut in the 1968 feature *O Bandido da Luz Vermelha* before achieving fame in Brazil as a star of telenovelas. Bruno Baretto's 1976 hit *Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands* introduced Sonia to international audiences. In the 1980s, she moved to Hollywood to work with directors such as Robert Redford and Clint Eastwood, and also worked on various American TV series, including *Sex and the City*. After *The Milagro Beanfield War* in 1988, Sonia Braga returned to the Cannes Film Festival with *Aquarius*, the second feature by director Kleber Mendonça Filho.

Athina Rachel Tsangari

Athina Rachel Tsangari's *Attenberg* premiered at the 2010 Venice Film Festival where it won the Coppa Volpi Award for Best Actress (Ariane Labeled) and was showcased as a Spotlight film at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. In 2012 her short horror film *The Capsule* premiered at the Festival del film Locarno and played at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. Her latest feature, *Chevalier* (2015), won Best Film at the BFI London Film Festival and was nominated for Best International Film at the Film Independent Spirit Awards. Both *Attenberg* and *Chevalier* were chosen as Greece's submissions to the Academy Awards. For the last ten years, Tsangari has operated Haos Film, a filmmaker-run production studio based in Athens, Greece. In 2015 she was the filmmaker in residence of the Film Society Lincoln Center, where she worked on the script for her upcoming film *White Knuckles*.

World Cinema Documentary Jury**Carl Spence**

Carl Spence began curating films and concerts at the University of Washington during the grunge era. He started his festival career in 1994 at the Seattle International Film Festival, which he helped grow over the past two decades to become one of the largest film festivals in North America. He also led the organization's expansion into year-round exhibition, making SIFF the leading independent art house exhibitor in Seattle, and he served as SIFF's director and chief curator prior to starting his own consulting firm, CCS Arts, in 2016. Carl held the position of director of programming for both the Palm Springs International Film Festival and the San Francisco International Film Festival, and in 2014 he helped co-found the Orcas Island Film Festival as an advisor and chief curator.

Marina Stavenhagen

Marina Stavenhagen is a screenwriter and film promoter. She has created and directed several film festivals in Mexico and has participated as a curator and advisor of many more. Marina is a member of the board of the Guadalajara International Film Festival, a film curator for the ArteCareyes Film & Arts Festival, and the executive director of the San Cristobal International Film Festival. She is also a member of the advisors' board of the Iberoamerican "Fenix" Film Award, the Bergman Chair at the National University, and a member of the executive committee of the Mexican Film Academy. Her writing credits include *In the Middle of Nowhere* (1993); *Streeters* (2010), for which she won the Mexican Academy Award for best screenplay; *Guerrilla & Hope: Lucio Cabañas* (2006); and *Round Trip* (2008), among other awarded films. From 2007 to 2013, Marina was the director general at the Mexican Film Institute.

Lynette Wallworth

Lynette Wallworth is an acclaimed Australian artist and filmmaker whose work has been shown at the Sundance Film Festival's New Frontier section since 2009. Her works include the interactive video *Evolution of Fearlessness*; the full-dome feature *Coral*, with its accompanying augmented reality work; and the virtual reality narrative *Collisions*, developed through the inaugural Sundance Institute New Frontier | Jaunt VR Residency. *Collisions* premiered at the 2016 World Economic Forum at Davos and the Sundance Film Festival. In 2014, Wallworth's feature documentary *Tender* won the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Award for best televised documentary and was nominated for a Grierson Award. In 2016, Wallworth was awarded a UNESCO City of Film Award and the Byron Kennedy Award for Innovation and Excellence, and she was named by *Foreign Policy* magazine as one of the year's "100 Leading Global Thinkers."

Short Film Jury

Shirley Kurata

Shirley Kurata is a Los Angeles–based costume designer and wardrobe stylist. She studied fashion in Paris for three years and received a BA in general art before working as a costumer for several years on various television and film projects. From there she has gone on to do costume design for commercials, music videos, and films in addition to styling for various fashion editorials and runway shows.

David Lowery

David Lowery is a filmmaker from Texas. His films include *Pioneer*, *St. Nick*, *Ain't Them Bodies Saints*, and *Pete's Dragon*.

Patton Oswalt

Patton Oswalt is a comedian, actor, writer, comedian, and writer. In his spare time he does stand-up comedy. You may have seen him acting in movies or television. He also writes.

Alfred P. Sloan Feature Film Prize Jury**Heather Berlin**

Heather Berlin is a cognitive neuroscientist, psychiatry professor at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and visiting scholar at the New York Psychoanalytic Society & Institute. She explores interactions of the human brain and mind to develop treatments for impulsive and compulsive psychiatric disorders. She's also interested in the neural basis of consciousness, dynamic unconscious processes, and creativity. Berlin is a committee member of the National Academy of Sciences' Science and Entertainment Exchange, and she hosts PBS's *Science Goes to the Movies* and Discovery Channel's *Superhuman Showdown*. She also co-wrote and stars in the critically acclaimed Off-Broadway and Edinburgh Fringe Festival show *Off the Top*, about the neuroscience of improvisation. Berlin has made numerous media appearances, including on the BBC, History Channel, Netflix, *StarTalk* with Neil deGrasse Tyson, and TEDx. She received her PhD from the University of Oxford and master of public health from Harvard University.

Tracy Drain

Tracy Drain is a flight systems engineer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. She is currently the deputy chief engineer for the Juno Mission. Tracy obtained a BS in mechanical engineering from the University of Kentucky and an MS in mechanical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology before beginning her career at JPL in 2000. In her 16 years there, she has participated in the development and operation of the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (a science and relay spacecraft orbiting Mars), the Kepler mission (searching for exoplanets), and the Juno Mission to Jupiter. Tracy is passionate about space exploration and loves taking every opportunity to encourage students to consider pursuing exciting careers in STEM fields.

Nell Greenfieldboyce

Nell Greenfieldboyce is a science correspondent for National Public Radio who covers everything from anti-matter to narwhals and DNA. She's worked at NPR since 2005, and before that she spent about a decade writing news and features for magazines like *New Scientist* and *U. S. News & World Report*. She was honored for her writing talents with the Evert Clark/Seth Payne Award for Young Science Journalists. Greenfieldboyce earned her BA in social sciences and MA in science writing from Johns Hopkins University, where she also taught science writing for four years.

Nicole Perlman



Nicole Perlman is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She won the 2006 Tribeca Film Festival's Sloan Grant for science in film for her screenplay "Challenger," which also placed on the Black List. Nicole co-wrote the 2014 blockbuster *Guardians of the Galaxy*, which won both the Nebula Award and the Hugo Award. She is currently co-writing *Detective Pikachu* for Legendary Studios and *Captain Marvel* for Marvel Studios, and she is developing the science fiction series *True Skin* for Amazon Studios. Recently, Nicole wrote her first Marvel comic book, *Gamora #1*. She is thrilled to be a 2017 Sundance Institute Screenwriters Lab creative advisor and to participate in the Cinereach directing fellowship.

Jennifer Phang

At the 2015 Sundance Film Festival, Jennifer Phang's sophomore feature *Advantageous* won a U.S. Dramatic Competition Special Jury Award. The film was acquired by Netflix and nominated for a Film Independent Spirit Award. A sci-fi drama about the future of women, *Advantageous* was the feature adaptation of Phang's ITVS Award-winning short by the same name. This year Phang directed episodes of *The Exorcist* for Fox and *Major Crimes* for Warner Bros. Television. Phang's debut feature, *Half-Life*, premiered at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival, screened at the SXSW Film Festival, and was released by SundanceTV.

The Sundance Film Festival®

The Sundance Film Festival has introduced global audiences to some of the most groundbreaking films of the past three decades, including *Boyhood*, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Fruitvale Station*, *Whiplash*, *Brooklyn*, *Twenty Feet from Stardom*, *Life Itself*, *The Cove*, *The End of the Tour*, *Blackfish*, *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*, *Super Size Me*, *Dope*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *sex, lies, and videotape*, *Reservoir Dogs*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Precious* and *Napoleon Dynamite*. The Festival is a program of the non-profit Sundance Institute®. 2017 Festival sponsors to date include: Presenting Sponsors – Acura, SundanceTV, Chase Sapphire®, and Canada Goose; Leadership Sponsors – Adobe, AT&T, DIRECTV, Omnicom, Stella Artois® and YouTube; Sustaining Sponsors – American Airlines, Canon U.S.A., Inc., Creators League Studio, Daydream, Francis Ford Coppola Winery, GEICO, *The Hollywood Reporter*, IMDb, Jaunt, Kickstarter, Oculus and the University of Utah Health. 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 helps offset the Festival's costs and sustain the Institute's year-round programs for independent artists. Look for the Official Sponsor seal at their venues at the Festival. sundance.org/festival

Sundance Institute

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 *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*. Join [Sundance Institute](http://SundanceInstitute) on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

###

Editor's note: For images, visit sundance.org/images or image.net (registration free but required).