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Sundance Institute Presents: An Artist at the Table Presented by IMDbPro

Darren Walker, President of the Ford Foundation, to Receive
the Inaugural Vanguard Award for Philanthropy

Evening Featuring the World Premiere of *Crip Camp*: Tickets on Sale Now [Here](#)

Park City, UT — Sundance Institute invites champions of independent storytelling to attend **An Artist at the Table Presented by IMDbPro**, Sundance Institute's annual fundraising event hosted on the first night of the Sundance Film Festival, Thursday, January 23, 2020, in Park City, Utah. During the celebratory event, **Darren Walker**, President of the Ford Foundation, will be honored with the Vanguard Award for Philanthropy. Proceeds from the evening will advance Sundance Institute's mission and programs that discover, support and amplify risk-taking and exciting independent film, media and theatre artists. In addition to Presenting Sponsor IMDbPro, the event is supported by Lead Sponsor the **George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation**.

The evening will begin with the world premiere of *Crip Camp*, a documentary detailing the revolution that blossomed in a ramshackle summer camp for disabled teenagers, transforming their young lives and igniting a landmark movement down the road from Woodstock, New York in the early 1970's. Directed by **Nicole Newnham** and **Jim LeBrecht** and produced by **Sara Bolder**, Jim LeBrecht, and Nicole Newnham, the film will screen in the U.S. Documentary Competition category of the Festival. *Crip Camp* was developed at Sundance Institute's 2018 Documentary Edit and Story Lab; participated in the Institute's Creative Producing Summit, Catalyst Forum, and Impact Intensive; and received a grant from the Institute's 2017 Sundance Documentary Film Fund.

Following the screening, guests will convene for a celebratory dinner and a brief live program, centered on the creative minds behind some of today's most exciting new stories in independent film and media and celebrating the Institute's community of supporters and artists. Each table is hosted by a Sundance Institute artist, allowing guests the unique opportunity to connect directly with Institute alumni and learn more about their artistic paths, works, and experiences. This year's artists include **Ritesh Batra** (*Photograph*), **Joe Berlinger** (*Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile*), **Catherine Gund** (*Aggie*), **Lisa Kron** (*Fun Home*), **Dee Rees** (*The Last Thing He Wanted*), **Junaid Sarieddeen** (*36 Abbas Street, Haifa*), **Nanfu Wang** (*One Child Nation*), **Benh Zeitlin** (*Wendy*), and **Marina Zenovich** (*Lance*), with more to be confirmed.

The evening will also feature Sundance Institute's inaugural **Vanguard Award for Philanthropy**, which honors innovation, originality, and independent spirit as demonstrated over an exemplary career in philanthropy and social impact. This year's honoree, **Darren Walker**, has helmed transformational initiatives like the Art for Justice Fund, demonstrated a commitment to diversifying leadership in museums and cultural institutions, and redesigned the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice. His tenure at the Ford Foundation has inspired many, provided



long-lasting career stability for hundreds of artists, and created space for a more just and equitable arts landscape in the United States and around the world.

"On behalf of my colleagues at the Ford Foundation, I am honored to receive the Vanguard Award for Philanthropy from Sundance Institute," said Walker. "The projects and artists supported by Sundance have helped shape public discourse on some of the most pressing social issues of our time. As a society, we can, and should, do more to support our artists as leaders in the community."

"The opening night of the Sundance Film Festival is a perfect occasion to celebrate the incredible artists, audiences and supporters who together fuel the creative community of Sundance Institute - dedicated to independent voices, risk-taking art, and stories that seek truth and forge connections," said **Keri Putnam**, CEO of Sundance Institute. "As a visionary leader in the philanthropic space, Darren and his inspiring work embody the spirit of Sundance Institute and we are pleased to honor him with the Vanguard Award for Philanthropy."

While this is the first special iteration of the Vanguard to honor a philanthropist, Sundance Institute has previously presented the Vanguard Leadership Award to established filmmakers and the Vanguard Emerging Award to new independent storytellers. Previous winners of the Vanguard Award include **Lulu Wang, Boots Riley, Marielle Heller, Benh Zeitlin, Ryan Coogler, Damien Chazelle, and Dee Rees**; winners of the Vanguard Leadership Award include **Quentin Tarantino, Alejandro G. Iñárritu, Glenn Close, and Roger Ebert**.

Tickets and packages are available [here](#).

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 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 *Sorry to Bother You, Eighth Grade, Won't You Be My Neighbor?, Hereditary, RBG, Call Me By Your Name, Get Out, The Big Sick, Top of the Lake, Winter's Bone, Dear White People, Brooklyn, Little Miss Sunshine, 20 Feet From Stardom, Beasts of the Southern Wild, Fruitvale Station, I'm Poppy, America to Me, Leimert Park, Spring Awakening, A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* and *Fun Home*. Join [Sundance Institute](#) on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

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