The Metroplex and Sundance Institute Proudly Present

2017 Sundance Film Festival: Hong Kong
September 21 to October 1, 2017

(Hong Kong) The Sundance Film Festival: Hong Kong returns for the fourth edition this September with a curated selection of 12 independent films, direct from this year’s Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, U.S.A.

From September 21 to October 1, these 12 highly acclaimed and award-winning titles will premiere in Hong Kong, along with two panel discussions with our visiting filmmakers, making the festival a fruitful and exciting event that any film lover simply cannot miss. Tickets are now on sale for The Metroplex VIP Metropolitans, and to the general public.

12 Independent Films Premiere in Hong Kong with Filmmakers in Attendance

The 2017 Sundance Film Festival: Hong Kong will showcase 12 narrative and documentary films from the 2017 Sundance Film Festival in Utah, in addition to the winners of this year’s Sundance Film Festival: Hong Kong Short Film Competition.

As always, the lineup features a diverse genre of film, from comedies set in the medieval past to our social media world present; drama and documentaries that revolve around sexuality, race, social issues, love, loss and identity. This year’s films are: A Ghost Story, Band Aid, Beach Rats, City of Ghosts, Columbus, Gook, The Hero, Ingrid Goes West, The Little Hours, Patti Cake$, STEP and Wind River.

The festival will open with the critically acclaimed drama A Ghost Story, starring Academy Award winner Casey Affleck and Academy Award nominee Rooney Mara. Director David Lowery reunited the cast from his previous film, Ain’t Them Bodies Saints, and created this haunting drama about a recently deceased man (Casey Affleck) who returns to his home and wife (Rooney Mara), and watches passively as everything he knew slowly slips away... A Ghost Story will premiere on September 21 with director David Lowery attending the post-screening Q&A session to meet the audience.
Other filmmakers who will attend the 2017 Sundance Film Festival: Hong Kong to participate in post-screening Q&As with audiences include: Zoe Lister-Jones (Band Aid), Brett Haley (The Hero), Matt Spicer (Ingrid Goes West), Jeff Baena (The Little Hours), and Amanda Lipitz (STEP).

Josephine Lam and Stuart Wang, Directors of The Metroplex, said, “The fourth edition of the Sundance Film Festival: Hong Kong comes back bolder and richer. The tremendous success of the last three editions has proven that Hong Kong embraces the creativity of independent filmmaking. We remain committed to supporting the strong emerging independent film culture in Hong Kong, including showcasing the local winners of this year’s Short Film Competition. Together with Sundance Institute, we look forward to growing this world-class film festival into a must-attend event for moviephiles in Hong Kong.”

John Cooper, Director of Sundance Film Festival, said, "Our Hong Kong lineup of independent films direct from the Sundance Film Festival continues to connect filmmakers and their unique stories to new audiences on the other side of our world. We are excited to include the winners of our Hong Kong Short Film Competition alongside other feature-length award winners, as well as exciting panels geared towards emerging local filmmakers and our growing ranks of Sundance film fans.”

Short Film Competition & Award-winning Shorts

With the vision of nurturing local filmmakers, The Metroplex and Sundance Institute first introduced the Sundance Film Festival: Hong Kong Short Film Competition in 2016, to enthusiastic response from local filmmakers. The jury award winner Trumpt Man was a selection for the 2016 Sundance Film Festival: Hong Kong and was a selection for the 2017 Sundance Film Festival in Utah, which director Emily Wong attended to meet international audiences and fellow filmmakers from around the world.

This year we continue to host the Short Film Competition, with a panel of judges from the Sundance Film Festival (John Cooper, Director of Sundance Film Festival; Trevor Groth, Director of Programming; Kim Yutani, Senior Programmer, Mike Plante, Senior Short Film Programmer) and Hong Kong (Fruit Chan, Hong Kong independent filmmaker; Ka Ming Fung, Hong Kong film critic; Jan Lam, Program Manager of The Metroplex) to select the most outstanding shorts to screen during the 2017 Sundance Film Festival: Hong Kong. Winners and the official short film lineup will be announced in the opening ceremony on September 21, 2017.

Panel Discussions with U.S. Directors

The Filmmakers’ Panel Discussion is a section that local audiences and aspiring filmmakers look forward to each year, a rare opportunity to interact with accomplished filmmakers from the U.S. and hear about their journeys in making their film.

This year there will be two panel discussions on topics of interest to almost all aspiring filmmakers – screenwriting and music.
**September 23 - The Art of Screenwriting**

On September 23, our visiting directors and accomplished screenwriters David Lowery (*A Ghost Story*), Brett Haley (*The Hero*), Matt Spicer (*Ingrid Goes West, 2017 Sundance Film Festival Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award*), and Jeff Baena (*The Little Hours*), will share their personal inspiration and unique stories as both writers and directors. Panel moderated by Kim Yutani (Senior Programmer, Sundance Film Festival).

**September 24 - Using Music to Tell Stories**

On September 24, filmmakers Zoe Lister-Jones (*Band Aid*) and Amanda Lipitz (*STEP*) will discuss the joys and challenges of music as an indispensable element in a film. Panel moderated by Trevor Groth (Director of Programming, Sundance Film Festival).

Admission fee for each panel is HKD30 per person (with complimentary popcorn). Interested parties can purchase tickets online via [hk.sundance.org](http://hk.sundance.org).

**2017 Sundance Film Festival: Hong Kong**

priority booking for The Metroplex VIP Metropolitans is available now, and opened to the general public on August 21. Tickets can be purchased at The Metroplex Box Office, The Metroplex Internet Ticketing ([www.metroplex.com.hk](http://www.metroplex.com.hk)) and The Metroplex iPhone and Android Apps Ticketing (HKD8 handling fee will be charged for each ticket purchased online or via Apps).

Film ticket price: Adult - HKD90; Student/Child/Senior - HKD80. Become a VIP Metropolitan to enjoy 20% discount on single tickets and 30% discount on special package (includes 1 ticket for each of the 12 feature films).

The **2017 Sundance Film Festival: Hong Kong** is co-organized by The Metroplex and Sundance Institute; with the support of the following parties –

**Supporting Sponsor:** Utah Office of Tourism and Film
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**Film Details**
A Ghost Story (Director: David Lowery) Lowery’s meticulously sparse narrative contemplates a spectral figure who was once a man (Casey Affleck). Prematurely taken from this Earth, he makes his way toward his former home, where he is fated to remain forevermore. Shrouded in a white sheet, he observes the lament of his grief-stricken lover (Rooney Mara). Bearing unseen witness to her pain, the wisp stands sentry for years to come, interacting only with time as it hurts further and further forward, the remnants of his humanity quietly evaporating. OPENING FILM / HONG KONG PREMIERE
Trailer of A Ghost Story - https://youtu.be/c_3NMtxeyfk

Band Aid (Director: Zoe Lister-Jones) Married couple Anna and Ben fight constantly. It doesn’t help that they’ve each come to a standstill in their careers, or that, together, they’ve suffered a heartbreak neither wants to face. But one day they come up with a brilliant idea they actually agree on: Why not start a band and use their arguments as songwriting inspiration? Almost as soon as they dig out their old electric guitars from the garage, their musical partnership starts to jell, but it soon becomes apparent this is only a temporary distraction from their real problems. HONG KONG PREMIERE
Trailer of Band Aid - https://youtu.be/O4OuIMhUe1A

Beach Rats (Director: Eliza Hittman) Frankie, an aimless teenager on the outer edges of Brooklyn, is having a miserable summer. With his father dying and his mother wanting him to find a girlfriend, Frankie escapes the bleakness of his home life by causing trouble with his delinquent friends and flirting with older men online. When his chatting and web camming intensify, he finally starts hooking up with guys at a nearby cruising beach while simultaneously entering into a cautious relationship with a young woman. As Frankie struggles to reconcile his competing desires, his decisions leave him hurtling toward irreparable consequences. Winner of 2017 Sundance Film Festival: Directing Award (U.S. Dramatic) / HONG KONG PREMIERE
Trailer of Beach Rats - https://youtu.be/rRfcHQxIMcu

City of Ghosts (Director: Matthew Heineman) A real-life international thriller, City of Ghosts exposes a new type of warfare: a battle over ideas, a fight for hearts and minds, a conflict over clicks and views. Captivating in its immediacy, it follows the journey of “Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently” — a handful of anonymous activists who banded together after their homeland was taken over by ISIS in 2014. With astonishing, deeply personal access, this is the story of a brave group of citizen journalists as they face the realities of life undercover, on the run, and in exile, risking their lives to stand up against one of the greatest evils in the world today. Winner of 2017 Sundance Film Festival: The Candescient Award / HONG KONG PREMIERE
Trailer of City of Ghosts - https://youtu.be/9ii6hxwd_LU

Columbus (Director: Kogonada) While his father is in a coma, Jin finds himself stuck in an unusual Midwestern city renowned for its modernist buildings. Though not fond of architecture, Jin strikes up a friendship with Casey, a bright girl who works at the city library (avoiding college and her future), and she shows him the local marvels. With a curious intimacy reserved for strangers, Jin and Casey explore both the town and their conflicted emotions: Jin’s estranged relationship with his father and Casey’s reluctance to leave her mother, a recovering drug addict. HONG KONG PREMIERE
Trailer of Columbus – https://youtu.be/7biCpJ63hlO

Gook (Director: Justin Chon) It’s 1992 in Los Angeles and Eli and Daniel, two Korean American brothers, struggle to keep their father’s shoe store afloat. They’re the unlikely pals of Kamilla, a sassy, 11-year-old African American girl from the neighborhood, who ditches school to secretly hang out at their store. When Kamilla’s brother Keith discovers that she’s spending time with “those gooks,” he plots revenge on them. Meanwhile, on the day of the announcement of the Rodney King verdict, larger acts of violence loom as the LA riots move closer to their world. Winner of 2017 Sundance Film Festival: NEXT Audience Award / HONG KONG PREMIERE
Trailer of Gook – https://youtu.be/6Duh20o-qWs
**The Hero** (Director: Brett Haley) Lee Hayden is an aging Western icon with a golden voice, but his best performances are decades behind him. He spends his days reliving old glories and smoking too much weed with his former-co-star-turned-dealer, Jeremy, until a surprise cancer diagnosis brings his priorities into sharp focus. He soon strikes up an exciting, contentious relationship with stand-up comic Charlotte, and he attempts to reconnect with his estranged daughter, Lucy, all while searching for one final role to cement his legacy. HONG KONG PREMIERE

Trailer of *The Hero* - https://youtu.be/RiKtUnl0u4U

**Ingrid Goes West** (Director: Matt Spicer) Ingrid is an unstable young woman with a checkered past of obsessive behavior. She secretly moves to Los Angeles to get close to Taylor Sloane — an Instagram “lifestyle guru” with a fabulous artist boyfriend, a camera-ready terrier, and an array of new products and brands to promote to her followers. After Ingrid adopts a Taylor-made identity for herself, her machinations to prove she’s BFF material for her Insta idol are underway —that is, until she meets Taylor’s obnoxious brother Nicky, who threatens to tear down her façade. Winner of 2017 Sundance Film Festival: Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award: U.S. Dramatic / HONG KONG PREMIERE

Trailer of *Ingrid Goes West* – https://youtu.be/xaZmSpPjdJY

**The Little Hours** (Director: Jeff Baena) Medieval nuns Alessandra (Alison Brie), Fernanda (Aubrey Plaza), and Ginevra (Kate Micucci) lead a simple life in their convent. Their days are spent chafing at monastic routine, spying on one another, and berating the estate’s day laborer. After a particularly vicious insult session drives the peasant away, Father Tommasso brings on new hired hand Massetto (Dave Franco), a virile young servant forced into hiding by his angry lord. Introduced to the sisters as a deaf-mute to discourage temptation, Massetto struggles to maintain his cover as the repressed nunnery erupts in a whirlwind of pansexual horniness, substance abuse, and wicked revelry. HONG KONG PREMIERE

Trailer of *The Little Hours* - https://youtu.be/pC5QPzmkPeY

**Patti Cake$$** (Director: Geremy Jasper) Patricia “Killa P” Dombrowski drafts rhymes behind the bar at a dingy dive, trying to pay off her coarse but beloved Nana’s medical bills and support her hard-drinking mom, whose own musical aspirations failed long ago. Patti and her rap partner/best friend Jheri share dreams of fame, fortune, and escaping Dirty Jersey for good, but they haven’t found a producer with the “fire beats” they need. Unbroken by the taunts of local goons, she unexpectedly gravitates to a reclusive goth-metal musician named Basterd, a newcomer who just might be able to help Patti achieve hip-hop superstardom. HONG KONG PREMIERE

Trailer of *Patti Cake$$* - https://youtu.be/dguqKWcy0VU

**STEP** (Director: Amanda Lipitz) The Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women opened in 2009 with a mandate to send every student to college, despite the barriers that their home lives and community might present. Now, as the first class enters its senior year, the stakes are high to achieve that purpose. The film follows three irrepressible seniors and their “Lethal Ladies” step dance team as they navigate a nerve-wracking college application process and strive to elevate the creative outlet that keeps them united and fighting to reach their goals. Winner of 2017 Sundance Film Festival: U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award for Inspirational Filmmaking / HONG KONG PREMIERE

Trailer of *STEP* – https://youtu.be/Gshb5VyZnvI

**Wind River** (Director: Taylor Sheridan) U.S. Fish & Wildlife agent Cory Lambert discovers a body in the rugged wilderness of the Wind River Indian Reservation. The FBI sends rookie agent Jane Banner, but she’s unprepared for the difficulties created by the oppressive weather and isolation of the Wyoming winter. When she employs Cory as a tracker, the two venture deep into a world ravaged by violence and the elements. Wind River is a stark look at life on the edge of an imposing wilderness, where the rule of law is eclipsed by the laws of nature. HONG KONG PREMIERE

Trailer of *Wind River* - https://youtu.be/Ii3oJT5vr5Q
About 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 Boyhood, Swiss Army Man, Manchester by the Sea, Brooklyn, Little Miss Sunshine, Life, Animated, Sonita, 20 Feet From Stardom, Beasts of the Southern Wild, Fruitvale Station, Sin Nombre, Spring Awakening, A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder and Fun Home. Join Sundance Institute on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

About The Metroplex
In 2014 The Metroplex opened its doors to the public as a state-of-the-art 9 screen multiplex at the heart of Eastern Kowloon. The Metroplex is a self-operated independent cinema under Hopewell Holdings Limited, showing a wide range of films from Hollywood blockbusters, international award-winning pictures, film festivals, local, specialty and independent films. Located in one of the Group’s investment properties, E-Max of Kowloonbay International Trade and Exhibition Centre (KITEC), The Metroplex has the flexibility in cross platform entertainment such as film/music festivals, live streaming concerts and shows, multimedia conferences, and many other events of similar genre. For more details, please visit www.metroplex.com.hk.