2020 Sundance Film Festival: Juries Announced

25 Jurors to Award 31 Prizes

Park City, UT — Sundance Institute will gather 25 celebrated and revered expert voices across film, art, culture and science to award feature-length and short films shown at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival with 31 prizes, announced at a ceremony February 1. Short Film Awards will be announced at a separate ceremony on January 28. The Festival takes place January 23 through February 2 in Park City, Salt Lake City and Sundance, Utah.

The awards, which recognize standout artistic and story elements, are voted on by each of 6 section juries, including, in the case of the NEXT Innovator’s Award, a jury of one. As in years past, Festival audiences have a role in deciding the 2020 Audience Awards, which will recognize 66 films in the U.S. Competition, World Competition and NEXT categories; audiences will also vote on a Festival Favorite film across categories, which will be announced the week following the Festival.

The juried Alfred P. Sloan Feature Film Prize was awarded to Tesla; information on those jury members appear below.

The 2020 Sundance Film Festival Jury members are:

**U.S. DRAMATIC JURY**

**Rodrigo Garcia**
Rodrigo Garcia’s films include the award-winning *Nine Lives, Albert Nobbs, Mother and Child*, and *Things You Can Tell Just by Looking at Her*. His television credits include the pilots of *In Treatment, Carnivàle, Big Love, Bull*, and the upcoming *Party of Five* series reboot. Garcia is co-CEO of the digital studio Indigenous Media, which produced the series *Five Points, Lauren, and Blue*.

**Ethan Hawke**
Ethan Hawke has starred in over 60 films, including *Training Day, Before Sunrise* (1995 Sundance Film Festival), and *Boyhood* (2014 Sundance Film Festival), which garnered Hawke one of his four Academy Award nominations. Recently, he won a Gotham Award, an Independent Spirit Award, and over 20 film critics’ awards for his performance in *First Reformed*. Besides an on-screen actor, he is a director, an Academy Award–nominated screenwriter, a Tony Award–nominated stage actor, and a novelist.

**Dee Rees**
Writer/director Dee Rees is the first Black woman nominated for an Academy Award in the Best Adapted Screenplay category, for her highly acclaimed film *Mudbound* (2018). Her previous credits include the

**Isabella Rossellini**
Isabella Rossellini has appeared in numerous films, including *Il prato (The Meadow)*, *Blue Velvet*, *Cousins*, *Death Becomes Her*, and *Joy*. Her award-winning series of shorts—*Green Porno*, *Seduce Me*, and *Mammas*—offer comical and scientifically insightful studies of animal behavior. She recently toured with her latest theatrical show, *Link Link Circus*. Rossellini also works to preserve the films of her father and mother, Roberto Rossellini and Ingrid Bergman, and runs an organic farm in Brookhaven.

**Wash Westmoreland**
Wash Westmoreland and Richard Glatzer’s feature *Quinceañera* premiered at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, winning both the U.S. Dramatic Audience Award and Grand Jury Prize. Their feature *Still Alice* won a BAFTA Award and a Golden Globe and earned Julianne Moore her first Academy Award. After Glatzer’s passing, Westmoreland directed the acclaimed *Colette* (2018 Sundance Film Festival) and the psychological drama *Earthquake Bird*. Originally from Leeds, England, Westmoreland currently lives in Los Angeles, California.

**U.S. DOCUMENTARY JURY**

**Kimberly Reed**
Kimberly Reed’s *Dark Money* (2018 Sundance Film Festival) was named one of *Vogue*’s “66 best documentaries of all time,” nominated for four Critics’ Choice Awards and the IDA Documentary Award for Best Documentary, awarded the Alfred I. duPont–Columbia University Award, and shortlisted for an Academy Award. *Prodigal Sons*, the first documentary by a transgender filmmaker to be theatrically released, won 14 international awards. Reed is also one of *Filmmaker* magazine’s “25 new faces of independent film.”

**Rachel Rosen**
Rachel Rosen is the director of programming for SFFILM, which presents the annual San Francisco International Film Festival, where she also served as the associate director of programming. She spent eight years as the director of programming for Film Independent and the LA Film Festival and has worked in various capacities for the New York Film Festival, New York’s Film Forum, and TriStar Pictures. She holds an MA in communications from the documentary film program at Stanford University.

**Courtney Sexton**
Courtney Sexton is senior vice president for CNN Films. Sexton works day to day with filmmakers to supervise the production of documentary films for theatrical exhibition and distribution across CNN’s platforms. Since Sexton joined CNN Films, the team has acquired or commissioned more than 45 original feature and short films. Sexton’s recent work includes *Apollo 11*, *RBG*, *Three Identical Strangers*, *Linda Ronstadt: The Sound of My Voice*, *Halston*, and *Scandalous*.

**E. Chai Vasarhelyi**
Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi is an Academy Award–winning filmmaker, known for *Free Solo*, which earned a BAFTA Award, the 2018 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature, and seven Emmys. Her other films include *Meru* (shortlisted for a 2016 Academy Award); won the U.S. Documentary Audience Award at the 2015 Sundance Film
Festival), *Incorruptible*, *A Normal Life*, and *Touba*. She has received grants from Sundance Institute, the Ford Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Noland Walker**

Noland Walker is vice president of content at ITVS and oversees the cultivation of independent documentary films for the award-winning public media series *Independent Lens, POV, American Masters, America ReFramed*, and others. He also steers ITVS’s content partnerships and field-relations strategies. Walker’s documentary credits include award-winning films such as *Africans in America, Citizen King, Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple*, and *Boogie Man: The Lee Atwater Story*.

**WORLD CINEMA DRAMATIC JURY**

**Haifaa Al Mansour**

Haifaa Al Mansour finished her bachelor’s degree in literature at the American University in Cairo and a master’s degree in directing and film studies from the University of Sydney. She is considered the first female Saudi Arabian filmmaker, and her feature film *Wadjda* was the first international film ever to be shot in Saudi Arabia. Invited to over 40 festivals worldwide, *Wadjda* garnered numerous awards, including in Venice, Rotterdam, and Dubai.

**Wagner Moura**

Wagner Moura is a Brazilian stage, film, and television star. His performance in *Elite Squad* (2007) put him on the world stage when the film won the Golden Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival. He recently starred as Pablo Escobar in Netflix’s critically acclaimed series *Narcos*, garnering both the show and him Golden Globe nominations. He made his directorial debut in 2019 with *Marighella*. He currently works with the UN to end forced labor.

**Alba Rohrwacher**

Born in Florence, Italy, Alba Rohrwacher studied acting at the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in Rome and gained recognition for her award-winning collaborations with Luca Guadagnino (*I Am Love*); Marco Bellochio (*Dormant Beauty, Blood of My Blood*); Laura Bispuri (*Daughter of Mine*); Saverio Costanzo (*Hungry Hearts, The Solitude of Prime Numbers*); and her sister, Alice Rohrwacher (*Happy as Lazzaro*). Her awards for best actress include the Volpi Cup, two Nastri d’Argento, and two David di Donatello Awards.

**WORLD CINEMA DOCUMENTARY JURY**

**Eric Hynes**

Eric Hynes is curator of film at the Museum of the Moving Image in New York, where he oversees the annual First Look Festival. He is also a longtime critic and journalist and writes a column on the art of nonfiction for *Film Comment* magazine. Other outlets have included the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post, Rolling Stone, Slate, New York* magazine, *Sight & Sound, the Village Voice*, and *Reverse Shot*, where he has been a staff writer since 2003.

**Rima Mismar**

Rima Mismar is the executive director of the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC), a grant-making organization that supports artists across the Arab region. She completed her studies at the Lebanese American University (LAU) in Beirut, before pursuing a career as a film critic. During the last decade, she has participated in festivals...
as a juror or a member of the selection committee, moderated panels, and written and contributed to critiques on Arab cinema.

Nanfu Wang
Nanfu Wang is a Chinese filmmaker based in New York City. She directs, produces, films, and edits feature documentaries, including *Hooligan Sparrow* (2016 Sundance Film Festival; shortlisted for the 2017 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature), *I Am Another You* (2017 SXSW Film Festival, Special Jury Award for Excellence in Documentary Storytelling), and *One Child Nation* (2019 Sundance Film Festival, U.S. Documentary Grand Jury Prize).

NEXT

Gregg Araki
Gregg Araki earned an MFA in film production from the USC School of Cinematic Arts and a BA in film studies from UC Santa Barbara. Araki has made eleven acclaimed independent features, including *Kaboom* (2011), *Smiley Face* (2007), *Mysterious Skin* (2005), and *Totally F***ed Up* (1994). Araki most recently directed 10 episodes of *Now Apocalypse* (2019 Sundance Film Festival) for Starz—a series he created, co-wrote, and executive produced with Steven Soderbergh and Gregory Jacobs.

SHORT FILM JURY

Sian Clifford
Sian Clifford is an Emmy Award and Critics’ Choice Award nominated actress for her role as Claire in the global phenomenon and multi-award-winning series *Fleabag*. She will star in AMC’s hotly anticipated *Quiz*, directed by Stephen Frears, later this year, as well as in Sky’s *Two Weeks To Live*, alongside Maisie Williams. She will also guest feature in *Hitmen*, again for Sky, and in the second series of psychological thriller *Liar* from *Fleabag* producers Two Brothers Pictures, for ITV.

Marcus Hu
Marcus Hu is copresident and cofounder of Strand Releasing, which has distributed the works of such international filmmakers as Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Gregg Araki, Catherine Breillat, Lucrecia Martel, and many others. Strand Releasing celebrates its 30th anniversary with a national tour of original films created by filmmakers and friends shot on iPhones and shown at museums around the country. Hu serves as chair of international inclusion for the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

Cindy Sherman
Cindy Sherman has been the subject of one-person exhibitions at the National Portrait Gallery in London (2019) and the Museum of Modern Art in New York (2012). Her work has also been included in five iterations of the Whitney Biennial, two Biennales of Sydney, and the 1983 *documenta* exhibition. She has received such awards and honors as the Praemium Imperiale, an American Academy of Arts and Letters Award, a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

ALFRED P. SLOAN FEATURE FILM PRIZE JURY

Ruth Angus
Dr. Ruth Angus obtained her PhD in astrophysics from the University of Oxford and is an assistant curator at the American Museum of Natural History, an associate research scientist at the Flatiron Institute’s Center for Computational Astrophysics, and an adjunct professor of astrophysics at Columbia University. She studies the evolution of stars and planetary systems in the Milky Way using data from NASA’s Kepler and TESS space telescopes.

Emily Mortimer
Emily Mortimer is an actress recently seen in Mary Poppins Returns. She won a Film Independent Spirit Award for Nicole Holofcener’s Lovely and Amazing and earned nominations at the Empire Awards and the Critics’ Circle Film Awards for David Mackenzie’s Young Adam. She currently runs the production company King Bee Productions with her husband, Alessandro Nivola. She produced the Film Independent Spirit Award–nominated feature To Dust and is currently writing an adaptation of Nancy Mitford’s novel The Pursuit of Love.

Jessica Oreck
Jessica Oreck makes projects across mediums in an effort to re-inspire a sense of wonder about the world of the everyday. She’s made several feature films that focus on ethnobiology—the way that cultures interact with the natural world—including Beetle Queen Conquers Tokyo (2009), Aatsinki: The Story of Arctic Cowboys (2013), The Vanquishing of the Witch Baba Yaga (2014), and One Man Dies a Million Times (2019). Jessica also works in paper-based animation, creating educational content for TED and several series for forthcoming outlets.

Ainissa Ramirez
Ainissa Ramirez, PhD, is a materials scientist and science communicator who is passionate about getting the general public excited about science. She has worked as a research scientist at Bell Labs and held academic positions at Yale University and MIT. Ramirez has written for Forbes, Time, Science, and Scientific American and has explained science headlines on CBS, CNN, NPR, and PBS’s SciTech Now. Her book The Alchemy of Us uncovers how tech shaped us and will be published in April 2020.

Michael Tyburski
Michael Tyburski is a director and screenwriter. His work has been featured by the New Yorker, Film Comment, IndieWire, and Filmmaker magazine. His short film Palimpsest won a Special Jury Prize at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. He received both a grant and lab support from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, is a recipient of the SFFILM Dolby Institute Fellowship, and was selected for Sundance Institute’s Film Music and Sound Design Lab. His debut feature, The Sound of Silence, premiered at the 2019 Festival.

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 Sorry to Bother You, Won’t You Be My Neighbor?, Eighth Grade, Get Out, The Big Sick, Mudbound, Beasts of the Southern Wild, Fruitvale Station, Whiplash, Brooklyn, Precious, The Cove, Little Miss Sunshine, An Inconvenient Truth, Napoleon Dynamite, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, Reservoir Dogs and sex, lies, and videotape. The Festival is a program of the non-profit Sundance Institute®. 2020 Festival sponsors include: Presenting Sponsors – Acura, SundanceTV, Chase Sapphire, AT&T; Leadership Sponsors – Adobe,
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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. Sundance Co//ab, a digital community platform, brings artists together to learn from each other and Sundance Advisors and connect in a creative space, developing and sharing works in progress. The Sundance Film Festival and other public programs connect audiences and artists to ignite new ideas, discover original voices, and build a community dedicated to independent storytelling. Sundance Institute has supported such projects as The Farewell, Late Night, The Souvenir, The Infiltrators, 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, Little Miss Sunshine, Beasts of the Southern Wild, Fruitvale Station, State of the Union, Indecent, 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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Editor's note: For images, visit sundance.org/images or image.net (registration free but required).