

# 2011 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES AWARDS

January 30, 2011

***Park City, UT ( [rushPRnews](#)) 01/30/11 — Happy, Happy, Hell and Back Again, How to Die in Oregon and Like Crazy***

**Earn Grand Jury Prizes**

**Audience Favorites Include *Buck, Circumstance, Kinyawaranda* and *Senna***

***to.get.her* Awarded Best of NEXT! Audience Award**

—The Jury, Audience, NEXT! and other special award-winners of the 2011 Sundance Film Festival were announced tonight at the Festival's Awards Ceremony hosted by Tim Blake Nelson (star of *Flypaper* which premiered in this year's Premieres section) in Park City, Utah. Highlights from the Awards Ceremony can be seen on the Festival website, [www.sundance.org/festival](http://www.sundance.org/festival).

Films receiving Jury Awards were selected from four categories: U.S. Dramatic Competition, U.S. Documentary Competition, World Cinema Dramatic Competition and World Cinema Documentary Competition. All films in competition were also eligible for Sundance Film Festival Audience Awards as selected by Festival audiences. The U.S. Audience Awards presented by Acura were announced by Ray Liotta, and the World Cinema Audience Awards were announced by Joshua Leonard. Vera Farmiga announced the Best of NEXT! Audience Award.

Jury Prizes in Shorts Filmmaking were awarded to American and international short-form films on Tuesday, January 25. Other awards recognized at the ceremony included the inaugural Sundance Institute/Mahindra Global Filmmaking Award, in recognition and support of emerging independent filmmakers from around the world, the Sundance Institute/NHK Award, created to honor and support emerging filmmakers with their next screenplays, and the Alfred P. Sloan Feature Film Prize, awarded to a film which excels in addressing compelling topics in science or technology.

John Cooper, Director of the Sundance Film Festival said, "Success at Sundance can be measured in terms of attendance, sponsorships, acquisitions, even the weather. Ultimately, it's about the films themselves – were they well received? Did they resonate with the audience enough to have a life beyond these 10 days? And this year, the answer is a resounding yes."

Added Sundance Institute Executive Director Keri Putnam, "For an artist to make it to the Festival among 10,000 submissions is an incredible achievement in his or her own right. We are so appreciative of all who shared their work

with us this year, and we commend audiences and juries alike for selecting such a wide range of outstanding films.”

The 2011 Sundance Film Festival Juries consisted of:

**U.S. Documentary Competition:** Jeffrey Blitz, Matt Groening, Laura Poitras, Jess Search, Sloane Klevin; **U.S. Dramatic Competition:** America Ferrera, Todd McCarthy, Tim Orr, Kimberly Peirce, Jason Reitman; **World Cinema Documentary Competition:** José Padilha, Mette Hoffmann Meyer, Lucy Walker; **World Cinema Dramatic Competition:** Susanne Bier, Bong Joon-Ho, Rajendra Roy; **Shorts Competition:** Barry Jenkins, Kim Morgan, Sara Bernstein; **Alfred P. Sloan Award:** Jon Amiel, Paula Apsell, Sean Carroll, Clark Gregg.

For the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, 118 feature-length films were selected, representing 29 countries by 40 first-time filmmakers, including 25 in competition. These films were selected from 3,812 feature-length film submissions composed of 1,943 U.S. and 1,869 international feature-length films. 95 films at the Festival were world premieres. This year the Festival's Short Film Program was comprised 81 short films from U.S. and international filmmakers selected from 6,467 submissions.

#### **2011 Sundance Film Festival Award Winners:**

The **Grand Jury Prize: Documentary** was presented to *How to Die in Oregon*, directed by Peter D. Richardson. In 1994 Oregon became the first state to legalize physician-assisted suicide. *How to Die in Oregon* gently enters the lives of terminally ill Oregonians to illuminate the power of death with dignity.

The **Grand Jury Prize: Dramatic** was presented to *Like Crazy*, directed by Drake Doremus; written by Drake Doremus and Ben York Jones. A young American guy and a young British girl meet in college and fall in love. Their love is tested when she is required to leave the country and they must face the challenges of a long-distance relationship.

The **World Cinema Jury Prize: Documentary** was presented to *Hell and Back Again*, directed by Danfung Dennis. Told through the eyes of one Marine from the start of his 2009 Afghanistan tour to his distressing return and rehabilitation in the U.S., we witness what modern "unconventional" warfare really means to the men who are fighting it. *U.S.A./United Kingdom*

The **World Cinema Jury Prize: Dramatic** was presented to *Happy, Happy (Sykt Lykkelig)*, directed by Anne Sewitsky; written by Ragnhild Tronvoll. A perfect housewife, who just happens to be sex-starved, struggles to keep her emotions in check when an attractive family moves in next door. *Norway*

The **Audience Awards** are presented to both a dramatic and documentary film in four competitions as voted by Sundance Film Festival audiences. The 2011 Sundance Film Festival Audience Awards are presented by Acura.

The **Audience Award: Documentary** was presented to *Buck*, directed by Cindy Meehl, for her story about the power of non-violence and master horse trainer Buck Brannaman, who uses principles of respect and trust to tame horses and inspire their human counterparts.

The **Audience Award: Dramatic** was presented to *Circumstance*, directed and written by Maryam Keshavarz, in which a wealthy Iranian family struggles to contain a teenager's growing sexual rebellion and her brother's dangerous obsession.

The **World Cinema Audience Award: Documentary** was presented to *Senna*, directed by Asif Kapadia; written by Manish Pandey, about legendary racing driver and Brazilian hero Ayrton Senna, taking us on the ultimate journey of what it means to become the greatest when faced with the constant possibility of death. *United Kingdom*

The **World Cinema Audience Award: Dramatic** was presented to *Kinyarwanda*, directed and written by Alrick Brown, which tells the story of Rwandans who crossed the lines of hatred during the 1994 genocide, turning mosques into places of refuge for Muslims and Christians, Hutus and Tutsis. *U.S.A./Rwanda*

The **Best of NEXT!: Audience Award** was presented to *to.get.her*, directed and written by Erica Dunton about five girls who come together for one fateful night where anything goes. They all had secrets, but their friendship was the only thing they knew to be true.

**Directing Awards** recognize excellence in directing for dramatic and documentary features.

The **Directing Award: Documentary** was presented to *Resurrect Dead: The Mystery of the Toynbee Tiles*, directed by Jon Foy. An urban mystery unfurls as one man pieces together the surreal meaning of hundreds of cryptic tiled messages that have been appearing in city streets across the U.S. and South America.

The **Directing Award: Dramatic** was presented to *Martha Marcy May Marlene*, directed and written by Sean Durkin. Haunted by painful memories and increasing paranoia, a damaged woman struggles to re-assimilate with her family after fleeing an abusive cult.

The **World Cinema Directing Award: Documentary** was presented to *Project Nim*, directed by James Marsh, who explores the story of Nim, the chimpanzee who was taught to communicate with language as he was raised and nurtured like a human child. *United Kingdom*

The **World Cinema Directing Award: Dramatic** was presented to *Tyrannosaur*, directed and written by Paddy Considine. For a man plagued by self-destructive violence and rage, a chance of redemption appears in the form of Hannah, a Christian charity shop worker with a devastating secret of her own. *United Kingdom*

The **Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award** was presented to *Another Happy Day*, directed and written by Sam Levinson, about a pair of reckless siblings who are dragged into a chaotic family wedding by their overwrought mother.

The **World Cinema Screenwriting Award** was presented to *Restoration*, directed by Yossi Madmony; written by Erez Kav-El, about an antique furniture restorer, who, aided by a young and mysterious apprentice, struggles to keep his workshop alive, while his relationship with his own estranged son, who is trying to close down the shop, begins to disintegrate. *Israel*

The **Documentary Editing Award** Matthew Hamachek and Marshall Curry and directed by Marshall Curry. The Earth Liberation Front is a radical environmental group that the FBI calls America's "number one domestic terrorist threat." Daniel McGowan, an ELF member, faces life in prison for two multi-million dollar arsons against Oregon timber companies.

The **World Cinema Documentary Editing Award** was presented to *The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975*, edited by Göran Hugo Olsson and Hanna Lejonqvist and directed by Göran Hugo Olsson. From 1967 to 1975, Swedish journalists chronicled the Black Power movement in America. Combining that 16mm footage, undiscovered until now,

with contemporary audio interviews, this film illuminates the people and culture that fueled change and brings the movement to life anew. *Sweden/U.S.A.*

The **Excellence in Cinematography Awards** honor exceptional cinematography in both dramatic and documentary categories:

The **Excellence in Cinematography Award: Documentary** was presented to *The Redemption of General Butt Naked*, directed by Eric Strauss and Daniele Anastasion; cinematographers: Eric Strauss, Ryan Hill and Peter Hutchens. A brutal warlord who murdered thousands during Liberia's horrific 14-year civil war renounces his violent past and reinvents himself as an Evangelist, facing those he once terrorized.

The **Excellence in Cinematography Award: Dramatic** was presented to *Pariah*, directed and written by Dee Rees; cinematographer: Bradford Young. When forced to choose between losing her best friend or destroying her family, a Brooklyn teenager juggles conflicting identities and endures heartbreak in a desperate search for sexual expression.

The **World Cinema Cinematography Award: Documentary** was presented to *Hell and Back Again*, directed by Danfung Dennis; cinematographer: Danfung Dennis. Told through the eyes of one Marine from the start of his 2009 Afghanistan tour to his distressing return and rehabilitation in the U.S., we witness what modern "unconventional" warfare really means to the men who are fighting it. *U.S.A./United Kingdom*

The **World Cinema Cinematography Award: Dramatic** was presented to *All Your Dead Ones*, directed by Carlos Moreno; written by Alonso Torres and Carlos Moreno; cinematographer: Diego F. Jimenez. One morning, a peasant wakes to find a pile of bodies in the middle of his crops. When he goes to the authorities, he quickly realizes that the dead ones are a problem nobody wants to deal with. *Colombia*

Two **World Cinema Special Jury Prizes: Dramatic for Breakout Performances** were presented to Olivia Colman and Peter Mullan for their roles in *Tyrannosaur*, directed and written by Paddy Considine. For a man plagued by self-destructive violence and rage, a chance of redemption appears in the form of Hannah, a Christian charity shop worker with a devastating secret of her own. *United Kingdom*

A **World Cinema Special Jury Prize: Documentary** was presented to *Position Among the Stars (Stand van de Sterren)* directed by Leonard Retel Helmrich, for his expose of the effects of globalization on Indonesia's rapidly changing society as it ripples into the life of a poor Christian woman living in the slums of Jakarta with her Muslim sons and teenage granddaughter. *The Netherlands*

A **Special Jury Prize: Documentary** was presented to *BEING ELMO: A Puppeteer's Journey*, directed by Constance Marks, an inspirational film that crosses cultures and generations

A **Special Jury Prize: Dramatic** was presented to *Another Earth* directed by Mike Cahill; written by Mike Cahill and Brit Marling. On the eve of the discovery of a duplicate Earth, a horrible tragedy irrevocably alters the lives of two strangers, who begin an unlikely love affair.

A **Special Jury Prize: Dramatic** was presented to Felicity Jones for her role in *Like Crazy*, directed by Drake Doremus; written by Drake Doremus and Ben York Jones. A young American guy and a young British girl meet in college and fall in love. Their love is tested when she is required to leave the country and they must face the challenges of a long-distance relationship.

As announced on Tuesday, the **Jury Prize in Short Filmmaking** was awarded to *Brick Novax pt 1 and 2* (Director

and screenwriter: Matt Piedmont). The **International Jury Prize in Short Filmmaking** was given to *Deeper Than Yesterday* / Australia (Director and screenwriter: Ariel Kleiman). In addition, the jury awarded **Honorable Mentions in Short Filmmaking** to: *Choke* / Canada (Director and screenwriter: Michelle Latimer); *Diarchy* / Italy (Director and screenwriter: Ferdinando Cito Filomarino); *The External World* / Germany, Ireland (Director and screenwriter: David O'Reilly); *The Legend of Beaver Dam* / Canada (Director: Jerome Sable, screenwriters: Jerome Sable and Eli Batalion); *Out of Reach* / Poland (Director and screenwriter: Jakub Stozek); and *Protoparticles* / Spain (Director and screenwriter: Chema García Ibarra).

On Tuesday Sundance Institute and Mahindra announced the winners of the inaugural **Sundance Institute/Mahindra Global Filmmaking Award**, in recognition and support of emerging independent filmmakers from around the world. The winning directors and projects are: Bogdan Mustata, *Wolf* from Romania; Ernesto Contreras, *I Dream in Another Language* from Mexico; Seng Tat Liew, *In What City Does It Live?* from Malaysia; and Talya Lavie, *Zero Motivation* from Israel.

Sundance Institute and NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) on Thursday announced Cherien Dabis, director of *May in the Summer*, as the winner of the **Sundance Institute/NHK Award** honoring and supporting emerging filmmakers.

*Another Earth*, written and directed by Mike Cahill, is the recipient of this year's **Alfred P. Sloan Feature Film Prize**. The Prize, which carries a \$20,000 cash award by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, is presented to an outstanding feature film focusing on science or technology as a theme, or depicting a scientist, engineer, or mathematician as a major character.

### **Festival Sponsors**

The 2011 Sundance Film Festival sponsors include: Presenting Sponsors—Entertainment Weekly, HP, Acura, Sundance Channel and Chase SapphireSM; Leadership Sponsors—Bing™, Canon, DIRECTV, Honda, Southwest Airlines and YouTube™; Sustaining Sponsors—FilterForGood®, a partnership between Brita® and Nalgene®, The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, L'Oréal Paris, Stella Artois®, Timberland, and Trident Vitality™. 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. In return, sponsorship of the preeminent Festival provides these organizations with global exposure, a platform for brand impressions and unique access to Festival attendees.

### **About Sundance Film Festival**

Supported by the nonprofit 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 brought the cinematic works of media artists including Isaac Julian, Doug Aitken, Pierre Huyghe, Jennifer Steinkamp and Matthew Barney. [www.sundance.org/festival](http://www.sundance.org/festival)

### **About 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*, *Light in the Piazza* and *Angels in America*. [www.sundance.org](http://www.sundance.org)

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

## **About the author:**

### **Sundance Institute**

Founded by Robert Redford in 1981, Sundance Institute is a not-for-profit organization that fosters the development of original storytelling in film and theatre, and presents the annual Sundance Film Festival. Internationally recognized for its artistic development programs for directors, screenwriters, producers, film composers, playwrights and theatre artists, Sundance Institute has nurtured such projects as Angels in America, Spring Awakening, Boys Don't Cry, Sin Nombre, Born into Brothels and Trouble the Water. [www.sundance.org](http://www.sundance.org).

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