



632 West 125th Street
206 Prentis Hall
MC 5011
New York, NY 10027
cuarts.columbia.edu

PRESS RELEASE

Contact:
Columbia Alumni Arts League
212.851.1872
alumniarts@columbia.edu

Columbia University at Sundance 2009

Dec. 18, 2008. The Sundance Institute has announced the films selected to screen at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival. The following is a list of 28 Sundance films to which 36 Columbia University alumni, students, and faculty from contributed. Additionally, two screenplays by Columbia filmmakers are finalists for the Sundance/NHK International Filmmaker Award. Filmmakers from several Columbia schools are among the honorees, including the School of the Arts, Columbia College, General Studies, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School of Business, the School of Journalism, the School of International and Political Affairs, and the Law School. To attend the Columbia Alumni Association reception at Sundance on Jan 17, 2009, please [RSVP online](#). For more about the Sundance Film Festival please visit the [festival website](#).

U.S. Dramatic Competition (7 Films; 10 Filmmakers)

Of the 16 films selected in this category, four were written and directed by Columbia University School of the Arts (SOA) filmmakers, a record for Columbia; four additional films have Columbia University connections

AMREEKA

Written and directed by **Cherien Dabis (SOA Film '04)**

Columbia University School of the Arts MFA Thesis Screenplay. When a divorced Palestinian woman and her teenage son move to rural Illinois, they find their new lives replete with challenges.

Sat. Jan 17 12:15 p.m. - Eccles Theatre, Park City
Sun. Jan 18 9:45 p.m. - Broadway Centre Cinemas V, SLC
Mon. Jan 19 2:15 p.m. - Racquet Club, Park City
Wed. Jan 21 8:30 a.m. - Racquet Club, Park City
Thu. Jan 22 8:30 p.m. - Library Center Theatre, Park City

COLD SOULS

Written and directed by **Sophie Barthes (SIPA '03)**

In the midst of an existential crisis, a famous American actor explores soul extraction as a relief from the burdens of daily life.

Sat. Jan 17 5:15 p.m. - Racquet Club, Park City
Sun. Jan 18 11:15 a.m. - Racquet Club, Park City
Mon. Jan 19 6:00 p.m. - Tower Theatre, SLC
Wed. Jan 21 12:15 p.m. - Eccles Theatre, Park City
Fri. Jan 23 6:00 p.m. - Screening Room, Sundance Resort
Sat. Jan 24 8:30 a.m. - Prospector Square Theatre, Park City

DARE

Directed by **Adam Salky (SOA Film '08)**

Written and co-produced by **David Brind (SOA Film '08)**

Produced by **Mary Jane Skalski (SOA Film Faculty)**

Columbia University School of the Arts MFA Thesis Film. Three very different teenagers discover that, even in the safe world of a suburban prep school, no one is who she or he appears to be.

Mon. Jan 19 5:15 p.m. - Racquet Club, Park City

Tue. Jan 20 2:15 p.m. - Racquet Club, Park City

Thu. Jan 22 11:30 p.m. - Prospector Square Theatre, Park City

Fri. Jan 23 12:15 p.m. - Eccles Theatre, Park City

Sat. Jan 24 12:30 p.m. - Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, SLC

PETER AND VANDY

Co-produced by **Carly Hugo (CC '06)**

Associate produced by **Larry Levine (SOA Film '08)**

A love story told out of order: Juxtaposing Peter and Vandy's romantic beginnings with the twisted-manipulative-regular couple they become, the film explores the question most couples ask themselves: "How the hell did we get this way?"

Mon. Jan 19 8:00 p.m. - Racquet Club, Park City

Tue. Jan 20 11:30 a.m. - Prospector Square Theatre, Park City

Thu. Jan 22 8:30 a.m. - Racquet Club, Park City

Fri. Jan 23 3:15 p.m. - Eccles Theatre, Park City

Sat. Jan 24 noon - Broadway Centre Cinemas VI, SLC

PUSH

Screenplay by **Geoffrey Fletcher (SOA Film Faculty)**

Based on the acclaimed, best-selling novel by Sapphire, Push is the redemptive story of Precious Jones, a young girl in Harlem struggling to overcome tremendous obstacles and discover her own voice.

Fri. Jan 16 8:00 p.m. - Racquet Club, Park City

Sat. Jan 17 noon - Broadway Centre Cinemas VI, SLC

Tue. Jan 20 3:15 p.m. - Eccles Theatre, Park City

Wed. Jan 21 11:30 p.m. - Prospector Square Theatre, Park City

Fri. Jan 23 2:15 p.m. - Racquet Club, Park City

SIN NOMBRE

Produced by Focus Features, headed by **James Schamus (SOA Film Faculty)**

A teenage Mexican gang member maneuvers to outrun his violent past and elude unforgiving former associates in this thriller set among Central American migrants seeking to cross over to the United States.

Sun. Jan 18 3:15 p.m. - Eccles Theatre, Park City

Mon. Jan 19 8:30 a.m. - Racquet Club, Park City

Wed. Jan 21 8:30 p.m. - Prospector Square Theatre, Park City

Thu. Jan 22 8:00 p.m. - Racquet Club, Park City

Fri. Jan 23 3:00 p.m. - Screening Room, Sundance Resort

TOE TO TOE

Written and directed by **Emily Abt (SOA Film '04)**

The story of an inter-racial friendship put to the test by the intense pressures of a competitive Washington, D.C. prep school.

Fri. Jan 16 3:15 p.m. - Eccles Theatre, Park City
Sat. Jan 17 9:30 p.m. - Redstone Cinemas, Kimball Junction
Sun. Jan 18 2:15 p.m. - Racquet Club, Park City
Tue. Jan 20 9:45 p.m. - Broadway Centre Cinemas V, SLC
Wed. Jan 21 5:30 p.m. - Prospector Square Theatre, Park City
Fri. Jan 23 11:30 p.m. - Library Center Theatre, Park City

Documentary Competition (4 Films; 4 Filmmakers)

BOY INTERRUPTED

Cinematography by **Hart Perry (SOA Film '71)**

An intimate look at the life, mental illness and death of a young man told from the point of view of the filmmaker, his mother.

Fri. Jan 16 3:00 p.m. - Temple Theatre, Park City
Sat. Jan 17 8:30 a.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City
Sat. Jan 17 9:45 p.m. - Broadway Centre Cinemas V, SLC
Sun. Jan 18 9:00 p.m. - Screening Room, Sundance Resort
Wed. Jan 21 9:00 p.m. - Temple Theatre, Park City
Thu. Jan 22 2:30 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City

DIRT! THE MOVIE

Co-produced by **Eleonore Dailly (Law '98)**

*The story of the relationship between humans and dirt, **Dirt! The Movie** humorously details how humans are rapidly destroying the last natural resource on earth.*

Mon. Jan 19 3:00 p.m. - Temple Theatre, Park City
Tue. Jan 20 noon - Temple Theatre, Park City
Wed. Jan 21 8:30 a.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City
Fri. Jan 23 9:30 p.m. - Temple Theatre, Park City
Sat. Jan 24 4:30 p.m. - Broadway Centre Cinemas IV, SLC

SHOUTING FIRE: STORIES FROM THE EDGE OF FREE SPEECH

Directed by Liz Garbus

*An exploration of the history and current state of free speech in America narrated by the filmmaker's father, First Amendment attorney **Martin Garbus (ND BUS '55)**.*

Mon. Jan 19 9:00 p.m. - Temple Theatre, Park City
Tue. Jan 20 2:30 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City
Thu. Jan 22 6:45 p.m. - Broadway Centre Cinemas V, SLC
Fri. Jan 23 8:30 a.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City
Sat. Jan 24 noon - Temple Theatre, Park City

WILLIAM KUNSTLER: DISTURBING THE UNIVERSE

Co-directed by **Sarah Kunstler (Law '04)**.

With clients including Martin Luther King Jr., *Malcolm X*, and the *Chicago 10*, the late civil rights attorney William Kunstler went from being a movement hero to "the most hated lawyer in America."

Fri. Jan 16 noon - Temple Theatre, Park City
Sat. Jan 17 2:30 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City
Sun. Jan 18 6:00 p.m. - Screening Room, Sundance Resort
Mon. Jan 19 6:45 p.m. - Broadway Centre Cinemas V, SLC
Wed. Jan 21 9:15 a.m. - Holiday Village Cinema IV, Park City
Fri. Jan 23 8:30 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City

U.S. Dramatic Shorts (5 Shorts; 8 Filmmakers)

CONCERTO

Directed by **Filippo Conz (SOA Film MFA Candidate, '09)**

Written by **Jon Haller, (SOA Film MFA Candidate, '09)**

Produced by **Pelin Uzay (SOA Film '05)**

Columbia University School of the Arts MFA Thesis Film. A drama about the lengths men will go to find a moment of grace in a violent world.

Fri. Jan 16 11:59 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema IV, Park City
Sat. Jan 17 2:30 p.m. - Prospector Square Theatre, Park City
Mon. Jan 19 9:15 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema IV, Park City
Fri. Jan 23 11:59 p.m. - Broadway Centre Cinemas VI, SLC
Sat. Jan 24 5:30 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City

COUNTERTRANSFERENCE

Directed by **Madeleine Olnek (SOA Film '08)**

Columbia University School of the Arts MFA Thesis Film. A comedy about an awkward woman with assertiveness problems who seeks the questionable help of a therapist.

Fri. Jan 16 11:59 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema IV, Park City
Sat. Jan 17 2:30 p.m. - Prospector Square Theatre, Park City
Mon. Jan 19 9:15 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema IV, Park City
Fri. Jan 23 11:59 p.m. - Broadway Centre Cinemas VI, SLC
Sat. Jan 24 5:30 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City

HUG

Written and directed by **Khary Jones (GSAS '00, SOA Film MFA Candidate '09)**

Columbia University School of the Arts MFA Thesis Film. Drew is a musician with a contract ready to sign. When Asa, his friend and manager, realizes Drew is off his meds the across-town drive to sign the contract becomes significantly more complicated.

Fri. Jan 16 11:59 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema IV, Park City
Sat. Jan 17 2:30 p.m. - Prospector Square Theatre, Park City
Mon. Jan 19 9:15 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema IV, Park City
Fri. Jan 23 11:59 p.m. - Broadway Centre Cinemas VI, SLC
Sat. Jan 24 5:30 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City

SMALL COLLECTION

Directed by **Jeremiah Crowell (CC '96)**

Produced by **Andrew Brotzman (CC '03, SOA Film MFA Candidate '11)**

A love story caught in the corridors of memory. Through fragments of conversations still echoing in now empty places, we piece together the record of a relationship cut short.

Mon. Jan 19 12:15 p.m. - Eccles Theatre, Park City

Tue. Jan 20 5:15 p.m. - Racquet Club, Park City

Thu. Jan 22 8:30 a.m. - Prospector Square Theatre, Park City

Fri. Jan 23 5:30 p.m. - Library Center Theatre, Park City

Sat. Jan 24 3:00 p.m. - Broadway Centre Cinemas VI, SLC

SPARKS

Directed by **Joseph Gordon-Levitt (Non-degree)**

The story of a former rock and roll goddess who may or may not have burnt her house down. Adapted from the writings of crime novelist Elmore Leonard.

Fri. Jan 16 2:15 p.m. - Racquet Club, Park City

Sat. Jan 17 1:30 p.m. - Broadway Centre Cinemas IV, SLC

Sat. Jan 17 11:30 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City

Wed. Jan 21 8:30 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City

Sat. Jan 24 11:59 p.m. - Egyptian Theatre, Park City

International Dramatic Shorts (2 Shorts; 2 Filmmakers)

PAL/SECAM

Written and directed by **Dmitry Povolotsky (SOA Film '08)**

Columbia University School of the Arts MFA Thesis Film. At the dawn of Perestroika, little Boris, ravaged by hormones, seduces the neighborhood with his mother's VCR.

Fri. Jan 16 8:30 a.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City

Fri. Jan 16 9:00 p.m. - Broadway Centre Cinemas VI, SLC

Sun. Jan 18 8:30 p.m. - Prospector Square Theatre, Park City

Tue. Jan 20 5:30 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City

Sat. Jan 24 5:30 p.m. - Prospector Square Theatre, Park City

TEN FOR GRANDPA

Music by **Mark Kondracki (GS '00)**

Director Doug Karr creates a fast paced, introspective look into the life of his grandfather, a complex character immersed in a nefarious web of danger and infamy during the Cold War.

Sat. Jan 17 6:00 p.m. - Egyptian Theatre, Park City

Sun. Jan 18 midnight - Broadway Centre Cinemas VI, SLC

Tue. Jan 20 9:15 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema IV, Park City

Wed. Jan 21 3:00 p.m. - Screening Room, Sundance Resort

Fri. Jan 23 9:00 a.m. - Egyptian Theatre, Park City

Premieres (Out of Competition) (3 Films; 3 Filmmakers)

ADVENTURELAND

Written and directed by **Greg Mottola (SOA Film '91)**

James Brennan, an uptight, recent college grad, can't wait to embark on his dream tour of Europe. But when his parents announce they can no longer subsidize his trip, James has little choice but to take a lowly job at a local amusement park.

Mon. Jan 19 6:15 p.m. - Eccles Theatre, Park City
Tue. Jan 20 9:15 a.m. - Eccles Theatre, Park City
Wed. Jan 21 noon - Screening Room, Sundance Resort
Thu. Jan 22 6:30 p.m. - Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, SLC

500 DAYS OF SUMMER

Starring **Joseph Gordon-Levitt (Non-degree)**

Marc Webb's love-me/love-me-not love story is epitomized by its perfectly framed tag lines...Boy meets Girl—Boy falls in love—Girl doesn't. 500 Days of Summer is destined to be a template for the future of romantic inspiration.

Sat. Jan 17 6:15 p.m. - Eccles Theatre, Park City
Sun. Jan 18 11:30 a.m. - Prospector Square Theatre, Park City
Mon. Jan 19 9:00 p.m. - Screening Room, Sundance Resort
Tue. Jan 20 6:30 p.m. - Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, SLC
Fri. Jan 23 9:30 p.m. - Peery's Egyptian Theater, Ogden

MOTHERHOOD

Written and directed by **Katherine Dieckmann (SOA Film Faculty)**

A middle-aged mom in post-9/11 Manhattan with two kids, an oblivious husband, and an incontinent dog, Eliza is a consummate multitasker facing the soul-crushing fear that her dreams of being a writer are going down the diaper bin.

Wed. Jan 21 9:30 p.m. - Eccles Theatre, Park City
Thu. Jan 22 8:30 a.m. - Library Center Theatre, Park City
Fri. Jan 23 9:30 p.m. - Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, SLC

Spectrum: Dramatic (Out of Competition) (3 Films; 5 Filmmakers)

AGAINST THE CURRENT

Directed by **Peter Callahan (JRN '90)**

Produced by **Mary Jane Skalski (SOA Film Faculty)**

A financial writer struggling with a tragic past recruits his best friend and a new acquaintance to accompany him on a physical and emotional journey as he swims the 150 miles of the lower Hudson River, a physical and emotional journey exploring friendship, grief, and how we cope when what we lose is greater than what life has to offer.

Sun. Jan 18 8:30 p.m. - Library Center Theatre, Park City
Wed. Jan 21 11:15 a.m. - Racquet Club, Park City
Thu. Jan 22 2:15 p.m. - Racquet Club, Park City
Sat. Jan 24 6:45 p.m. - Broadway Centre Cinemas V, SLC

CHILDREN OF INVENTION

Directed by **Tze Chun (CC '02)**

Director of photography, **Chris Teague (SOA Film '06)**

A single mother in a Chinese American suburban family struggles to support her two young children by juggling various sales jobs. When another one falls through, the family finds itself homeless and must seek refuge in an unfinished apartment building.

Sun. Jan 18 2:30 p.m. - Prospector Square Theatre, Park City
Tue. Jan 20 6:00 p.m. - Temple Theatre, Park City

Wed. Jan 21 6:00 p.m. - Screening Room, Sundance Resort
Sat. Jan 24 11:30 p.m. - Library Center Theatre, Park City

LYMELIFE

Produced by **Barbara De Fina (SOA Film Faculty)**

Set in late-seventies Long Island, Lymelife follows two families who crumble when tangled relationships, real estate problems and Lyme disease converge in the heart of suburbia.

Fri. Jan 16 9:00 p.m. - Screening Room, Sundance Resort
Sat. Jan 17 11:15 a.m. - Racquet Club, Park City
Sun. Jan 18 1:30 p.m. - Broadway Centre Cinemas IV, SLC
Tue. Jan 20 5:30 p.m. - Library Center Theatre, Park City
Sat. Jan 24 11:30 p.m. - Prospector Square Theatre, Park City

Spectrum: Documentary (Out of Competition) (4 Films; 5 Filmmakers)

NO IMPACT MAN

Associate produced by **Tobey List (SOA MFA Candidate '11)**

Writer Colin Beavan tests whether making zero environmental impact adversely affects happiness. The hitch is he needs his wife, Michelle and their toddler to join the experiment.

Fri. Jan 16 11:30 a.m. - Library Center Theatre, Park City
Sat. Jan 17 3:15 p.m. - Screening Room, Sundance Resort
Sun. Jan 18 12:30 p.m. - Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, SLC
Sun. Jan 18 11:30 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City
Fri. Jan 23 5:30 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City

PASSING STRANGE

Produced by **Elizabeth Ireland McCann (GSAS '54)**

This Spike Lee documentary captures the eponymous Broadway musical show written by singer/songwriter Stew, uniting revelatory theater with superb filmmaking.

Fri. Jan 16 2:30 p.m. - Library Center Theatre, Park City
Sat. Jan 17 noon - Screening Room, Sundance Resort
Sun. Jan 18 3:00 p.m. - Broadway Centre Cinemas VI, SLC
Tue. Jan 20 11:59 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema IV, Park City
Sat. Jan 24 5:15 p.m. - Library Center Theatre, Park City

TYSON

Written and directed by **James Toback (GSAS '67)**

A gritty and intimate portrait of one of boxing's most polarizing figures, this film recounts Iron Mike's rise to superstardom and subsequent fall from grace through the eyes of the man himself.

Fri. Jan 16 8:30 a.m. - Racquet Club, Park City
Fri. Jan 16 9:00 p.m. - Tower Theatre, SLC
Sat. Jan 17 5:30 p.m. - Library Center Theatre, Park City
Mon. Jan 19 2:30 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City
Sat. Jan 24 6:15 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema IV, Park City

WOUNDED KNEE

Directed by **Stanley Nelson (CU Revson Fellow, '04)**

Written by **Marcia Smith (CU Revson Fellow '04)**

Using archival footage and interviews, this film offers a comprehensive look at the 71-day standoff in 1973, when armed Sioux occupied Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Fri. Jan 16 2:30 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City

Sat. Jan 17 6:00 p.m. - Broadway Centre Cinemas VI, SLC

Mon. Jan 19 9:00 a.m. - Temple Theatre, Park City

Thu. Jan 22 8:30 p.m. - Holiday Village Cinema III, Park City

Other News

Fellipe Barbosa (SOA Film '06) and **John Magary (SOA Film '07)** are two of twelve finalists for the 2009 Sundance/NHK International Filmmakers Awards, \$10,000 prizes given to one recipient each from Europe, Latin America, the United States and Japan. Barbosa is nominated from Brazil, for his screenplay **CASA GRANDE**, which was co-written by **Karen Sztajnberg (SOA Film '06)**; and Magary from the U.S., for his screenplay **BLOOD ABUNDANCE, OR THE HALF-LIFE OF ANTOINETTE**. Winners will be announced on January 22 at the festival.

Total Films/Shorts in Festival: 28 + 2 award entries

Total Filmmakers in Festival: 36 + 3 award entrants