

# NYWIFT || New York Women in Film & Television



*NYWIFT Member Films at Sundance, clockwise from top left: Shayda, King Coal, Cat Person, Still: A Michael J. Fox Movie, Take Me home*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **NEW YORK WOMEN IN FILM & TELEVISION ANNOUNCES 21 PROJECTS FROM 24 MEMBERS SELECTED FOR THE 2023 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL**

**Diverse mix of narrative and documentary films span 10 competition categories**

**NEW YORK, NY – January 19, 2023** – New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT) is pleased to announce that 21 projects from 24 members have been officially selected for the 2023 Sundance Film Festival. The festival takes place January 19-29, 2023, both virtually and in-person in Park City, Utah.

The 21 projects span 10 categories and exemplify the diversity of talent within the NYWIFT community. As the leading non-profit professional association for women in media in New York, NYWIFT boasts a membership made up of not only directors and producers, but writers, editors, casting professionals, actors, business executives, attorneys, and so much more. Many of those key leadership roles are reflected in the 2023 NYWIFT Sundance roster.

The vast majority of the NYWIFT member projects are female-driven and focused on narratives from marginalized communities, including BIPOC stories, voices from the disabled community, LGBTQIA+ dramas, and films about the immigrant experience.

“We have come a long way baby, as they say. From my first time in attendance at Sundance more than 20 years ago as a public media television executive to now, the increase in the number of women (including NYWIFT members) that are part of the Sundance roster is impressive. Women have persevered against all odds, including contending with the challenges of completing original content during the pandemic to hone their craft, build unique visually stunning experiences, and present challenging subject matter in uplifting and charismatic ways. We applaud them and can’t wait to hear more about what happens on the mountain this year,” said NYWIFT CEO **Cynthia Lopez**. “We hope that those who are looking for distribution or representation find it, and those looking to elevate and promote their work and get people to tune in to their streaming and broadcast premieres find their way. Sundance can be magical when the stars are aligned, so we hope that our members join to continue to foster the NYWIFT community we are part of.”

The full listing of NYWIFT member projects by category includes: From the Collection: *Slam* (Production Coordinator **Eleni Yiovas Tsokanos**); Next: *King Coal* (Post-Production Supervisor **Jean Lane**) and *To Live and Die and Live* (Producer **Dana Offenbach**):

Premieres: *Cat Person* (Head of Production: Goldcrest NYWIFT Board Member **Gretchen McGowan**), *Eileen* (Stunt Double for Thomasin McKenzie **Ashley Pynn** and BG Costumer **Margaret (Meg) Galvin**), *Invisible Beauty* (Editor **Chris McNabb**), *Judy Blume Forever* (Producers **Marcella Steingart** and **Sara Bernstein**), *Landscape with Invisible Hand* (Stunt



Coordinator **Nitasha Bhambree**), *Plan C* (Executive Producer **Jess Jacobs**), and *Still: A Michael J. Fox Movie* (Producer NYWIFT Advisory Board Member **Annetta Marion**); Spotlight: *Joyland* (Producer **Katharina Otto-Bernstein**); U.S. Documentary Competition: *Joonam* (Executive Producer **Ruth Ann Harnisch**), *Little Richard: I Am Everything* (Director **Lisa Cortes** and Executive Producer **Amy Entelis**), and *Victim/Suspect* (Executive Producer **Carolyn Hepburn**); U.S. Dramatic Competition: *Magazine Dreams* (Producer **Jennifer Fox**) and *Shortcomings* (Additional Director of Photography **Jendra Jarnagin**); U.S. Fiction Short Films: *Ricky* (Associate Producer **Sandra Manzanares**) and *Take Me Home* (Director **Liz Sargent**); U.S. Nonfiction Short Films: *Under G-d* (Director and Writer **Paula Eiselt** and Executive Producer **Ruth Ann Harnisch**); World Documentary Competition: *The Longest Goodbye* (Executive Producer **Lois Vossen**); and World Cinema Dramatic Competition: *Shayda* (Executive Producer **Caitlin Gold**).

Learn more about the projects at <https://www.nywift.org/nywift-members-at-the-2023-sundance-film-festival/>.

On January 13, NYWIFT produced a special episode of its **NYWIFT Talks** virtual series featuring three of the NYWIFT members headed to Sundance 2023, producers **Annetta Marion**, **Dana Offenbach**, and **Marcella Steingart**, moderated by NYWIFT CEO **Cynthia Lopez**. The conversation can be viewed on the NYWIFT website at <https://www.nywift.org/event/nywift-talks-nywift-goes-to-sundance-2023/>

The organization will also highlight all of the members projects on its Instagram account [@NYWIFT](https://www.instagram.com/NYWIFT) throughout the festival, produced two NYWIFT podcast episodes highlighting festival

content ([available here](#)), and will produce a blog series of interviews with select members included in the festival, available at [www.nywift.org.blog](http://www.nywift.org.blog).

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**Project Images:**

[LINK TO DOWNLOAD](#)

**About New York Women in Film & Television:**

New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT) connects, educates, and advocates for women to accelerate diversity in media. As the preeminent entertainment industry association for women in New York, NYWIFT energizes women by illuminating their achievements, presenting training and professional development programs, awarding scholarships and grants, and providing access to a supportive community of peers. NYWIFT brings together more than 2,500 women and men working both above and below the line. NYWIFT is part of a network of 60 women in film organizations worldwide, representing more than 15,000 members. NYWIFT is a nonprofit 501c3 public charity.

More information can be found online at: [www.NYWIFT.org](http://www.NYWIFT.org).

Follow on all social media platforms @NYWIFT.

**About the NYWIFT Member Projects:**

Loglines of NYWIFT Member Sundance Film Festival projects, presented by category:

**FROM THE COLLECTION:**

***Slam*** (Production Coordinator Eleni Yiovas Tsokanos): The iconic Black film *Slam*, surrounding the story of a troubled, yet good-hearted poet (Saul Williams) who finds love (Sonja Sohn) and his voice at a local slam poetry session in Washington, D.C. has been restored as a part of the Sundance Institute's Archives & Collection program in celebration of the 25th anniversary. The film first premiered at Sundance in 1998 and won the Grand Jury Prize.

**NEXT:**

***King Coal*** (Post-Production Supervisor Jean Lane): The journey of a coal miner's daughter exploring the region's dreams and myths, untangling the pain and beauty, as her community sits on the brink of massive change.

***To Live and Die and Live*** (Producer Dana Offenbach): Muhammad returns home to Detroit to bury his stepfather and is thrust into settling his accounts, but Muhammad's struggles with depression and addiction may finish him before he finishes the task.

**PREMIERES:**

***Cat Person*** (Head of Production: Goldcrest NYWIFT Board Member Gretchen McGowan): Margot, a college student working concessions at an art house theater, meets frequent filmgoer — and rather older local — Robert, on the job. Flirtation across the counter evolves into continuous texting.

***Eileen*** (Stunt Double for Thomasin McKenzie Ashley Pynn and BG Costumer Margaret (Meg) Galvin): Based on the book of the same name by literary powerhouse Ottessa Moshfegh, *Eileen* follows a peculiar young woman whose dreary life stretches on toward unending misery.

***Invisible Beauty*** (Editor Chris McNabb): Fashion revolutionary Bethann Hardison looks back on her journey as a pioneering Black model, modeling agent, and activist, shining a light on an untold chapter in the fight for racial diversity.

***Judy Blume Forever*** (Producers Marcella Steingart and Sara Bernstein): With humor, sensitivity, and a healthy dose of adolescent cringe, *Judy Blume Forever* tells the story of the woman whose trailblazing books changed the way millions of readers understand themselves, their sexuality, and what it means to grow up.

***Landscape with Invisible Hand*** (Stunt Coordinator Nitasha Bhambree): When Earth is taken over by aliens who control the economy, a pair of teenagers come up with a plan to save their family.

***Plan C*** (Executive Producer Jess Jacobs): A hidden grassroots organization doggedly fights to expand access to abortion pills across the United States keeping hope alive during a global pandemic and the fall of Roe v. Wade.

***Still: A Michael J. Fox Movie*** (Producer NYWIFT Advisory Board Member Annetta Marion): Owning his own narrative, actor, Michael J Fox playfully recounts his journey with intimacy, candor, and humor. In the hands of Davis Guggenheim (*An Inconvenient Truth*, 2006 Sundance Film Festival), *Still* reveals what happens when an eternal optimist confronts an incurable disease.

#### **SPOTLIGHT:**

***Joyland*** (Producer Katharina Otto-Bernstein): The youngest son in a traditional Pakistani family takes a job as a backup dancer in a Bollywood-style burlesque, and he quickly becomes infatuated with the strong-willed trans woman who runs the show.

#### **U.S. DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION:**

***Joonam*** (Executive Producer Ruth Ann Harnisch): Spurred by a provocative family memory and a lifetime of separation from the country her mother left behind, a young filmmaker delves into her mother and grandmother's complicated pasts and her own fractured Iranian identity.

***Little Richard: I Am Everything*** (Director Lisa Cortes and Executive Producer Amy Entelis): Like a quasar burning past the gaslight, director Lisa Cortés' eye-opening documentary explodes the whitewashed canon of American pop music. *Little Richard: I Am Everything* shines a clarifying light on the Black, queer origins of rock 'n' roll, and establishes the genre's big bang: Richard Wayne Penniman.

***Victim/Suspect*** (Executive Producer Carolyn Hepburn): Rae de Leon, a reporter working at The Center for Investigative Reporting, discovers a surprising number of legal cases nationwide that involve women reporting sexual assault to the police, only to be accused of fabricating their allegations. These women are then charged with crimes, sometimes facing years in

prison. *Victim/Suspect* follows de Leon as she gathers firsthand accounts from numerous young women and their families and interviews police and legal experts.

#### **U.S. DRAMATIC COMPETITION:**

***Magazine Dreams*** (Producer Jennifer Fox): A Black amateur bodybuilder struggles to find human connection in this exploration of celebrity and violence. Jonathan Majors, in a committed performance of tremendous physicality, powerfully embodies the lengths Killian Maddox will go in his desperate need to be seen.

***Shortcomings*** (Additional Director of Photography Jendra Jarnagin): Cleverly and precisely scripted by Adrian Tomine (based on his own acclaimed graphic novel of the same title), the delightful *Shortcomings* is Randall Park's assured directorial debut. Following Ben, Miko, and Alice as they navigate a range of interpersonal relationships and traverse the country in search of the ideal connection.

#### **U.S. FICTION SHORT FILMS:**

***Ricky*** (Associate Producer Sandra Manzanares): An Ex-Offender struggling with new freedom pursues redemption at all costs when given a job from his neighbor.

***Take Me Home*** (Director Liz Sargent): After their mother's death, a cognitively disabled woman and her estranged sister must learn to communicate in order to move forward.

#### **U.S. NONFICTION SHORT FILMS:**

***Under G-d*** (Director and Writer Paula Eiselt and Executive Producer Ruth Ann Harnisch): The Dobbs U.S. Supreme Court decision sparked a national Jewish response. Inspired by the lived experiences of Jewish women, lawsuits are currently being launched by rabbis, Jewish organizations, and interfaith leaders to challenge the overturning of Roe v. Wade. World Premiere.

#### **WORLD DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION:**

***The Longest Goodbye*** (Executive Producer Lois Vossen): In his engrossing, heartwarming, and beautifully contemplative documentary, Ido Mizrahy ponders the conflict between our need for connectivity and the urge to explore the unknown.

#### **WORLD CINEMA DRAMATIC COMPETITION:**

***Shayda*** (Executive Producer Caitlin Gold): An Iranian woman living in Australia, Shayda finds refuge in a women's shelter with her frightened 6-year-old daughter, Mona. Having fled her husband, Hossein, and filed for divorce, Shayda struggles to maintain normalcy for Mona.

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