

Sundance Channel January 2008 Festival Favorites

Celebrate the 2008 Sundance Film Festival with **Festival Favorites**: ten Sundance Film Festival premieres you can't see anywhere else on TV – **all free On Demand, all month long in January!** Plus, get the inside story on each film with a special introduction from Geoffrey Gilmore, the Director of the 2008 Sundance Film Festival.

Down to the Bone

"With an aura of authenticity so strong as to be mesmerizing" (*Los Angeles Times*), Debra Granik's celebrated feature debut tells the story of a weary working-class mother (Vera Farmiga) struggling with a secret cocaine addiction. Eager to kick the habit, she enters rehab. But there she encounters a dangerous temptation of a different sort. Granik won the Director's Award at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival, while Farmiga received a Special Jury Prize at Sundance, and was named Best Actress by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association. (2004) R (N, AL, AC) (102 mins)

Live-In Maid

Jorge Gaggero's astutely observed comedy of manners examines the complicated long-term relationship of Beba (Norma Aleandro), an upper-middle-class Buenos Aires divorcee, and Dora (Norma Argentina), Beba's indispensable live-in maid. Alas, after a 30-year near-symbiotic partnership, things are about to change as Beba confronts the fact that she is broke and will have to work for a living. Praised by *Salon* as "subtle and pitch-perfect ... exquisite, diamond-tipped filmmaking," LIVE-IN MAID won the Special Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival. (2004) NR (83 mins)

Room

As talk of terror, anxiety and war fills the airwaves, Julia Barker (Cyndi Williams), an overworked Houston housewife, is troubled by visions that prompt her to take flight on a hero's journey. With his dramatic feature directorial debut, former documentary and experimental filmmaker Kyle Henry presents an enigmatic, "nervy" (*Austin Chronicle*) "existential horror film" (*New York Times*) about America in the early 21st century. (2004) R (BN, GV, AL, AC) (125 mins)

Three ... Extremes

Three Asian masters of cinematic horror push the envelope with a trio of creepy and unsettling tales. Hong Kong filmmaker Fruit Chan's DUMPLINGS tells the story of an aging actress who visits an unconventional advisor as she tries to recapture her youth. In CUT from Korea's Park Chanwook (OLDBOY), a successful film director is forced to listen to commands from a sadistic extra who once appeared in his films. And finally, Japan's Takashi Miike (AUDITION) presents BOX, in which a novelist is haunted by the ghost of her twin sister. (2004) R (BN, GV, AL, AC) (125 mins)

Unfolding Florence

While Australian filmmaker Gillian Armstrong is celebrated for dramatic features such as MY BRILLIANT CAREER and OSCAR AND LUCINDA, she has also concurrently created a notable body of documentary films. Here she delves into the fascinating enigma of flamboyant designer Florence Broadhurst, renowned for her colorful and inventive wallpaper patterns, who was found murdered in 1977. What Armstrong reveals in this innovative and spirited life examination is the story of a mysterious woman of many faces who was endlessly reinventing herself. (2005) PG (AL, AC) 82 mins)

Easy

Twenty-something Jamie Harris (Marguerite Moreau) names products for a living. But her personal life is an undefined mess. A self-described “jerk magnet,” she has endured countless dead-end couplings before meeting two suitors who may be the real thing: a brooding poet (Naveen Andrews) who is also Jamie’s former professor, and Mick (Brian F. O’Byrne), an Irish cable-television host. But in Jane Weinstock’s wise, romantic comedy about the complications of single life, Jamie’s worst enemy may be herself. “Funny and sexy” — Los Angeles Times. (2003) R (AC, AL, N) (1:37)

Eve & The Fire Horse

Eve and Karena, two young Canadian sisters of Chinese heritage, are determined to reverse the string of tragedies that has shadowed their working-class family ever since their mother (Vivian Wu) cut down the backyard apple tree. In response, the two girls embrace Christianity, with 11-year-old Karena trying to live the life of a saint. But what of the family’s Buddhist tradition? Julia Kwan’s wry and delicately observed debut feature about faith, religion and coincidence won the Special Jury Prize at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival. (2005) TVPG (AC, MV) (1:32)

I for India

Appeared at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival

Sandhya Suri’s intimate documentary considers issues of cultural identity and family obligation with the story of her father, a young doctor who emigrated from India to England in 1965. Over the years, Yash Pal Suri and his family in India kept in touch by corresponding via Super-8 movies and tape recordings. Four decades later, these family movies — supplemented with interviews and historic film clips — offer a revealing chronicle of assimilation, racism, changing cultures and one family’s evolution. “A miraculous mini-epic” — The Guardian. (2005)

Romántico

Appeared at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival

During three and a half years, documentarian Mark Becker chronicled the life and fortunes of Carmelo Sánchez, a Mexican mariachi musician in his 50s working illegally in San Francisco. In a film revealing in its depiction of poverty’s power to shape lives, Becker tells the story of a self-sacrificing dad who risked everything to find work in the United States, and then must consider returning home when he learns of his mother’s ill health. A “revelation of a way of life [and] an encounter with a special man” — San Francisco Chronicle. (2004)

Who Needs Sleep?

Appeared at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival

Behind its glamorous reputation, the American movie business often functions under near-sweatshop-like conditions. Fifteen- to 18-hour days are not unusual and such grinding labor practices take a toll on employees’ health and their families. Oscar®-winning filmmaker, cinematographer and social activist Haskell Wexler joins co-director Lisa Leeman in observing films in production, and interviewing luminaries such as Paul Newman, Julia Roberts, Tom Hanks, Annette Bening, Billy Crystal, Sam Mendes and John Sayles, to make a case for reform. (2005)