



WOMEN IN FILM AWARDS \$32,000 IN GRANTS TO SUNDANCE FILMMAKERS

Kim Sherman, Rokhsareh Ghaemmaghami, Diane Bellino, Adam Davies, Dawn Porter and Sari Gilman Honored at 10th Annual Women In Film Sundance Filmmakers Panel, Presented by Skywalker Sound

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Park City, UT – January 24, 2016) Today, **Women In Film, Los Angeles (WIF)**, the leading non-profit organization dedicated to women in the global entertainment industry and achieving gender parity both on and off screen, awarded \$32,000 in cash and in-kind grants at its 10th Annual Women In Film Sundance Filmmakers Panel discussion, “What the Future Holds,” presented by Skywalker Sound along with returning contributing sponsors Max Mara, HBO, LUNA®, Entertainment Partners, Kodak, and Technicolor.

A jury of WIF educators, filmmakers and artists determined the winners. **Kim Sherman**, filmmaker of ***DOGWALKER***, received the **2016 Women In Film/CalmDown Productions, Inc. Grant**. **Rokhsareh Ghaemmaghami** was awarded the **Women In Film Documentary Grant** for ***SONITA***. **Diane Bellino** and **Adam Davies**, filmmakers of ***THE ITCHING***, received a newly-named honor, the **Debra Hill Film Grant**. Director **Dawn Porter** and writer/editor **Sari Gilman** also received a new honor, the **Women In Film Elevation Grant**, for their documentary film ***TRAPPED***.

“Women In Film is thrilled to recognize the inspiring work of these exceptional filmmakers and to provide resources for their next projects,” said Women In Film Executive Director Kirsten Schaffer. “We are also honored to host a talented panel of filmmakers for a robust conversation about the current state of the union for female directors.”

“We are thrilled to return to the Sundance Film Festival for our 10th anniversary,” said WIF’s Lucy Webb, the producer of the event. “There’s nothing like connecting with executives and filmmakers at this festival. It’s the creative turnpike for new and exciting work.”

Women In Film joins Los Angeles-based film, television and theater production company CalmDown Productions, Inc. for the sixth year to present the **2016 Women In Film/CalmDown Productions Grant** to a female director in the Sundance Film Festival Shorts Program. Filmmaker **Kim Sherman** was this year’s recipient for her work on ***DOGWALKER***, the darkly comic adventure of a young dog walker whose worst nightmare comes true when she discovers that one of her favorite client’s beloved pets has passed away and is forced to take action while the family is away on vacation. With this grant, Sherman takes home \$5,000 cash from Women In Film and CalmDown Productions, Inc., 5,000 feet of motion picture film stock from Eastman Kodak, \$5,000 worth of high definition transfers by Technicolor, and \$1,000 worth of budgeting and scheduling software from Entertainment Partners.

The jury presented the newly-created **Debra Hill Film Grant**, named in honor of the late, trailblazing writer/producer/director and independent filmmaker, to the creative team of **Diane Bellino** and **Adam Davies** for their animated short film, ***THE ITCHING***. The award is for an independent filmmaker whose work represents a singular vision and ability to think beyond the normal conventions of filmmaking. *The Itching* is the parable of a shy wolf tries to connect with a group of hip, party-loving bunnies but finds her body is in revolt. Bellino and Davies will receive \$1,000 cash from Women In Film and the Debra Hill Fellowship, plus \$1,000 worth of budgeting and scheduling software from Entertainment Partners.

Women In Film’s Documentary Grant was established to recognize a deserving female documentarian in the Sundance Film Festival program. **Rokhsareh Ghaemmaghami** is the 2016 recipient for ***SONITA***. The film, about a young, musically-talented Afghan girl named Sonita growing up in Iran wanting to be a rapper/singer while barely escaping being sold as a child bride, is an intimate portrait of creativity and womanhood, which highlights the rarely seen intricacies and shifting contrasts of Iranian society through the lens of an artist defining the next generation. Ghaemmaghami will receive \$5,000 cash from Women In Film, plus \$1,000 worth of budgeting and scheduling software from Entertainment Partners.

A newly-inaugurated **Women In Film Elevation Grant**, was created to honor a film in the Sundance Film Festival that elevates a topic important to and significant for women, to be used by the filmmakers in their outreach programs on behalf of their film and in support of their final execution of the film. This year’s grant went to director **Dawn Porter** and writer/editor **Sari Gilman** for their documentary film ***TRAPPED***. As the battle over abortion heads to the U.S. Supreme Court, this documentary follows the struggles of the clinic workers and lawyers fighting to keep abortion safe and legal for

millions of American women, many of whom are poor and uninsured, in the wake of hundreds of TRAP laws (or Targeted Regulations of Abortion Providers) passed by conservative state legislatures since 2010. The filmmakers will receive \$1,000 in cash from Women In Film and \$1,000 worth of budgeting and scheduling software from Entertainment Partners.

Women In Film and Entertainment Partners will also donate \$6,000 worth of budgeting and scheduling software to the Sundance Institute for use in their narrative program.

Today's 2016 Sundance Filmmakers Panel, "**What the Future Holds,**" was moderated by Stacey Wilson Hunt, Hollywood Editor of New York Magazine, and featured a distinguished panel of select filmmakers:

Clea Duvall	– Writer/Director, <i>The Intervention</i>
Maggie Greenwald	– Writer/Director, <i>Sophie and the Rising Sun</i>
Sian Heder	– Writer/Director, <i>Tallulah</i>
Sheena Joyce	– Director, <i>A Hug from Paul Ryan (co-directed by Don Argott)</i>
Meera Menon	– Director, <i>Equity</i>

About the Winners

KIM SHERMAN

Dogwalker marks Kim Sherman's entry into directing. She is best known for her work as the Producer of such festival favorites as *Wild Canaries* (dir. Lawrence Michael Levine, SXSW 2014), *A Teacher* (dir. Hannah Fidell, Sundance 2013), *Sun Don't Shine* (dir. Amy Seimetz, SXSW 2012), and the breakout home-invasion thriller, *You're Next* (dir. Adam Wingard, Lionsgate 2013).

DIANE BELLINO and ADAM DAVIES

Dianne Bellino is a writer/director of narrative and experimental forms in both live action and animation. Previous films have screened at SXSW, Ann Arbor, RISD Museum, Netflix and Fandor, and are available on DVD through *The Journal of Short Film* and Drag City. Her work has been supported by grants from NYSCA and the Boomerang Fund for the Arts, and artist residencies at the MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, and the Ucross Foundation. Bellino lives in New York City, where she teaches filmmaking and is the Assistant Dean of the School of Art at Pratt Institute.

Adam Davies is an artist and stop-motion animator who has worked at studios in Portland, OR and Brooklyn, NY on commercials for clients such as MTV, Nickelodeon, Burger King, and Heineken. He received his B.F.A. from Pratt Institute and currently teaches filmmaking through the Media Teaching Lab at the University of California in San Diego.

ROKHSAREH GHAEMMAGHAMI

Rokhsareh Ghaemmaghmi studied filmmaking and animation in Tehran Art University. Her research on animated documentary resulted in authoring a book named: "*Animated Documentary, a New Way to Express*". She has made six documentaries and won more than 20 international awards. Her films, *Cyanosis* (2007) and *Going up the Stairs* (2011) have had wide international exposure and acclaim. *SONITA* was praised at the IDFA Amsterdam Film Festival where it won the Audience Award for Best Documentary.

DAWN PORTER and SARI GILMAN

Dawn Porter is an award-winning filmmaker whose 2013 documentary, *Gideon's Army*, won the Sundance Film Festival Editing Award, the Tribeca All Access Creative Promise Award, and was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award and an Emmy. Dawn's other films include *Spies of Mississippi* (2014, PBS) and *Rise, The Promise Of My Brother's Keeper*, a documentary film chronicling President Obama's program to help young men and boys of color succeed. Prior to her work as a filmmaker, Dawn was director of standards and practices at ABC News and vice president of standard and practices at A&E Television Networks. She graduated from Swarthmore College and Georgetown Law Center and practiced law at the firm of Baker & Hostetler for five years.

Sari Gilman is an award-winning writer/editor whose directorial debut, *Kings Point*, won prizes at film festivals nation-wide, aired on HBO, and was nominated for an Academy Award. As an editor, she was nominated for a Prime Time Emmy for her work on Rory Kennedy's *Ghosts of Abu Ghraib*. The first feature documentary she edited was Judith Helfand's *Blue Vinyl*, which also aired on HBO and premiered at Sundance. Other films she has cut have appeared on HBO, AMC, A&E and PBS, including a history of Las Vegas and a history of New Orleans, both for PBS' American Experience. She is currently working on a film about the wildly divergent views on Israel within her own Jewish family.

About Women In Film:

Women in Film is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting equal opportunities for women, encouraging creative projects by women, and expanding and enhancing portrayals of women in all forms of global media. Given that women comprise fifty percent of the population, WIF's ultimate goal is to see the same gender parity reflected on and off screen. Founded in 1973, WIF focuses on advocacy and education, provides scholarships, grants and film finishing funds and

works to preserve the legacies of all women working in the entertainment community. For more information visit www.wif.org.

In 2012, The Sundance Institute and Women In Film, Los Angeles co-founded The Female Filmmakers Initiative. Through research and advocacy programs they work to create change in the entertainment industry.

About Skywalker Sound:

Skywalker Sound, a division of Lucasfilm Ltd, is one of the largest, most versatile full-service audio post-production companies in the industry. Skywalker Sound offers comprehensive post-production services and utilizes the talents of Academy Award®-winning sound professionals working on sound design, editorial, Foley and re-recording mixes as a team. This provides filmmakers the most efficient model available for the audio post-production process. More information is available at www.skysound.com.

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About HBO:

Home Box Office, Inc. is the premium television programming subsidiary of Time Warner Inc. and the world's most successful pay TV service, providing the two television services – HBO® and Cinemax® – to approximately 122 million subscribers worldwide. The services offer the popular subscription video-on-demand products HBO On Demand® and Cinemax On Demand®, as well as HBO GO® and MAX GO®, HD feeds and multiplex channels. HBO NOWSM, the network's internet-only premium streaming service, provides audiences with instant access to HBO's acclaimed programming in the U.S. Internationally, HBO branded television networks, along with the subscription video-on-demand products HBO On Demand and HBO GO, bring HBO services to over 60 countries. HBO and Cinemax programming is sold into over 150 countries worldwide.

About Max Mara:

Max Mara is the premier collection within the Max Mara Fashion Group and is the epitome of Italian luxury and style. As a contemporary collection for the confident woman, consisting of opulent fabrications with couture details applied to ready-to-wear, Max Mara pieces embody femininity and craftsmanship. Symbolic for impeccable silhouettes with a timeless sensibility and constructed from the most luxurious fabrics, Max Mara is revered for the classification of the coat, sharp suiting and elegant accessories. Founded in 1951 by the late visionary, Achille Maramotti, Max Mara is now available in 2,368 locations in 100 countries. Max Mara Fashion Group counts 19 different collections. The company remains privately held.

About LUNA®:

LUNA® nourishes women with delicious snacks made with 70% organic ingredients and with essential vitamins and minerals women need. LUNA connects, supports and celebrates women with programs such as LUNAFEST®, a national traveling fundraising festival of short films by, for, and about women, and Team LUNA Chix, an all-women's sport group inspiring women to learn new sports and be active. LUNA proudly donates one percent of its sales to a variety of women's nonprofits and the Breast Cancer Fund through the Clif Bar Family Foundation. (www.lunabar.com)

About Entertainment Partners:

EP is the global leader in entertainment payroll, residuals, tax incentives, finance, and other integrated production management solutions with 12 offices in the U.S., Canada, London, and Tokyo. Combining unparalleled industry expertise and resources, EP strives to make the complex simple and collaborates with clients to help them produce the most cost-effective and efficient film, television, digital, and commercial projects. Its VISTA accounting systems and Movie Magic Budgeting and Scheduling programs are the industry standards. The EP Financial Solutions group is the industry's most experienced production incentives team, assisting productions all over the world. Casting and payroll for background actors is handled through its legendary Central Casting division, a Hollywood icon since 1925. Established 40 years ago, EP is a 100% employee-owned company. Visit the website at www.ep.com.

About Kodak's Entertainment Imaging Business:

Kodak's Entertainment Imaging business is the world leader in providing motion picture film and imaging products, services, and technology for the professional motion picture and exhibition industries. For more information, visit www.kodak.com/go/motion. Follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/KodakMotionPictureFilm), Twitter ([@Kodak_ShootFilm](https://twitter.com/Kodak_ShootFilm)), Instagram (Kodak_Shootfilm), and YouTube (youtube.com/KodakShootFilm).

About Technicolor:

Incorporated in 1915, and celebrating its 100th year of service, Technicolor is the long established leader in entertainment imaging innovation with standards-setting technology and premiere talent. We have contributed to some of the most well-known films in motion picture history, and continue to be dedicated to inventing solutions that empower filmmakers around the world. For more information, please visit: www.technicolor.com.

About CalmDown Productions, Inc:

Calm Down Productions, Inc. (CDP) is a Los Angeles-based production company founded in 1991 by actress/producer Lucy Webb. The company produces television, film and theater. CDP has also produced and developed projects for HBO, Warner Bros., CBS, NBC, Lifetime and FX. Webb has been an avid supporter of Sundance and Women In Film, Los Angeles, and has produced many of their past Crystal+Lucy Awards galas and events. Past recipients of the Women In Film / CalmDown Productions Grant are Frances Bodomo for *Afronauts* (2014), Jordana Spiro for *Skin* (2013), Anna Musso for *L Train* (2012) and Deb Shoal for *AWOL* (2011).

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