



Ensemble Studio Theatre's First Light Festival Highlights Sloan Works

THEATER



The Ensemble Studio Theatre's (EST) First Light Festival, featuring Sloan supported workshops, readings, productions, and other special events, is running from December 2013 through March 2014. The Festival showcases an impressive slate of Sloan-commissioned plays including *Please Continue* written by Frank Basloe, about Stanley Milgram's famous "obedience experiments" in the 1960s opening February 6th. Other featured plays include J. Holtham's *Binary* about the Netflix algorithm for customer preference, and Daniel Retiz's *Father Unknown* about the ethics of sperm banks. *Fast Company* by Carla Ching, about an Asian family of gifters, will premiere in partnership with the Ma-Yi Theater Company in March as this year's Mainstage production. The Ensemble Studio Theatre is the recipient of a current three-year Sloan grant to commission, develop, produce, and disseminate new science plays in New York and across the country.

Brie Larson stars in Sloan Supported Bollywood Science Musical

Basmati Blues, a Bollywood-style musical about genetically modified rice, supported by a 2007 Sloan grant at Film Independent, was shot in India this summer. The film is currently in post-production and is slated for release in 2014 with Brie Larson, Donald Sutherland, and Tyne Daly starring. Larson was recently named one of 10 Actors to Watch by *Variety*, which reports that "she's particularly excited about India-set 'Basmati Blues,' which she says is 'strange and musical and funny and thought-provoking and action-packed.'" *Basmati Blues* is another successful result of Sloan's film development pipeline which has to date released nine films into theatres and has at least four more currently in production or post-production.

Sloan Prize Winner *Decoding Annie Parker* to Open in Theatres in 2014

FILM

After a popular run at festivals, the [Sloan Feature Film Prize winner](#) from the 2013 [Hamptons International Film Festival](#),



has [gained](#) theatrical distribution. *Decoding Annie Parker* has signed a deal with [Entertainment One Films](#), an important independent film distributor based in New York, for a theatrical and video on demand release in summer 2014. The film, directed by Steven Bernstein and starring Helen Hunt and Samantha Morton, dramatizes Mary-Claire King's groundbreaking 1990 discovery of the BRCA1 gene responsible for many breast and ovarian cancers, as well as the story of Annie Parker whose harrowing family history inspired her to learn about

genetics and its role in her disease. Annie Parker herself is pictured above at the Sloan screening at the Hamptons International Film Festival, supported by the Foundation for fourteen years to spotlight science and technology films and to develop science and technology screenplays. The film has already raised \$1 million for breast cancer charities at fundraising screenings around the globe, and a number of important articles about the science in the film have also been published in places such as [Mercury News](#), [The Daily Tribune](#), [Science News](#), and [Scientific American](#).

NYU Hosts Reception to Honor Sloan Feature Film Prize Winners



New York University hosted a reception in December to celebrate two women students who won the annual Sloan Feature Film Prize--a \$100,000 award to allow a student to shoot their first feature film in 18-months. The winners--Brittany Shaw and Ginny Mohler--won for their script *Radium Girls*, based on the story of 1920s teenage girls who were poisoned while painting luminous watches at the U.S. Radium Factory. Two previous winners of this prize have successfully shot and completed their feature films.

Sloan's Science on Screen Program Featured at the 2014 Art House Convergence



The 2014 Art House Convergence, which brings together 450 art house cinemas once a year, will feature the Foundation's Science on Screen initiative in a plenary session on January 15th. The Coolidge Corner Cinema's Science on Screen series fosters scientific literacy by pairing feature films with introductions by working scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. Sloan has supported the expansion of this program to art house cinemas nationwide each of which also shows at least one Sloan film per year. The Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation is the recipient of a current two-year Sloan grant to support their Science on Screen program and expand its reach to another 40 theatres nationwide.

2014 Sundance Film Festival to Highlight Sloan Works



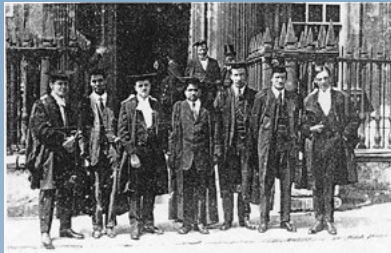
The 2014 Sundance Film Festival, supported by the Foundation for eleven years, will feature a suite of Sloan events from January 16-26 in Park City, Utah. These include: a Sloan science-in-film panel preceded by a 'sizzle reel' of Sloan-winning films; a reception and award ceremony for the Sloan feature film prize, the Sloan commissioning grant and the Sloan screenwriting lab fellowship; and a formal presentation at the Closing Night Awards Ceremony. Included in this year's program is a Sloan-supported short film by an NYU student, Frances Bodomo, about the Zambian space race in the 1960s called *Afronauts*. The Sundance Institute is the recipient of a current two-year Sloan grant to support a science and technology program at Sundance that includes film fellowships, film prizes, and film panels and outreach.

Computer Chess Nominated for Three Independent Spirit Awards



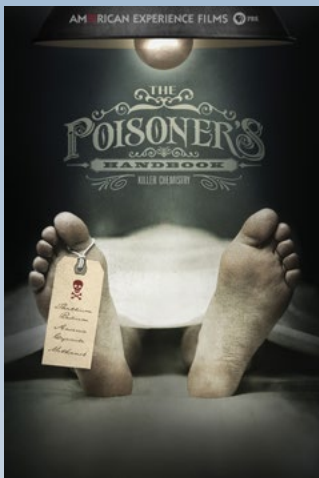
Andrew Bujalski's acclaimed film *Computer Chess*, supported by two Sloan grants at Sundance and Tribeca Film Institutes, has been [nominated](#) for three Independent Spirit Awards, the premiere award for independent cinema. The film is a nominee in the Best Cinematography, Best Editing, and John Cassavetes Award (best feature made for under \$500,000) categories. The Awards ceremony will take place March 1 in Los Angeles, California, and the film is now available to stream on Netflix. This is one of the nine completed films to come out of Sloan's film development pipeline that has been released into theatres.

Sloan-supported Film on Ramanujan Will Star Dev Patel and Jeremy Irons



The Man Who Knew Infinity, a biopic about the Indian mathematical prodigy Srinivasa Ramanujan that was supported by Sloan through the Film Independent Producer's Lab and is adapted from a book by Sloan-supported author Robert Kanigel, is coming to the big screen. *Slumdog Millionaire* star Dev Patel is attached to play Ramanujan, and it was [announced](#) in December that Jeremy Irons will play G.H. Hardy, the English mathematician who was Ramanujan's mentor and collaborator. The film is set to shoot in India and the UK in 2014, and is one of the four new films from Sloan's film development pipeline that is currently in production.

The Poisoner's Handbook to Premiere on PBS in January 2014



The American Experience, the Foundation's flagship television partner, will premiere its newest Sloan production, *The Poisoners Handbook*, on Tuesday, January 7th, 2014 at 8:00pm on PBS. The documentary is based on a best-selling Sloan-supported book of the same name by Pulitzer-Prize winning author Deborah Blum, and focuses on New York's first scientifically trained medical examiner who helped turn forensic chemistry into a science and expose the poisons in everyday products. A [trailer](#) for the film is now online, and PBS has also launched an interactive [game](#), funded by Sloan, in which users can help to solve crimes by performing forensic chemistry experiments on the web. WGBH Educational Foundation is the recipient of a current three year Sloan grant to research and produce four primetime films on PBS's American Experience on the role of science, technology, and engineering in history.

Studio 360 Episode Honored as Best in Science Multimedia



Studio 360, an award-winning arts and culture radio show hosted by Kurt Anderson and supported by Sloan to feature science programming, has featured an episode selected as among the best science multimedia stories on the web from 2012. The episode, "[The Man Who Invented Dinosaurs](#)," is about wildlife painter Charles R. Knight who is responsible for the first graphic depictions of dinosaurs at the Museum of Natural History. The show was selected by [Science Studio](#), funded by the National Association of Science Writers which chooses the best-of-the-best science content on the web and features it

in their online collection. *Studio 360* also has an upcoming live show on December 17th in the Greene Space, which will be transformed into a science fair featuring the pioneers in 3-D printing. New York Public Radio is the recipient of a current three year Sloan grant to support the production and distribution of science and technology coverage on *Studio 360*.

Radiolab's Live Show APOCALYPTICAL Tours the Country



WNYC's Peabody-Award winning broadcast *Radiolab*, supported by the Sloan Foundation since inception, has created a new live multimedia event [Apocalyptic](#) that explores the theme of endings through storytelling, comedy, music, and performance. Performances have traveled to Ohio, Michigan, Toronto, Tennessee, Colorado, Boston, Los Angeles, Dallas, Austin, and more, with a final New York performance at the Beacon Theatre on December 2nd. The show has received numerous positive mentions

in the press, including in [The Austin Chronicle](#), [Dallas Observer](#), the [Cleveland Scene](#), the [Detroit News](#), and [Time Out](#). WNYC Public Radio is the recipient of a current three year Sloan grant for production and enhanced distribution of *Radiolab*.

First DPLAfest Celebrates Historic Launch



The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)--the nation's online repository for knowledge that is free and open for all, of which Sloan is a founding sponsor--held its first [DPLAfest](#) on October 24-25, 2013. The DPLA's original launch event was canceled due to the Boston Marathon bombing attacks, but DPLA was still named one of the "50 Best Websites" of 2013 by *Time Magazine* weeks after its April launch. The October two-day series of free public events celebrated the official live launch of the DPLA and began with a reception at the Boston Public Library featuring speeches by the leaders of the DPLA's founding phase--John

Palfrey, Maura Marx, Doron Weber, Robert Darnton, and the new Executive Director Dan Cohen--and a screening of a new DPLA video, now online for anyone to [view](#). The [event](#) continued with workshops and open meetings that included tech demos, discussions on the future of libraries, data mining and the DPLA, copyright, and open access. In keeping with Sloan's grant to get the DPLA to expand its funder base, the DPLA also announced a new \$1 million [grant](#) from the Gates Foundation to pilot a national digital training program at public libraries across the United States. The DPLA itself has already grown from about 2.4 million digitized items in April to over 5 million as of October. As the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) said in a recent survey of the DPLA, "After only seven months, the...DPLA...serves as the central link in an expanding network of cultural institutions that want to make their holdings more visible to the public." DPLA, Inc. is the recipient of a current two-year Sloan grant to launch the DPLA as an independent, national organization and hire an executive director and two key staff to begin operations and scale up for the first two years.

PROGRAM TEAM

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Program Associate: Sonia Epstein

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