



NEW MEDIA

The 2015 World Science Festival Features Sloan Events and Science Programs Around the City



The 2015 [World Science Festival](#), of which Sloan is a founding sponsor, took place in New York from May 27-31st. This annual event celebrates science through public events. This year's festival opened with *Light Falls*, a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Einstein's discovery of general relativity featuring physicist and Festival co-founder Brian Greene. Sold-out events included a conversation between John Hockenberry and Nobel Prize-winning physicist Steven Weinberg on his newest book *To Explain the World: The Discovery of Modern Science*. The 2015 Festival also featured

two sold-out events highlighting Sloan-supported works. A screening of [The Stanford Prison Experiment](#) hosted by the Museum of the Moving Image was followed by a panel discussion of science and the human capacity for cruelty, featuring anthropologist Scott Atran, science writer Dean Haycock, director Kyle Patrick Alvarez, and psychologist Christina Maslach who was a graduate student studying with the lead researcher, Philip Zimbardo, whom she later married, and who was responsible for stopping the experiment. The second event featured science journalist Catherine Price, who received Sloan support for her book [Vitamina](#), and discussed the human microbiome and dietary trends with medical experts Brian Elbel and Paul Marantz. The Science Festival Foundation is the recipient of a current two-year Sloan grant to support programming and dissemination of the World Science Festival.

THEATER

The Ensemble Studio Theatre Receives Five Tony Nominations and a Special Drama Desk Award



The Ensemble Studio Theatre, Sloan's flagship theater partner for the past 18 years, received unprecedented recognition in 2015. The Obie award-winning Broadway play [Hand To God](#) which EST developed and premiered in 2011, garnered five Tony Award nominations, including for Best Play, the first time in EST's 47-year history that a production has been Tony nominated. (Rob Askins, nominated for Best Playwright, has received two Sloan commissions.) EST was also honored with a [Special Drama Desk Award](#) for the contributions it has made to American theater. The citation read: "For its unwavering commitment to producing new works by American playwrights since 1968, and enriching this season with productions of *When January Feels Like Summer*, *Winners*, and *Five*



Alfred P. Sloan
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June, 2015

Program Updates from the VP, Programs Doron Weber

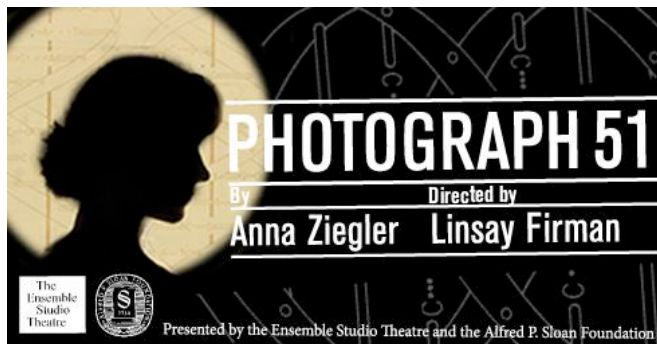
Times in One Night. EST's Youngblood program fostered and nurtured *Hand to God*, setting Tyrone off on his devilish path to Broadway."

Sloan-Commissioned Play by Deborah Laufer, *Informed Consent*, Opens at The Duke in August



The new play [Informed Consent](#) by Deborah Zoe Laufer, which was commissioned by the Ensemble Studio Theatre-Alfred P. Sloan partnership, will make its Off-Broadway Premiere at The Duke on 42nd Street on August 4th, and will run through September 13th, 2015. *Informed Consent* tells the story of a genetic anthropologist researching diabetes and a legal battle between the University and the Native American tribe she was studying when the tribe discovered that their DNA was being used to research a host of other diseases. Due to the early excitement generated by the play, *Informed Consent* will be presented by EST in a co-production with Primary Stages. 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.

The Sloan-supported Play *Photograph 51* to Open in the U.K. with Nicole Kidman



The Sloan-supported play *Photograph 51* by Anna Ziegler, about Rosalind Franklin's contributions to the discovery of DNA, will open at the [Noel Coward Theater](#) in September 2015. The play, which is also in development as a feature film with Rachel Weisz attached, was produced in New York at the [Ensemble Studio Theatre](#) in 2010 with support from both the MTC-Sloan and EST-Sloan partnerships. This new U.K. production will star Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman (*Moulin*

Rouge!) and will be directed by Michael Grandage (*Genius*). Anna Ziegler is also the recipient of an EST-Sloan commission currently in development as well as an MTC-Sloan commissioning grant for a new work *Boy*, which deals with issues of gender reassignment and parenting. 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.



TELEVISION

Science Goes to the Movies Premieres on CUNY TV



CUNY TV's new Sloan-supported show, [Science Goes to the Movies](#), has premiered to critical acclaim. This monthly series, produced by CUNY-TV in association with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, is co-hosted by neuroscientist Heather Berlin and television and journalist Faith Salie, and uses science as a gateway to review current television and movies. [Scientific American](#) interviewed Heather Berlin about the show, and [Broadway World](#) called it "lively and informative." [Recent episodes](#) have focused on *The Imitation Game*, *Into the Woods*, and *Particle Fever*, and have included such guest scientists as Rosario Gennaro of

the Center for Algorithms at City College and Neil deGrasse Tyson of the Rose Center for Earth and Space. The CUNY TV Foundation is the recipient of a current one-year Sloan grant to pilot a 13-part TV series co-hosted by a journalist and a scientist that review the latest movies and television shows, with an emphasis on the science angle.

Mercy Street Set to Premiere on PBS



A new historical drama on PBS with a medical science focus, supported by the Foundation, has [announced](#) that it will premiere in winter 2016. [Mercy Street](#) is a Civil War drama that centers on the lives of two nurses in a luxury hotel turned Union hospital in Alexandria, VA. The series will be produced by Ridley Scott's Scott Free Productions and will star Josh Radnor (*How I Met Your Mother*) and Mary Elizabeth Winstead (*The Returned's*). The PBS Foundation is the recipient of a current one-year Sloan grant to support the pilot of a

six-part, fact-based historical drama about how the Civil War drove innovations in medical science to air on PBS and VOD along with a major educational outreach campaign.



FILM

The TFI-Sloan Filmmaker Fund Awards \$150,000 to Four New Screenplays



At the 2015 Tribeca Film Festival the TFI-Sloan Filmmaker Fund granted \$150,000 to four screenplays which successfully dramatize science and technology themes and characters. The [award-winning scripts](#) were selected by a jury that featured producer Anne Carey, actor Raul Esparza, actor-director Danny Glover, physicist Ben Lillie and neuroscientist Daniela Schiller. The scripts explore topics ranging from the building of the atomic bomb, to a biopic about the Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, to a film about DNA evidence, to one about a teenager

inspired by Buckminster Fuller. The Tribeca Film Institute is the recipient of a current two-year Sloan grant to develop science and technology films for production, to showcase classic science and technology movies, and to hold panels and readings at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Hamptons Labs Develop Two Sloan-Supported Screenplays Towards Production



The 14th Annual [Hamptons International Film Festival Screenwriters' Lab](#) developed the work of two new Sloan-supported screenplays featuring scientific themes and characters. *Jane*, by Kendell Klein, tells the story of a 26-year-old primatologist Jane Goodall on her first trip to Tanzania to observe wild chimpanzees. *European Zero*, by Jared Goodman, is based on the true story of the first European citizen to have AIDS who unknowingly spread the virus on his trucking

route from Norway to the Persian Gulf. The Hamptons International Film Festival is the recipient of a final one-year Sloan grant to support a program to develop qualifying screenplays towards production and spotlight feature films with science and technology themes and characters.



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Sloan-Supported Filmmaker Frances Bodomo Will Participate in Sundance's Screenwriters Lab



Writer/director Frances Bodomo was named the 2015 Sundance Institute/Alfred P. Sloan Fellow and will participate with her feature film *Afronauts* in [Sundance's June Screenwriters Lab](#). Inspired by the true story of a Zambian community in the 1960s who entered the Space Race, *Afronauts* first received Sloan production funds at NYU and the resulting short film premiered at Sundance in 2014. The screenplay for the feature-length film then received mentorship and support through the

TFI-Sloan Filmmaker Fund. *Archive*, co-written by Jonathan Minard and Scott Rashap, was the recipient of this year's Sloan Fellowship at Sundance and tells the story of two people falling in love over the internet. *Otzi*, by Cutter Hodierne and John Hibey, was the Sloan Commissioning Grant recipient and recounts the final days of a prehistoric man's life. 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.

Columbia Film Festival Features the Work of Four Sloan-Supported Students



The 28th [Columbia University Film Festival](#), an annual event which includes several days of screenings, panels and events, featured three Sloan Award-winning short films, and a Sloan Award-winning screenplay in its 2015 lineup. The shorts were: *These Are My People* by Berkley Brady about a geologist on an oil rig, *Don't Tell Anyone* by Anna Gutto about a college quarterback grappling with sexual harassment, and *Getting In* by Stian Hafstad about a college student hacking the school's tuition software. The screenplay night included a reading of excerpts from

the award-winning script *Station Blackout* by Laurence Vannicelli about a team fighting to save a nuclear power plant during a meltdown. Columbia University is the recipient of a current three-year Sloan grant to encourage the next generation of filmmakers to write screenplays and produce short films about science and technology.



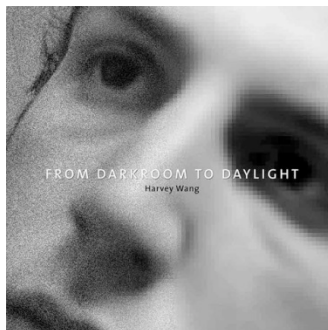
BOOKS

***Infested*, by Brooke Borel, is Published**



Science journalist Brooke Borel's new Sloan-supported book *Infested: How the Bed Bug Infiltrated Our Bedrooms and Took Over the World*, was published by The University of Chicago Press in April 2015. [Library Journal](#) said the book is "For anyone who wants to replace their fear of bed bugs with knowledge," and [Science News](#) called it "Captivating," saying that "the cultural significance and the biology of the insect are the focus of *Infested*." Brooke Borel was the recipient of a book grant from the Foundation to research and write a book on the history of the bed bug and its impact on scientific research, pest control and the general public.

***From Darkroom to Daylight*, by Harvey Wang, To Be Published**



Filmmaker and photographer Harvey Wang's Sloan-supported book *From Darkroom to Daylight* will be published on June 23, 2015 by Daylight Books. *From Darkroom to Daylight* is composed of interviews with photographers such as Sally Mann and Gregory Crewdson, as well as with leaders in the field of photography, from Steven Sasson who built the first digital camera to Thomas Knoll who created Photoshop, talking about the transition from film to digital. Harvey Wang was the recipient of a book grant from the Foundation to research and write a book about the impact of the digital revolution on the art of photography.



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UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

The New York Botanical Gardens Salutes Sloan Support for the World Flora Online



On May 14th, 2015 the New York Botanical Garden's (NYBG) Annual Founders Dinner [honored](#) Google Inc. and the Sloan Foundation for their [support](#) of NYBG's lead role in developing the World Flora Online (WFO). The dinner was hosted by actress and film producer Sigourney Weaver, and included remarks from Google's Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt. The WFO is a global initiative to create the first-ever comprehensive online scientific catalogue for the world's 350,000 plant species. Foundation support also went to making the WFO accessible via the Digital Public Library of America. The New York Botanical Garden is the recipient of a current 20

month Sloan grant to digitize 20,000 plant species records and to become a major Content Hub for the DPLA, while co-heading the WFO.

Program Team: Doron Weber, *Vice President, Programs and Program Director* | Sonia Epstein, *Senior Program Associate* | Delia DiBiasi, *Senior Program and Investments Assistant*