



THEATER

MTC/Sloan Production of *Constellations* is a Hit on Broadway



The Sloan-supported play [Constellations](#), by Nick Payne--the recipient of a Manhattan Theatre Club/Sloan Commissioning Grant for a new play about theoretical physicist Paul Dirac—has had an amazing run on Broadway at the Samuel

J. Friedman Theatre. Starring Jake Gyllenhaal (*Brokeback Mountain*) as a beekeeper falling in love with a quantum physicist, played by Ruth Wilson (“The Affair”), the show has sold out and even added extra performances to accommodate the large public demand. *Constellations* has received [rave reviews](#), including from the [New York Times](#), which began its review “Who knew that higher physics could be so sexy, so accessible—and so emotionally devastating?” The Manhattan Theatre Club is the recipient of a current three-year Sloan grant to commission, develop, and produce new science and technology plays and *Constellations* is the recipient of an additional \$125,000 production grant for this Broadway run.

FILM

The Imitation Game wins Oscar



[The Imitation Game](#), a dramatic biopic about the British mathematician and cryptographer Alan Turing, which received a Sloan post-production award through the Tribeca Film Institute and the Sloan Feature Film Prize at the Hamptons Film Festival, took home the Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay, beating several bigger budget favorites. [The film](#), the number one art house movie at the box office, also received seven additional nominations. *The Theory of Everything*, about Stephen Hawking, was nominated for five

Oscars making this a standout year for science in film generally and for the Sloan film program specifically, which saw four completed feature films via its pipeline, including its first Oscar-winning film. 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. The Hamptons International Film Festival is the recipient of a current one year Sloan grant to commission and spotlight science and technology films and develop science and technology screenplays into production.



Deep Sea Divers of 1929 to Receive Sloan Student Grand Jury Prize at March Celebration



On March 26th the \$50,000 [TFI Sloan Student Grand Jury Prize](#) will be presented to the “best of the best” student screenplay from Sloan’s six film school partners. Savannah Reich of Carnegie Mellon will receive a \$30,000 cash prize and an additional \$20,000 towards year-round support provided by Tribeca Film Institute including mentorship from science and film advisor for her script *Deep Sea Divers of 1929*. *Deep Sea Divers of 1929* tells the story of Otis Barton, who, after being disinherited by his father, pours his fortune into building the world’s first deep sea submarine. *Deep Sea Divers of 1929* was selected by a jury that included Franklin Leonard (Founder of *The Black List*); actress Rosemarie DeWitt (*Cinderella Man*, *Rachel Getting Married*); writer, director and producer, Cherien Dabis (*The L Word*, *Amreeka*); cognitive neuroscientist and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Dr. Heather Berlin; and postdoctoral fellow and writer, Carl E. Schoonover (*Portraits of the Mind*, *The New York Times*.) The Foundation’s film program has awarded more than \$4 million in direct grants to student filmmakers throughout the country and has supported more than 500 film projects of original work that engages with science and technology-related characters and themes. The Tribeca Film Institute is the recipient of a current two year Sloan grant to award the annual Sloan Student Grand Jury Prize to the best student film from all film school partners and to develop each winning screenplay towards production.

22 Theaters Join Sloan and Coolidge for Nationwide *Science on Screen* Evening



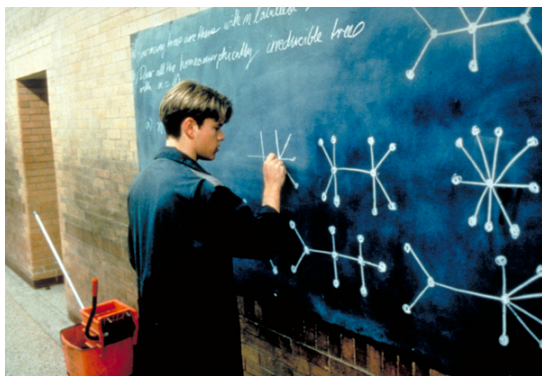
On March 16th, 2015 the Sloan Foundation and Coolidge Corner Theatre presented the second annual national evening of [Science on Screen](#) in which twenty-two independent grantee cinemas across the country simultaneously screened films paired with introductions by scientists, engineers, or mathematicians. Over the past five years, Sloan has supported the expansion of Coolidge’s flagship program to art house cinemas nationwide--awarding 71 grants to 38 independent cinemas to date--each of which also shows at least one Sloan film per year, providing a unique distribution

opportunity for Sloan-funded films. Programs on March 16th included Coolidge Corner screening of *Arsenic*



and Old Lace introduced by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Deborah Blum, and *American Hustle* at the Athena Cinema in Ohio introduced by cognitive scientist Dr. Claudia Gonzalez-Vallejo. The Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation is the recipient of a current two-year Sloan grant to support the theatre's Science on Screen Program and expand its reach to theatres nationwide.

14th Tribeca Film Festival Features Award-Winning Sloan Screenings, Readings and Panels



The 14th annual Tribeca Film Festival, supported by Sloan since inception, will take place April 15-26. This year's festival will feature a Sloan-supported retrospective screening on April 22nd of *Good Will Hunting* followed by a panel of expert scientists and top film professionals. On April 24th the Sloan Works in Progress Readings, featuring acclaimed actors reading from the 2015 Sloan-winning projects, will be held at Spring Studios co-hosted by the Blacklist. On April 2nd the TFI Sloan Filmmaker Fund, an annual juried prize, will announce the feature films that

have won a total of \$150,000 for successfully dramatizing science and technology themes and characters. 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.

The Stanford Prison Experiment Wins Sloan Feature Film Prize at Sundance 2015



The Sundance Film Festival, supported by the Foundation for eleven years, took place in January 2015 featuring a suite of Sloan events. [*The Stanford Prison Experiment*](#), directed by Kyle Patrick Alvarez was awarded the \$20,000 Sloan Feature Film Prize by a jury of film and science professionals for its “unflinching portrayal of an ambitious though flawed social science experiment in the psychology of

imprisonment, and for its wrenching depiction of the human capacity for evil.” Jonathan Minard and Scott Rashap were awarded the Sloan Fellowship for their film *Archive*--about two lovers searching for connection in today's digital age. The Sloan Commissioning Grant was split between Jon Noble, for his script *Tyfus*--about two Polish doctors engineering a fake outbreak of Typhus during World War II--and Cutter Hodiern



Alfred P. Sloan FOUNDATION

March, 2015

Program Updates from the VP, Programs Doron Weber

and John Hibey for their script *Otzi*—about the final days of a prehistoric man’s life. Michael Almereyda’s new film *Experimenter*, funded by a Sloan Commissioning grant in 2008, premiered at this year’s festival. The film received a four-star review in [The Guardian](#), which called Almereyda’s film about Stanley Milgram a “thorough biopic about the controversial social psychologist...an artistic riff on one of the 20th century’s most important intellectuals.” Additionally, a sold-out panel featuring filmmakers and scientists discussing science in film was held at Filmmaker Lodge. The panelists, also the jury, were executive producer of “Nova” Paula Apsell, astrophysicist and writer Janna Levin, actress/screenwriter Brit Marling (*Another Earth, I, Origins*), screenwriter Jonathan Nolan (*Memento, Interstellar*) and Adam Steltzner, of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. 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.

RADIO

New Science Podcast Hosted by Women Launched by PRX



The PRX-STEM project, funded by Sloan to generate new science content, launched its new science podcast “[Transistor](#)” in February, 2015. The show is hosted by three female scientists—a biologist, astrophysicist, and a neuroscientist—and early episodes include one on the life cycle of stars, two on memory, and one on the microbiome. PRX is the recipient of a current one year Sloan grant to support a three-pronged approach to developing and disseminating new science and technology content for a new generation of radio producers and listeners via nontraditional broadcast, digital, and mobile platforms.

TELEVISION

Third Season of the Charlie Rose Brain Series, Co-Hosted by Dr. Eric Kandel, Premieres



The new season of the Charlie Rose Brain Series: *Brain Science and Society*, supported by the Foundation, premiered on PBS stations nationwide on March 5th. The first episode on the Biology of Aggression and the Social Amplification of Violence, was co-hosted by Charlie Rose and Eric Kandel (Columbia University), who were joined by David Anderson (Caltech), Richard Tremblay (University of Montreal), Johanna Ray



Alfred P. Sloan
FOUNDATION

March, 2015

Program Updates from the VP, Programs Doron Weber

Vollhardt (Clark University), Emil Coccaro (University of Chicago), and Adrian Raine (University of Pennsylvania). WNET is the recipient of a current fifteen month Sloan grant to produce ten hour-long episodes on the brain to be broadcast on PBS and Bloomberg and made available online.

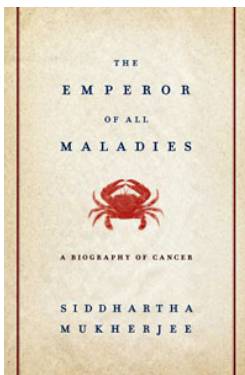
Three New Sloan-Supported Films Premiere on *The American Experience*



The American Experience, the Foundation’s flagship television partner, premiered three new documentaries on PBS in early 2015. *Edison* is written and directed by Emmy Award-winner Michelle Ferrari and tells the story of Thomas Alva Edison, the inventor of the electric light, the phonograph, the motion picture camera, and thousands of other inventions, focusing on his enduring celebrity and the role of his contributions within the context of turn-of-the-century America. [The New York Times](#) pointed out that the documentary was “particularly good at conveying that what made Edison special wasn’t

so much his inventions as knowing what to do with them. ...he didn’t merely invent things, he invented the profession of inventor.” *The Big Burn*, written and directed by Stephen Ives and produced by Amanda Pollak, recounted the fire that blazed across three million acres of the Rockies in 1910 and its formative impact on the new U.S. Forest Service. *The Forgotten Plague*, written, directed and produced by Chana Gazit, received excellent notices including from the [New York Times](#) which called it “an absorbing history of tuberculosis in America,” which “gets right down to the business of death, painting a picture of a time—just a century ago—when one in seven people in the United States and Europe died of TB.” WGBH Educational Foundation is the recipient of a current three year Sloan grant to research and produce four primetime films (*The Rise and Fall of Penn Station* was broadcast in February, 2014) on PBS’s American Experience exploring the role of science, technology, and engineering in history.

Cancer: *The Emperor of All Maladies* is Set to Air Nationally



Ken Burns Presents Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies, airs nationally March 30, 31, and April 1 at 9pm EST on PBS. This three-part, six-hour series by Barak Goodman is supported by Sloan among other funders and based on Siddhartha Mukherjee’s Pulitzer-Prize winning book on the history of cancer. [USA Today](#) reports that Burns sees the film as “a science documentary, a historical documentary, a drama, an oral history and a mystery. And an on-going subject: While the film was being made, new advances in immunotherapy were taking place.” WETA is the recipient of a current 19



Alfred P. Sloan
FOUNDATION

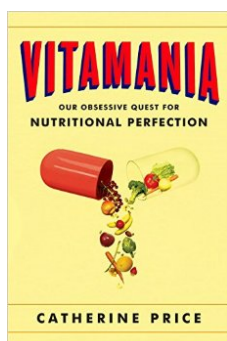
March, 2015

Program Updates from the VP, Programs Doron Weber

month Sloan grant to support the production of a documentary on the past, present, and future of cancer science, and associate outreach.

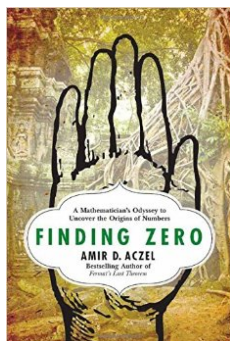
BOOKS

***Vitamina* is Published**



Catherine Price's new Sloan-supported book [VITAMANIA: Our Obsessive Quest for Nutritional Perfection](#), was published by Penguin Press on February 24, 2015. The book has received starred reviews from [Publishers Weekly](#) and [Booklist](#), which found it "lively," "commanding," and "meticulously documented." Price also published an editorial in the [New York Times Sunday Review](#) about the impact of vitamins on our food supply.

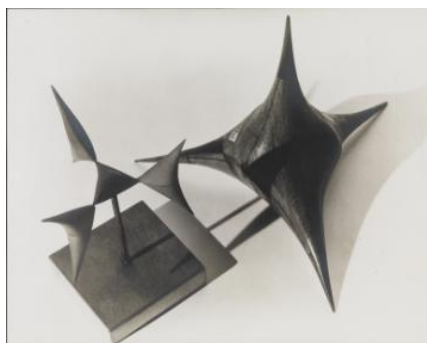
***Finding Zero* is Published**



On January 6, 2015 Amir Aczel's Sloan-supported book *Finding Zero: A Mathematician's Odyssey to Uncover the Origins of Numbers* was published by Palgrave Macmillan. [Scientific American](#) says "The full story of the numbers remains to be uncovered, but in weaving together mathematics and history with his personal explorations, Aczel enables readers to experience the joy of the chase."

NEW MEDIA

***Man Ray* Exhibit Opens at the Phillips Collection**



Man Ray—Human Equations: A Journey from Mathematics to Shakespeare, supported by Sloan, is up at the Phillips Collection from February 7 until May 10, 2015. The show features 10th century mathematical objects installed alongside Man Ray's photographs of them, and his resulting paintings. The Collection is offering a wide



variety of programs highlighting the relationship between art, mathematics, and science. The Phillips Collection is the recipient of a current year-long Sloan grant to support an exhibition, public programs, and a book about the mathematical significance of the artist Man Ray's work.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

Berkeley Digital Library Copyright Project Expands Public Access

Berkeley Digital Library Copyright Project, tackling the copyright issues facing libraries in the digital age, has completed an important set of activities establishing a legal basis for enhanced public access to existing collections. Over the course of the grant, three academic symposia were held, three symposium issues were written by legal experts to develop ideas about orphan works and mass digitization and copyright revision, and five white papers and a law review article were published. Along with American University, Berkeley created a Statement of Best Practices In Fair Use of Collections Containing Orphan Works For Libraries, Archives and other Memory Institutions—a significant step towards expanding fair use and publishing a best practices guide that is being rolled out nationwide. The University of California, Berkeley, is the recipient of a current one year Sloan grant to continue to develop copyright law obstacles faced by digital library initiatives such as the Digital Public Library of America.

The Digital Public Library of America Gets Four New Service Hubs



The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), the thriving institution of which Sloan is a founding sponsor and which aims to be the nation's online repository for all knowledge,

keeping it free and open to the public, announced four Service Hubs that will be joining its national network. The new Service Hubs, centralized, networked on-ramps for ingesting digitized content and directing it to the DPLA portal, are from [Tennessee](#), Maryland, Maine, and the Caribbean and bring to 16 the number of Service Hubs that now cover 20 states. The DPLA now has over 8.5 million items in its collection, with over 1300 contributing institutions from all 50 states. The DPLA is the recipient of a current two-year Sloan grant to launch the DPLA as an independent, national organization and to support its executive director and two staff to begin operation and scale up.