

A closer look at Sundance

To the editor:

I know this looks like *deja vu*, but I was waiting for results of the Park City Music Festival. In the meantime, Adam Benson came up with "Sundance for Idiots." My friends and I have been working in films in one capacity or another since 1987. Last summer we did "Girl With Gun," which was accepted in the Park City Music Festival. It is every filmmaker's goal/dream/plot/scheme to make it, but when it comes it's a wonderful honor that we reveled in as soon as we regained consciousness.

Sundance is "too expensive"? The Internet is very helpful in researching how to attend Sundance and still retain custody of your pink slip. Sundance is the diva of the festival but there are smaller facets like Slamdance and Park City Music Festival that have separate contact info and ticket sales. If you've never been to a film festival it can seem like an overwhelming undertaking but trust me, you'll survive Sisyphus' task without straining yourself. Here's how:

- Sundance isn't shy about letting the public know when ticket sales are coming up so start checking in September then run, don't walk, to your telephone or computer to sign up for one to 20 tickets at \$10 each. Directions are easy and fast.

- You will receive two numbers and a date and a time for you to log in (also an 800 number is available). This happens after Christmas and before the festival begins.

- You will be sent a receipt number used to pick up tickets at one of four specific box offices; or, if you're feeling flush, you can have them delivered via FedEx for \$25.

- If you've ever been caught in the lethal parking ballet at Wal-Mart during Christmas then you have known true fear but PC parking is a snap! Hotels are affordable (\$289 a week for a room for two with a kitchenette).

I highly recommend every Utahn attend the festival at least once. Attendance helps keep the Sundance Film Festival free to the public.

There can't be enough said about stopping "runaway filmmaking" (shooting outside USA). It employs industry professionals as well as locals like craft service, hotels, transportation, newspapers, property and buildings used for locations, equipment, cafes, teachers (for minors on sets), tourism, etc. Utah has the privilege of being the movie industry's back-up plan, sorta like Hollywood on location. Never has showing support for a common cause been as much fun as attending free Sundance film festivals. Now let's show the world we mean business when we say "Stop runaway filmmaking." "Girl With Gun" won the Silver Medal of Excellence (directed by Russ Emanuel and written by Emile Haris).

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