



PICTURES

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HART-LUNSFORD PICTURES AGAIN GOES TO SUNDANCE

(LOUISVILLE, Ky.) - Bluegrass-based producer Hart-Lunsford Pictures is pleased to announce that two of its newest feature films, "Diminished Capacity" and "Birds of America," have been selected as official entries to the 2008 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah held Jan. 17 -27.

In the past two years, four films produced by Plum Pictures in association with Hart-Lunsford Pictures have been chosen out of nearly 7,000 submissions to the world-renowned independent film festival.

Founded by legendary actor/director Robert Redford, the Sundance Film Festival has seen a staggering increase in the number of film submissions, with 3,624 features submitted for 2008 up from 3,287 in 2007. Just 82 features (not including documentaries) were selected this year comprising four primary categories: Dramatic Competition, Premieres, Spectrum and New Frontier.

The New York Times reported that this year's competition was especially fierce, noting "some 90 films were rejected by the festival despite the presence of well-known actors in their casts."

"Birds of America" (Hilary Swank, Matthew Perry, Ginnifer Goodwin, Ben Foster, Lauren Graham) will be seen in the Premieres section, showcasing 24 diverse new films from more established American and international directors. This family dramedy tells the story of three neurotic and dysfunctional adult siblings who converge at their childhood home, and find they need each other more than ever.

"Diminished Capacity" (Matthew Broderick, Alan Alda, Virginia Madsen), one of 19 selected for the Spectrum premieres category, is a comedy about a man suffering from memory loss who takes a trip with his high school flame and his Alzheimer's-addled uncle to a sports memorabilia show, where the trio schemes to sell a rare baseball card. The Spectrum category gives nod to the compelling voices and creative spirit of promising new filmmakers from the U.S. and around the world.

Previous success

Last year, Hart-Lunsford made a Sundance splash by selling its two official entries, "Dedication" (Mandy Moore, Justin Theroux) and "Grace is Gone" (John Cusack) to The Weinstein Co. led by Bob and Harvey Weinstein, formerly of Miramax fame. "Grace" was the first film sold at the 2007 festival, and went on to win the coveted audience award for drama, as well as the Waldo Salt Award for excellence in screenwriting. Only 13 features sold at Sundance 2007, with Hart-Lunsford Pictures garnering two of those sales.

Hart-Lunsford's back-story

Hart-Lunsford Pictures began in 2004 with two low budget movies filmed entirely on location in Louisville, and has since worked in association with Plum Pictures of New York. (Hart-Lunsford is also a minority owner of Plum.) In association with Plum Pictures, Hart-Lunsford Pictures has produced seven feature films in the last 18 months.

Hart-Lunsford Pictures collaborates with Plum on selecting each script and approving directors and lead casts. Plum largely shepherds each film through pre-production, principal photography, and post-production, in consultation with Hart-Lunsford.

Plum Pictures and Hart-Lunsford Pictures are now in post-production on a high-school comedy called "Bart Got A Room" (William H. Macy, Cheryl Hines), and recently finished filming "Trucker," the story of a tough female trucker (Michelle Monaghan) who is forced to re-acquaint with her estranged 11-year-old son when his father (Benjamin Bratt) becomes gravely ill.

Hart-Lunsford Pictures is presently considering two new projects, one to be shot in Kentucky with a local filmmaker, and one with a New York crew that would shoot in South America.

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