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Slamdance 2015

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Abstract

This is an introduction to our coverage of the Slamdance 2015 Film Festival.

Author Notes

Kristian Petersen is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Nebraska Omaha. His research and teaching interests include Islamic Studies, East Asian traditions, Media Studies, and Theory and Methodology in the Study of Religion. He hosts several academic podcasts at Marginalia Review of Books, Religious Studies News, New Books in Religion, and New Books in Islamic Studies.

In addition to its coverage on the Sundance Film Festival, the Journal of Religion & Film returned again to the Slamdance Film Festival. This was my first year in attendance at Park City and I was welcomed with warm weather and great cinema. Slamdance was in its 21st season this year and has grown into its own as a unique and rich environment for screening original films. I was able to view several which are reviewed in further detail in this issue, including *Across the Sea*, *Birds Of Neptune*, *Female Pervert*, and *Tired Moonlight*. *Across the Sea* won the Audience Award for Narrative Feature and the Jury Honorable Mention for Narrative Feature and *Tired Moonlight* took home the Jury Award for Narrative Feature. While ‘religion’ was not a dominant narrative for this year’s set of films the following reviews highlight issues of identity, transformation, classification, and society that should be relevant for the study of religion.

As always, we want to thank Melanie Marquez and Annie Jeeves of Cinematic Red, and all of the staff of the Slamdance Press Office. They make all things possible. We are in awe of how hard they work to make everything run smoothly for press, filmmakers and audiences alike.