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Anarchy Goes Virtual: Report from Slamdance 2021

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Abstract

Introduction to the Slamdance Film Festival 2021.

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Author Notes

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film and is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He is also the editor of the Continuum Companion to Religion and Film (2009).



**Anarchy Goes Virtual: Report from Slamdance 2021
(February 12th – 25th)**

The 2021 Slamdance Film Festival, like many other film festivals, has gone virtual in this year of the coronavirus. You might think that going virtual is an unwanted limitation, but in fact going virtual has made it possible for Slamdance to make its 27th Festival the biggest and most accessible Festival ever. The Festival not only lasts a couple of days longer than in past years, but, also, Slamdance is available on multiple platforms, including Slamdance.com, AppleTV, Roku, Firestick, and YouTube. Since Slamdance has introduced so many excellent films over the years, this is great news for the many people who are unable in this year of the virus to attend the Festival in person.

Although Slamdance has moved its location and dates for this year, it has not missed a beat in presenting a line-up of diverse and amazing films.

There even will be one opportunity for people to see a *SLAMDANCE* film on the big screen. There will be a Los Angeles drive-in open to the public for the Festival's final night, February 25th. The closing night film will be *18th & Grand: The Olympic Auditorium Story*, directed by Stephen DeBro.

I would note that *SLAMDANCE* has added a new program to its lineup this year: "Unstoppable." This program features 22 short films from up-and-coming filmmakers with disabilities. It also includes films that feature actors with disabilities and films that highlight the conversation about disabilities in today's world. "Unstoppable" is a welcome addition to the usual *SLAMDANCE* programming. Indeed, it is a welcome addition to the world of film.

As usual, I want to thank the members of the Slamdance Press Office including Jessica Farrell, Kai Alexis, and Beth Prouty for all of their hard work on our behalf. This is a fabulous press crew. They are remarkably efficient and a real pleasure to work with. Without their help we would not be able to bring you a complete Report from Slamdance 2021.