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Slamdance Film Festival 2023 Introduction

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Slamdance Film Festival 2023 Introduction

Abstract

Introduction to the 2023 Slamdance Film Festival

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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 at Omaha. He is also the editor of the Continuum Companion to Religion and Film (2009).



This year our coverage of the Slamdance Film Festival was done online. Covering a film festival online does not give you the same feel as being there in person, and it does not allow for spontaneous interactions with filmmakers. But one advantage of covering a festival online is that you can see a movie more than once and that is a huge advantage over having to write a review after seeing it only once.

I want to welcome Johan Roeland from the Free University of Amsterdam to our team of reviewers this year. The Free University hosted the 2022 International Conference on Religion & Film, sponsored by the *Journal of Religion & Film*. And thanks to Michele Desmarais, Brady DeSanti, and John Lyden (University of Nebraska at Omaha) for continuing to make our coverage of the Slamdance Film Festival possible.

If you have never tried to cover a film festival, you might not appreciate what a difficult task it is. I note this in order to point out that covering a film festival without the help of the festival's press office is virtually impossible. Sure, you can cover some movies, but without the press office you will miss a number of appropriate films and some of the special opportunities that exist. So I want to take this opportunity to send out a very special thanks to Sylvia Desrochers and Erin Bednarz from MPRM Communications. MPRM has been managing the Slamdance Press Office for the past several years. Once again, they have made it possible for us to provide the kind of coverage that Slamdance deserves. We greatly appreciate their help.