



Sloan Prize at Hamptons Goes to Breast Cancer Film Starring Oscar-Winner Helen Hunt

The 2013 [Hamptons International Film Festival](#), supported by the Foundation for fourteen years to spotlight science and technology films and to develop science and technology screenplays, took place October 10-14th in East Hampton. This year, Sloan events included a screening and panel discussion of the [Sloan Feature Film Prize winner](#) *Decoding Annie Parker*. Directed by Steven Bernstein and starring Helen Hunt and Samantha Morton, this film dramatizes Mary-Claire



King's groundbreaking 1990 discovery of the BRCA1 gene responsible for many breast and ovarian cancers, as well as the story of Annie Parker whose harrowing family history inspired her to learn about genetics and its role in her disease. Annie Parker herself participated in the follow-up discussion with cell biologist Robert Benezra and Executive Director of the NY Stem Cell Foundation Susan Solomon. The annual Sloan Screenplay Readings were held on Sunday, October 13 and showcased the two winning science and technology screenplays-

The Buried Life and *Francis Turnbull*, which already has Oscar-winner Terry George attached to direct--read by an A-list cast of professional actors. The Hamptons International Film Festival is the recipient of a current three-year Sloan grant to commission and spotlight science and technology films and to develop science and technology screenplays.

Science on Screen Expands to Twenty More Art House Cinemas

The Coolidge Corner Theatre's [Science on Screen program](#), which has become a major success both locally and nationally, just announced that twenty more theatres will receive grants to participate in this innovative program. The [grantees](#) include independent theatres in Georgia; Florida; New York; Tennessee; New Mexico; and California that



will soon launch their own Science on Screen programs pairing classic and feature film screenings with presentations by science and technology experts. The program also provides a unique distribution platform for Sloan films because one of the three films shown annually at each theatre must be a Sloan-winning film. The Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation is the recipient of a current two-year Sloan grant to support the theatre's Science on Screen Program and expand its reach to another 40 theatres nationwide.

Brains on Trial Airs on PBS

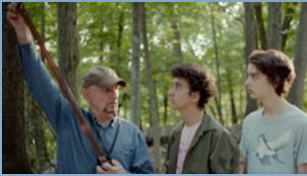
[Brains on Trial with Alan Alda](#), a Sloan-supported two-part PBS broadcast exploring how the insights of modern neuroscience could affect the criminal justice system, premiered on September 11 and 18, 2013. The show, hosted by Alan Alda, was built around the trial of a fictional crime conducted before a real federal judge with professional attorneys. Neuroscientists shared research on new lie-detection techniques and the show modeled how these innovations could affect the unfolding trial, opening up a discussion about the place science could and should have in the courtroom.



The show received major national coverage including from [The New York Times](#), [Scientific American](#), and the [LA Times](#) where it was selected as one of four TV Picks for the fall. Connecticut Public Broadcasting, Inc. is the current recipient of a sixteen month Sloan grant for production, broadcast, and outreach for this two-part public television series.

Two More Sloan Films--*A Birder's Guide to Everything* and *Druid Peak*--Debut

FILM



Rob Meyer's debut feature, [A Birder's Guide to Everything](#), which received Sloan development funding through the Sundance Labs and the TFI-Sloan Filmmaker Fund and which debuted to acclaim at the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival, was acquired by Focus Features and Screen Media films. As reported in [Variety](#), [Deadline](#) and [Movie City News](#), the film will open in U.S. theatres and be available on digital platforms starting in spring 2014. This is the eighth completed feature to come through Sloan's film development pipeline--Marni Zelnick's *Druid Peak*, originally a Feature Film Prize winner at NYU, [premiered](#) in September at the Jackson Hold Wildlife Film Festival and was among four finalists in the Best Theatrical category. Sloan's film pipeline currently has up to nine other projects in various stages of development.

A Banner Year--Third Sloan Theatre Production at MTC a Success

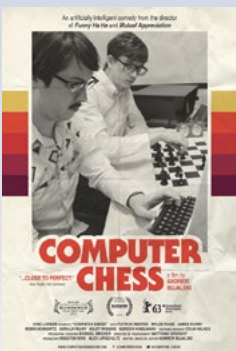
THEATER



The Explorers Club, the third production supported by the Manhattan Theatre Club's [\(MTC\)/Sloan](#) Science Theatre Initiative this year, premiered at the Stage 1 theatre in June, 2013 to excellent reviews and received an extended run. [Time Out New York](#) called playwright Nell Benjamin's writing "two parts Blackadder, one part Monty Python, a dash of Shaw ... with fresh feminist ire." The play was highlighted in *Time Out's* Critics' Picks and [New York Magazine's](#) pick of to-dos, and received numerous positive reviews from places such as [Variety](#), [Bloomberg](#), [The New York Post](#), and [Entertainment Weekly](#). On July 10, 2013 MTC hosted a lively panel discussion on the role of women in science featuring four distinguished women: playwright Nell Benjamin, astrophysicist Gurtina Besla, and neurobiologist Darcy Kelly, moderated by Tracy Day, co-founder of the World Science Festival. The Manhattan Theatre Club is the recipient of a current three-year Sloan grant to commission, develop, and produce new science and technology plays.

Computer Chess Premieres to Raves in Select Theatres Across the Country

FILM



Andrew Bujalski's latest film, [Computer Chess](#), financed in part by two Sloan grants at Sundance and Tribeca Film Institutes, was released into theatres across the country in summer 2013. The film, shot on early '70s video cameras, is set in 1980 at a hotel hosting an artificial-intelligence chess competition pitting computer chess program and eccentric programmers against each other. [Screen International](#) called it "A bizarre and fascinating retrograde portrait of an eccentric people and a faraway time." [The New Yorker's](#) Richard Brody called it "An extraordinarily inventive and richly textured period piece." It received four stars from [The Guardian](#), an A from [Indiewire](#), and Bujalski was featured in [The New York Times](#), [LA Times](#), [Slate](#), and [Cinema-Scope](#), and was named one of twenty directors to watch by [The New York Times](#). The film is continuing to premiere across the country into the fall and is available on iTunes.

Sloan Funds Supporting Frank Oppenheimer Film at Film Independent



In June the prestigious Film Independent Fast Track Program, an intensive financing market connecting participants to film industry professionals who can help move their projects forward, awarded its [2013 Sloan Grant](#) to Christopher Munch's film *Frank's World (And Tales of the Fearless Brothers O)*, about Frank Oppenheimer--founder of the Exploratorium--and Robert Oppenheimer--"father of the atomic bomb." This will be the fourth Sloan-funded production to go through the Fast Track program, which has a stellar track record of success so far. Of the projects Sloan has previously funded at Film Independent, *Basmati Blues* starring Brie Larson and Donald Sutherland is in post-production; *Future Weather* was released in 2013; *Midnight Sun* stars Jesse Eisenberg, Diane Kruger, and Emile Hirsch and is currently in production; *Unmanned* is moving into production this fall; and *The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan*, stars Dev Patel and is being produced by Ed Pressman. Film Independent is the recipient of a current three-year Sloan grant to develop science scripts and support producing teams so that they can complete post-production on feature films.

Twelve New Science Festivals Receive Sloan Support

With the support of the Sloan Foundation, the [Science Festival Alliance](#) has chosen twelve communities with relatively small resource bases who would like to start up their own science festivals and has awarded them each grants, travel support, and mentoring. The awardees, which include Fort Pierce, Florida; Dayton, Ohio; Bozeman, Montana; and Ashland, Oregon, will each launch their own independent festival within the next year. Sloan is proud to be a founding sponsor of the high profile New York-based World Science Festival, and this is an effort to expand the reach of the science festival initiative by tapping into local communities across America. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is the recipient of a current two year Sloan grant to provide seed grants to launch twelve new science festival initiatives.

Library Foundation Explores the Science Behind *Moby Dick* in Month-Long Festival



The Foundation is supporting the scientific component of an original, city-wide, multi-platform [program](#) by the Library Foundation of Los Angeles on Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, which examines this classic work from a scientific, historical, and cultural lens. This month-long [fest](#) running from September 1 through mid-October, 2013, features over 90 readings, workshops, concerts, contests, panels, and screenings and underscores the role libraries play as centers for cultural and intellectual discourse. Renowned neuroscientist Antonio Damasio, historian of science Graham Burnett, and columnist and science writer Carl Zimmer, whose essay on the science behind *Moby Dick* was posted on [National Geographic](#), will anchor the science at the festival. The Library Foundation of Los Angeles is the recipient of a current four-month Sloan grant to support the scientific component of a month-long multimedia library program on the contemporary relevance of *Moby Dick*.

***BURN: An Energy Journal* Now Carried by 266 Stations**



SoundVision Productions' *BURN: An Energy Journal*, an award-winning public radio show about energy and climate change hosted by Alex Chadwick, has been enthusiastically received since its 2012 launch. The show has won awards and praise from both academics and the public for its non-partisan and informed treatment of energy issues. It is currently broadcast on 266 stations, is in all of the top 20 markets and in all but three of the top 30 major markets, making it one of the most widely carried public radio specials. It was listed in "[Electricity 101: Top Online Resources](#)," and in addition to its monthly broadcasts on *Marketplace*, BURN is getting two pieces placed on *The World*. The next BURN special on sea level rise will

air in October and will focus on New York, South Florida, and along the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Texas. Soundvision Productions is the recipient of a current nineteen month Sloan grant to advance public understanding of energy.

***Radiolab's* New Live Show APOCALYPTICAL Goes on Tour**

WNYC's Peabody-Award winning broadcast *Radiolab*, supported by the Sloan Foundation since inception, is taking its hit show on the road. It has created a new live event that builds off the success of its *In the Dark* performance

from last fall which explored sight and the evolution of the eye. [Apocalyptic](#) will "combine inventive storytelling, riveting science, and live music to explore the topic of endings," says [Broadway World](#). Performances will begin in Hartford, CT and will travel through Ohio, Michigan, Toronto, Tennessee, Colorado, Boston, Los Angeles, Dallas, and others, performing in New York at the Beacon Theatre October 24th and 25th. WNYC Public Radio is the recipient of a current three year Sloan grant for production and enhanced distribution of *Radiolab*.



Sloan Funded Workshop on the Evolving Culture of Science Engagement



On September 23-24, 2013, MIT and Culture Kettle in association with the American Association for the Advancement of Science hosted a Sloan-sponsored [workshop](#) that convened 60 leading practitioners and thinkers in the field of public science engagement--ranging from scientists and science communicators such as Neil deGrasse Tyson, Brian Greene, and Janna Levin, to hip hop artist GZA from Wu-Tang Clan, to Elise Andrew founder of I F*cking Love Science, to Brain Pickings' Maria Popova. Over the two days, participants brainstormed about the current means of public science engagement and future directions for continued work in and evaluation of this field. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is the recipient of a current one-year Sloan grant to support a two-day workshop on the changing face of public science engagement and potential research in this area.

DPLAfest to be Held in October

From October 24-25, 2013, the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), will hold the first annual [DPLAfest](#). DPLA launched in October 2010 with Sloan support, and with continuing major support by Sloan since then, went live on April 18th, 2013 and within a month was named one of *Time Magazine's* top 50 best websites of 2013. The DPLA aspires to be the nation's repository for knowledge that is free and open for all to use, enabling innovative and transformative uses of America's digitized cultural heritage. The October celebration, a two-day series of free public events convening everyone from librarians to teachers to technologists, will be co-hosted by the Boston Public Library, Northeastern University's College of Social Sciences and Humanities, and Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Services. DPLA, Inc. is the recipient of a current two-year Sloan grant to launch the DPLA as an independent, national organization and hire an executive director and two key staff to begin operations and scale up for the first two years.



PROGRAM TEAM

Vice President, Programs: Doron Weber

Program Associate: Sonia Epstein

Program Assistant: Della DiBiasi