



## MTC/Sloan Production *Constellations* to Open on Broadway



The Sloan-supported play [Constellations](#), by Nick Payne--the recipient of a Manhattan Theatre Club/Sloan Commissioning Grant for a new play--begins [previews](#) at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre on December 16, before opening January 13, 2015. *Constellations* will star Jake Gyllenhaal (*Brokeback Mountain*) as a beekeeper falling in love with a quantum physicist, played by Ruth Wilson ("The Affair").

As [Variety](#) says, their story unfolds "...as an exploration of the quantum-mechanics theory of coexisting parallel universes." The MTC/Sloan initiative also just [announced](#) ten new commissions awarded to playwrights such as Nell Benjamin (*The Explorers Club*) and Jeff Augustin (*Little Children Dream of God*) for their plays exploring science and technology themes and characters. The Manhattan Theatre Club is the recipient of a current three-year Sloan grant to commission, develop, and produce new science and technology plays.

## 2015 Sundance Film Festival Opens Following the Art House Convergence



The Sundance Film Festival, supported by the Foundation for eleven years, will feature a suite of Sloan events in January 2015. The winners of the Sloan Feature Film Prize, as well as the Sloan Commissioning Grant and Sloan Screenwriting Lab Fellowship, will be announced at an awards ceremony and reception as well as at the Closing Night Awards. Work resulting from these screenwriting awards includes Michael Almereyda's new film *Experimenter*, funded by a Sloan Commissioning grant in 2008, which will premiere at this year's festival. Additionally, a panel featuring filmmakers and scientists discussing science in film will be held at Filmmaker Lodge. Right before Sundance, the 2015 Art House Convergence will host 450 art house cinemas and will feature the Sloan's *Science on Screen* initiative in a plenary session

on January 21. [Science on Screen](#) pairs feature films with talks by working scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. The Foundation has supported the expansion of this program to art house cinemas nationwide--awarding 71 grants to 38 independent cinemas to date--each of which shows at least one Sloan film per year, providing a unique distribution opportunity for Sloan-funded films. The [latest](#) *Science on Screen* program at the Coolidge Corner Theatre featured *The Imitation Game* followed by a talk with Seth Lloyd, an MIT professor who designed the first quantum computer, and Silvio Micali, who won the 2012 Turing Award for his contributions to cryptography. The Sundance Institute is the recipient of a current two-year Sloan grant to support a science and technology program at Sundance that includes film fellowships, film prizes, and film panels and outreach. 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.

THEATER

FILM

## Triennial Film Summit Features Sloan Oscar Contenders and New Feature Films

FILM

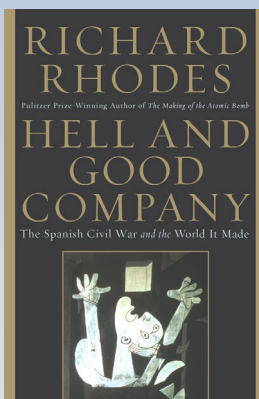


The [2014 Sloan Film Summit](#), hosted by Film Independent from November 14-16 in downtown Los Angeles, was a big hit. Over [three days](#), 150 screenwriters, directors, producers, playwrights, and representatives from the six leading film schools and four leading film organizations supported by Sloan convened to network and celebrate Sloan's thriving nationwide film program. For the first time, select screenings and talks were open to the [public](#), including the screening of the new Stephen Hawking biopic *Theory of Everything*, followed by a Q&A moderated by physicist and producer of *Particle Fever* David Kaplan, with stars Eddie Redmayne

and Felicity Jones. The Sloan-funded drama about Alan Turing, [The Imitation Game](#), which closed the weekend, was preceded by a sneak preview of three new feature films that have gone through Sloan's film development pipeline--*The Man Who Knew Infinity*, *Basmati Blues*, and *Experimenter*--and a Q&A with their directors. Other highlights from the weekend included acclaimed writer Beau Willimon's (*House of Cards*) compelling keynote speech where he discussed his passion for science, the importance of dramatizing science through story and character, and his original Sloan/MTC play commission about Kasparov and Deep Blue. The Sloan Summit received coverage in over 300 media outlets--from those reporting on the event such as [Indiewire](#), [LAist](#), or USC's outlet [Neon Tommy](#), to articles that dove more deeply into the Foundation's overall mission and program such as [Inside Philanthropy](#), [NBC LA](#), [Paste Magazine](#), and [Mental Floss](#). A five minute video commissioned for the event and narrated by Werner Herzog (*Grizzly Man*) was featured in an exclusive on [The Wrap](#).

## Two New Sloan Supported Books to be Published in Early 2015

BOOKS



[Hell and Good Company: The Spanish Civil War and the World it Made](#), by Pulitzer Prize-winning and Sloan-supported author Richard Rhodes, will be published on February 3, 2015 by Simon & Schuster. The book looks at developments in medical and military technologies ushered in by the Spanish Civil War and the lasting impact the war had on such seminal writers and artists as Picasso, Miro, Hemingway, and Orwell.



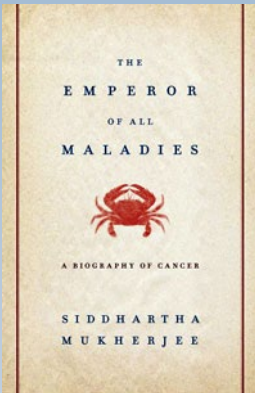
Jonathan Waldman's new book [Rust: The Longest War](#), will be published in March, 2015 by Simon & Schuster. This is the first book by Waldman, an experienced science journalist, and tells the story of the engineering challenges in combating rust and corrosion on such monuments as the Statue of Liberty, how engineers have successfully prevented rust on aluminum cans, and the monumental challenge of combating rust on the U.S. Navy's fleet. The book has already been selected by Barnes & Noble as one of their 2015 "Discover Great New Writers" picks.

## New Documentary about the Origins of Nuclear Power to Air on PBS



A new Sloan-supported [documentary](#) about the pioneering and controversial Admiral [Hyman Rickover](#) and his development of the first nuclear submarine and civilian nuclear power plant will have its national premiere on PBS December 9, 2014 at 8pm. Local broadcasts on WNET in New York and WETA in DC will air December 17 at 9pm. [Rickover: The Birth of Nuclear Power](#) will be told for the first time to a new generation by award-winning television producer Michael Pack. Tim Blake Nelson (*Lincoln*, *O Brother Where Art Thou*) stars in dramatic reenactments, and Joan Allen (*The Contender*) narrates. The Public Media Lab is the recipient of a current Sloan grant to produce and broadcast a PBS documentary on Admiral Rickover.

## WNYC's New Radio Series--*Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies*



On December 1, 2014 [New York Public Radio](#) hosted an exclusive preview of WNYC's National Radio Series [Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies](#) which will be broadcast in January and March 2015. The series is being produced by WNYC's Sloan-supported health care reporting unit which has partnered with the new Ken Burns PBS documentary, also supported by Sloan, based on Siddhartha Mukherjee's Pulitzer-Prize winning book on the history of cancer, to air March 2015. The December 1st panel was hosted by Brian Lehrer, and featured Dr. Jose Baselga and Dr. Jedd Wolchok of the Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Mary Elizabeth Williams, cancer survivor and author of a forthcoming memoir, and Barak Goodman, producer and director of the film. New York Public Radio is the recipient of a current two-year Sloan grant to support a health care reporting unit focusing on the economics and policy of our healthcare system and the impact of the ACA on consumers in New York.

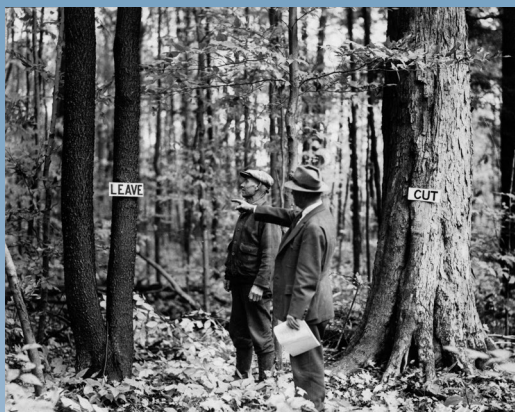
## New Sloan Feature Films Premiering in 2015



Marni Zelnick's debut feature, [Druid Peak](#), which received the \$100,000 first feature film prize through the Sloan program at NYU, will have its theatrical premiere on January 10, 2015 at the Arena Cinema in Hollywood. The film had a great festival run, winning awards at the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, the Providence Children's Festival, the Omaha Film Festival, the Annapolis Film Festival, and more. This film joins a suite of Sloan-supported features that will be premiering in 2015, including [Basmati Blues](#), [The Man Who Knew Infinity](#), and [Experimenter](#).



## Three New Sloan Documentaries to Premiere on *The American Experience*



*The American Experience*, the Foundation's flagship television partner, will premiere three new documentaries on PBS in early 2015. *Edison* is written and directed by Emmy Award-winner Michelle Ferrari and produced by Ferrari and Amanda Pollak. The film will premiere on January 20, 2015 at 9pm on PBS, and tells the story of Thomas Alva Edison, the inventor of the electric light, the phonograph, the motion picture camera, and thousands of other inventions, focusing on his enduring celebrity and the role of his contributions within the context of turn-of-the-century America. *The Big Burn*, written and directed by Stephen Ives and produced by Amanda Pollak, recounts the fire that blazed across three million acres of the Rockies in 1910 and its formative impact on the new U.S. Forest Service. *The Big Burn* will premiere on February 3, 2015 at 9pm on PBS. *The Forgotten Plague*, which premieres a week later on February 10, 2015 at 9pm, is written, directed and produced by Chana Gazit and tells the history of tuberculosis through the 1800s in America when it impacted nearly every household. WGBH Educational Foundation is the recipient of a current three year Sloan grant to research and produce four primetime films on PBS's American Experience on the role of science, technology, and engineering in history.

## Sloan Student Grand Jury Prize to be Awarded to Best of the Best Screenplay



In spring 2015 the \$50,000 TFI [Sloan Student Grand Jury Prize](#) will be awarded to the best of the best student screenplay from Sloan's six film school partners. The prize will be selected by a jury of scientists and filmmakers, and the winner will receive a \$30,000 cash prize and an additional \$20,000 towards year-round support provided by Tribeca Film Institute including mentorship from science and film advisors. Last year's winner, [Laura Alsum](#) from UCLA, is currently developing her script [Survival of the Fittest](#)

under the mentorship of screenwriter, director and producer Nancy Savoca and neuropsychologist Jessica Brommelhoff. The Tribeca Film Institute is the recipient of a current two year Sloan grant to award the annual Sloan Student Grand Jury Prize to the best student film from all film school partners and to develop each winning screenplay towards production.

## Sloan Supported *ChemCrafter* Wins Four Awards



The Chemical Heritage Foundation's [virtual chemistry set](#) for iPad, *ChemCrafter*, an innovative foray into chemistry and educational gaming supported by the Sloan Foundation, has just been awarded four W3 Awards. The game received awards in the International Design Communications, Education, Games, and International Design Merit categories. This free app has been downloaded by 400,000 users in 127 countries since its April 2014 launch. The Chemical Heritage Foundation was the recipient of a one year Sloan grant to create a chemistry set iPad app for free download that recreates the experience of working with a real chemistry set.

## PRX STEM Story Featured Nationally



The [PRX-STEM project](#), funded by Sloan to generate new science content, has recently had one of its stories--"This is Crohn's Disease"--[featuring](#) nationally on NPR's Here & Now. PRX also [launched](#) a Kickstarter campaign to fund its podcast network Radiotopia, which includes the show "99% Invisible," funded by Sloan, that became the most successful radio and podcast project on Kickstarter to date, raising over \$620,000 by 21,800 backers. PRX is the recipient of a current one year Sloan grant to support a three-pronged approach to developing and disseminating new science and technology content for a new generation of radio producers and listeners via nontraditional broadcast, digital, and mobile platforms.

### ***PROGRAM TEAM***

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