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Stars of Sundance film festival include Nolte, Ryder, Giamatti  
Two NFB co-productions are also part of the lineup.  
By DAVID GERMAIN, AP

LOS ANGELES -- Films featuring Winona Ryder, Nick Nolte, Anjelica Huston and Paul Giamatti will be among those competing for top honours at the Sundance Film Festival.

The lineup announced for Sundance, a key showcase for independent film, also included several Canadian documentaries as well as American pieces on writer Hunter S. Thompson, musician Patti Smith and filmmakers Roman Polanski and Derek Jarman.

Taking place Jan. 17 to 27 in Park City, Utah, Sundance has chosen 16 films in its dramatic competition for American fictional films, including director Geoff Haley's *The Last Word*, starring Ryder, Wes Bentley and Ray Romano in a romance about a reclusive writer who crafts suicide notes for other people.

Also competing in a lineup heavy on tales of families at odds is Rawson Thurber's *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh* with Nolte, Sienna Miller, Peter Sarsgaard and Jon Foster in the story of a young man with a gangster father who embarks on a soul-searching summer after college.

Clark Gregg's *Choke* with Huston and Sam Rockwell is a mother-and-son tale and Paul Schneider's *Pretty Bird* with Giamatti and Billy Crudup in a dark comic narrative of entrepreneurs trying to invent a rocket belt.

Another entry in the U.S. dramatic competition is Christine Jeffs's *Sunshine Cleaning*, the story of an enterprising mother and her reluctant sister who try their hand at the crime-scene cleanup business.

It stars Amy Redford, the daughter of Robert Redford, the festival's founder.

The 16 documentaries in the U.S. competition feature Alex Gibney's *Gonzo: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson*, a portrait of the iconoclastic writer known for a bottomless narcotics appetite and Roman Polanski's *Wanted and Desired*, Marina Zenovich's examination of the Academy Award-winning director who fled the United States in 1978 over child-sex charges.

The world-documentary competition for films from outside the United States includes two National Film Board of Canada co-productions -- Patrick Reed's *Triage: Dr. James Orbinski's Humanitarian Dilemma* and Yung Chang's *Up the Yangtze*.