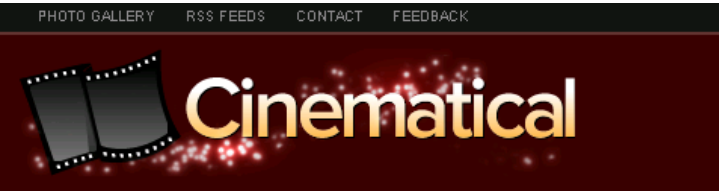



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Sundance in 60 Seconds: Thursday, January 28, 2010

by **Monika Bartyzel** Jan 29th 2010 // 11:18AM
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Celebrity Sightings: As we already know, Joan Rivers has been chilling at Sundance, and [here's a video interview](#) of the iconic plastic surgery fiend straight from Park City. But she's not the only person who might seem like a surprising addition to the fest circuit -- [Sir Elton John](#) was also getting his movie on. In other circles, celebrity stylist [Naz Kupelian](#) was doing his part to make all the celebs look sexy for their interviews, and Diego Luna, Mark Ruffalo, and more actors posed for [cozy Sundance pics](#) wrapped in scarves, jackets, and intertwined legs. And last, but not least -- some *Romantics* [premiere photos](#).

Our Coverage: The fest might be slowing down, but the coverage continues to pour in. Erik Childress [reviewed *Welcome to the Rileys*](#) and thought: "It is almost worth recommending for the honest moments turned in by Gandolfini and Leo, but the bizarre shifts in tone and the single-note communication by Stewart -- that she is most certainly not the daughter produced by these two great actors -- leaves us a little too hollow in the end."

Meanwhile, Eric D. Snider [reviewed *Please Give*](#), and thought it was a decent, if not repetitive turn for Nicole Holofcener: "It could be said that *Please Give* is simply a retread of Holofcener's other movies, especially *Lovely & Amazing*-- but, then, most people didn't see those movies, so maybe it doesn't matter. Still, while *Please Give* is often very funny, it feels a little perfunctory. It's a movie you'll like but probably not love."

Finally, Kevin Kelly reviewed the drama [Blue Valentine](#), stating that it "is a great movie with what one hopes are not the defining roles from two of the best young actors working today, but that's how important and moving they are in this film. ... This is nothing but a tribute to all of them."

Deals: Things have been moving slowly, but now the deals are heating up. [Variety](#) reports that Joseph Gordon-Levitt's *Hesher* has been picked up by Newmarket, and Joel Schumacher's *Twelve* was nabbed by Hannover House. On top of that, [The Wrap](#) reports that mir Bar-Lev's *I'm Pat Tillman* is zeroing in on a deal.

indieWIRE Love: As we know from the New Zealand win, the collection of short filmmaking awards have gone out, and indieWIRE runs down the [complete list of winners](#). Collecting all of the critical response to the festival's films in and out of competition, the site has also come up with the [best and worst of the bunch](#). On the best side, *Gasland* and *Exit the Gift Shop* lead the pack, while *Twelve* leads the worst... yet still gets a deal. Finally, Sundance handed out the [2010 Filmmaker Awards](#) to: "Amat Escalante, "Heli" from Mexico; Andrey Zvyagintsev, "Elena" from Russia; Daisuke Yamaoka, "The Wonderful Lives at Asahigaoka" (written with Yugo Eto) from Japan; and Benh Zeitlin, "Beasts of the Southern Wild" (written with Lucy Alibar) from the United States."

Tweets, Blogs, and Treats:

[LA Times](#) critic Kenneth Turan sits in front of the camera to discuss one of his top documentary picks of the festival -- *Secrets of the Tribe*, while [Anne Thompson](#) turns a camera on Lisa Cholodenko to talk *The Kids are All Right*.

While Edie Falco is busy [pondering celebrity](#), [The Hollywood Reporter](#) wrote of her film *3 Backyards*: "Bottom Line: Humdrum characters ambulate nowhere in their suburban cove." At least it boasts talent like Falco, Elias Koteas, and Embeth Davidtz.

[The Independent](#) says British talent helped bring this year's fest back to its filmmaker roots, and [Manohla Dargis](#), over at *The New York Times*, writes about Sundance's quest to move away from Hollywood and back to those so-called roots.

As for the Tweet world, most bloggers and critics are making the trek out of Utah. But there's still a little festin' to be had, so stay tuned.

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