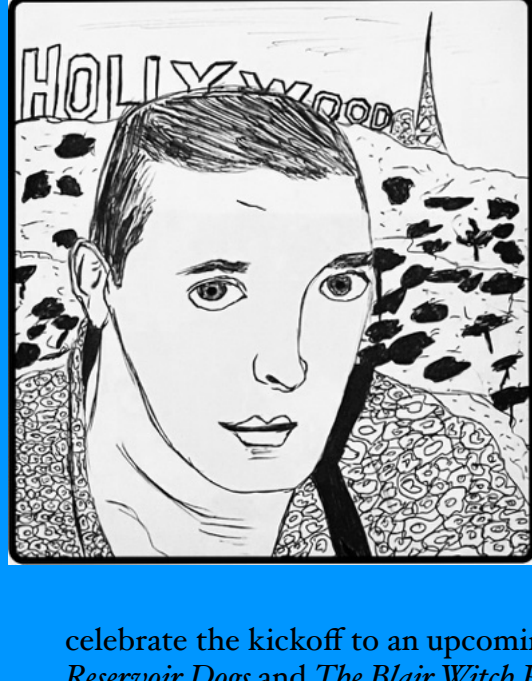


## Sundance 2024

### Selections by Vince LePlayv



It's the beginning of a new year. The holidays are over and the dead of winter stretches out in the months ahead. Shoveling the walk, stocking the woodpile, dusting off the snowshoes and battering down the hatches in preparation for those inevitable winter squalls that render the bay area a frigid tundra of snow and ice. What better time to tune into the annual Sundance Film Festival! Every January thousands of directors, actors, critics and avid filmgoers descend upon the snowbound town of Park City, Utah to celebrate the kickoff to an upcoming year of incredible films. With past entries ranging from *Reservoir Dogs* and *The Blair Witch Project* to *Napoleon Dynamite* and *Little Miss Sunshine*, Sundance retains the proud reputation of being the initial litmus test of what amazing (and potentially classic) films lay in plain sight within their festival programming. Below are ten offerings that look to provoke, perturb, enlighten and uplift viewers while creating word of mouth that will carry on throughout the year.

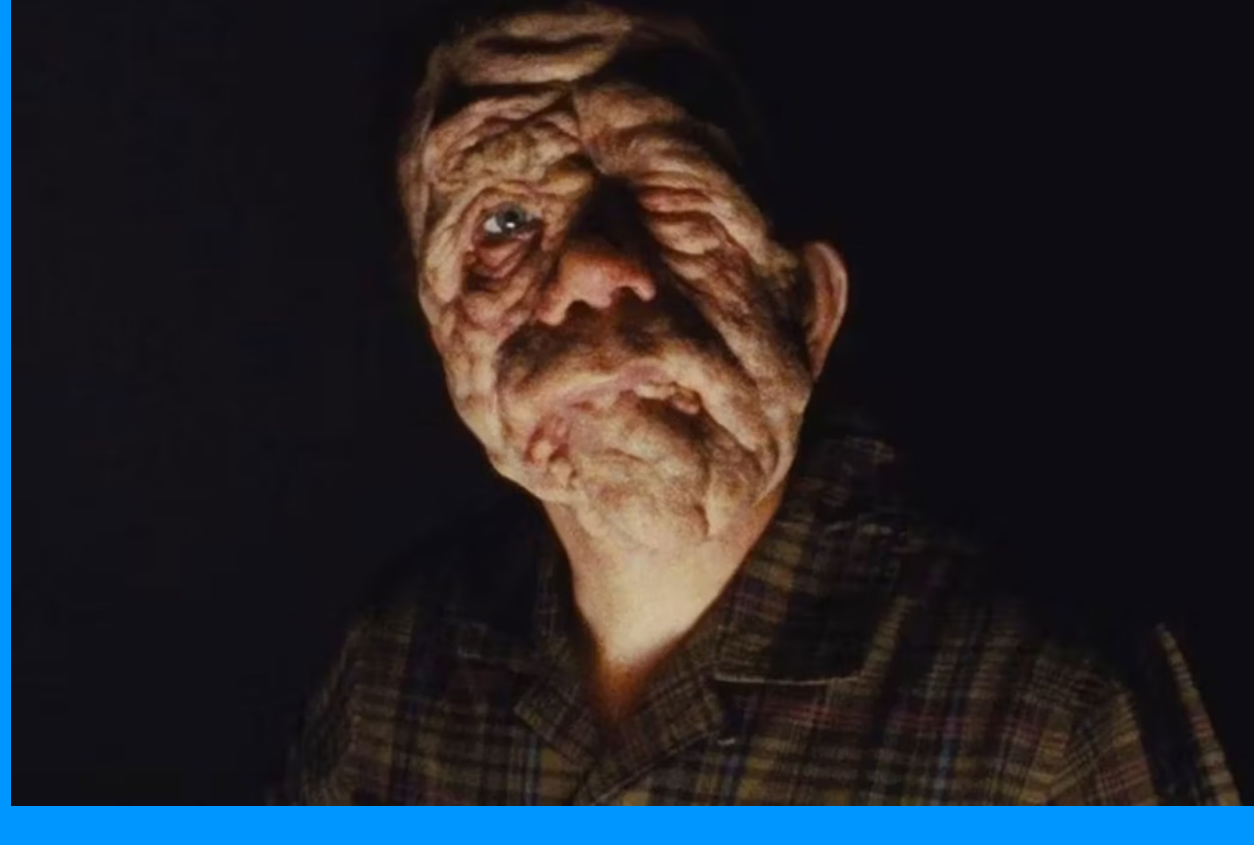
### DEVO

The first-ever approved documentary about the new wave vanguard is finally coming to the big screen. From their kooky covers and their monster hit "Whip It" to the intrinsic social commentary they put forth with their art, *DEVO* looks to be a triumphant jubilee of one of music's most original bands.



### A Different Man

Sebastian Stan (*Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, *I, Tonya*) plays aspiring actor Edward who undergoes an experimental facial surgery to better his appearance and further his chances of securing work. When the effects of the procedure backfire with unexpected results, Edward must learn to live with his new identity and devise a vendetta against the people who carried out the operation.



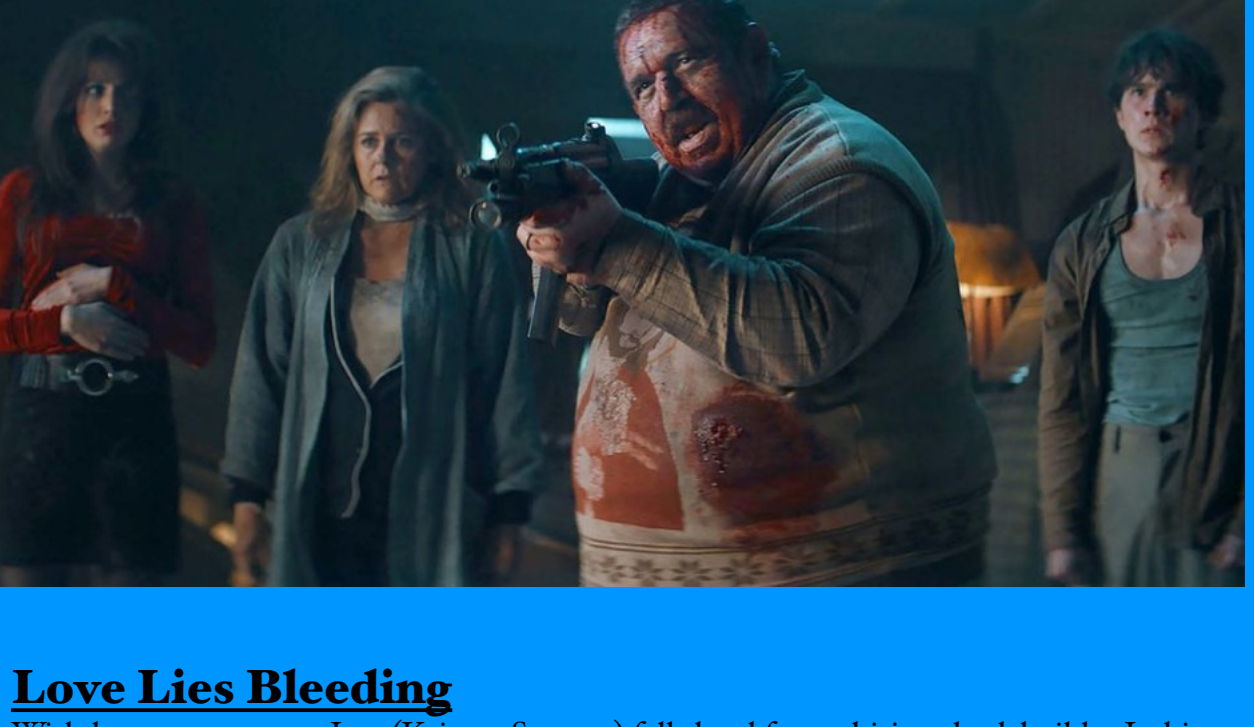
### Freaky Tales

A blend of vignettes all play out against the backdrop of 1987 Oakland including a turf war between teen punks and Nazi skinheads, a rap duo striving to forge their place amongst hip-hop royalty, a discontent "henchman" who gets a second shot at life and an aging NBA All-Star that seeks revenge on those who wronged him. Pedro Pascal, Jay Ellis, Normani, Dominique Thorne and Ji-Young Yoo star.



### Krazy House

Shot in the style of a 90's sitcom, this midnight premiere features Nick Frost (of *Shaun of the Dead* and *Hot Fuzz* fame) as family patriarch Bernie. When he realizes that the men working on his house are in fact wanted Russian criminals, Bernie must shrug off his cozy lifestyle and go to extreme lengths to save his family and home. Alicia Silverstone and Kevin Connolly also star.



### Love Lies Bleeding

Withdrawn gym owner Lou (Kristen Stewart) falls hard for ambitious bodybuilder Jackie (Katy O'Brian) who makes a pit stop through Las Vegas on her way to the West Coast. When their personal lives become entangled, Lou's criminal family (Ed Harris, Dave Franco, Jena Malone) come out of the woodwork just as things are getting serious between the two women.



### Love Me

Here's an original idea to intrigue viewers: A satellite and a buoy meet up and fall in love in the wake of humanity's extinction. Kristen Stewart and Steven Yeun star in what Stewart claims is "a revolutionarily written script." More details are sure to surface after this one's premiere.



### My Old Ass

In the summer between high school and college, a young girl meets the older version of herself via a psychedelic mushroom trip and embarks on a journey of spiritual exploration and self-fulfillment as she reckons with leaving home for the first time. Maisy Stella and Aubrey Plaza star, Margot Robbie produces.



### Presence

Auteur Steven Soderbergh directs a script written by David Koepp about a family that moves into a new home and realizes they're not alone. Sure it's a bare bones plot but with Soderbergh behind the camera you know you can count on this one being a memorable watch. Lucy Liu, Chris Kullivan and Julia Fox star.



### Sasquatch Sunset

The Zellner Brothers (*Kumiko the Treasure Hunter*, *Damsel*) return with a film that they describe as "a year in the life of a singular family." With Jesse Eisenberg and Riley Keough as leads, one can expect that the title may say it all as far as what could be in store for viewers as more info unfurls after its premiere.



### Thelma

June Squibb (*Nebraska*, *About Schmidt*) stars as the titular character who falls victim to a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson. With the zest of life still in her bones at the ripe old age of 93, she sets out to find the scammer and take back what's hers. Surrounded by a tremendous cast including Fred Hechinger, Clark Gregg, Parker Posey, Malcolm McDowell and Richard Roundtree in his final film role, Squibb can't help but deliver in what aims to be a comedic drama soft-spot for the festival.

