

Film Industry

FESTIVAL

A look at the independent movies shown in Park City, Utah—down the block from Sundance

WHEN HOLLYWOOD descends on the Sundance Film Festival next month, some in the industry will have an eye on what's happening a few blocks away. The Slamdance Film Festival, started by a group of filmmakers in 1995 as a Sundance alternative, is dedicated to emerging, often first-time filmmakers and runs at the same time as Sundance, in Park City, Utah. The festival's lineup of films, announced earlier this month, is being watched more closely than usual this season, due to an unexpected hit that came out of the last Slamdance. The documentary "Mad Hot Ballroom" premiered at Slamdance in January after being rejected by Sundance; the film, made for \$500,000, was scooped up by Paramount and went on to earn \$8 million at the box office. Below, three films showing at Slamdance next month.

—John Jurgensen

Abduction

This documentary explores the 1977 kidnapping of 13-year-old Megumi Yokota from Japan. Her disappearance remained a mystery for almost 25 years until it was revealed that North Korea had abducted her and 12 others to provide cultural training to North Korean agents. Produced by Jane Campion, director of "The Piano."

