



THIS WEEK ONLINE

WEB EVENTS — JAN. 16-20

1.16 **THE MACPHERSONS** have run into trouble on their round-the-world trip. Log on for the latest.

1.17 Martha Brant joins us for a **COVER TALK**, at noon, EST.

1.18 Check out our special report on **SUNDANCE**, featuring daily updates

1.19 **POLITICS TALK** at noon, EST. Jonathan Alter puts the Clinton presidency in perspective.

1.20 **INAUGURATION DAY:** Log on for our Web-exclusive coverage.

WEB EXCLUSIVE

Sundance Sales | Cold Air, Hot Buys



1.11 >> The Sundance Film Festival in bone-chilling Park City, Utah—January's annual gathering of parka-clad publicists, journalists, filmmakers and executives—hasn't been a hotbed of sales for a while. But with strikes by actors and writers looming in Hollywood, there's a high premium this year on films already in the can. So when the schmoozefest opens on Jan. 18, the real buzz may be about dealmaking, not filmmaking. (Log on for

B. J. Sigmund's full story and for daily coverage from the festival.)

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

'This Was Eight Years of Psychodrama'

NEWSWEEK: You've written a lot about Bill Clinton. Will you miss it?

ATLANTIC MONTHLY EDITOR MICHAEL KELLY:

I won't. There's not a great deal to say that hasn't been said. And the truth is, we are going to be writing about him. He's made it clear he's not going anywhere.

How will Washington change with W?

That's impossible to answer because the ethos from the Clinton era to anything else will be so wildly different. This was eight years of psychodrama. That's not normal. Presidencies that convulse the



nation and polarize it for years are exceptions.

What's behind your magazine's redesign?

The magazine's been around for a long time, 143 years. We want it to be around for another 143.

Our readers get a deep, tactile, sensible pleasure out of reading. If you have a design that makes that work for them, then they can have an intimate relationship with the magazine. And if you have a design they have to battle, they can't.

(Log on for Michael J. Agovino's full Q&A.)

TEST YOURSELF

THINK YOU KNOW WHAT'S NEWS? Take our quiz to see how well you're keeping up with world events. The multiple-choice answers are on Newsweek.MSNBC.com.

1] In which city was the first presidential Inauguration held in 1789?

2] How many presidents have been inaugurated in hotels?

3] Which president mentioned cocaine in his Inaugural Address?

4] Which Latin pop singer will perform at George W. Bush's Inaugural celebration in Washington on Jan. 20?

5] What is the name of the Inaugural Ball hosted for Bush by the Texas State Society?

6] True or false? During his swearing-in at his first Inauguration, President George Washington deviated from the prepared text by adding the ad-libbed phrase "So help me, God," which has been adopted by every president since.

TO TAKE THE QUIZ, LOG ON TO NEWSWEEK.MSNBC.COM

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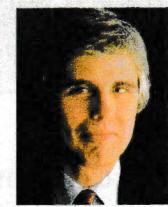
Changing With the Changing of the Guard



Martita' Brant

Martha Brant knew she'd hit her stride with the George W. Bush campaign when the candidate's nickname for her changed from "NEWSWEEK Jogger Girl" to "Martita." "That meant he'd learned my name," says Brant, who assumes the job of White House correspondent on Inauguration Day. Brant will work with **Daniel Kaidman**, our new Washington bureau chief, and political all-stars like

Howard Fineman, Michael Isikoff, Mark Hosenball and **Matt Bai**. Correspondent **Bill Turque**, meanwhile, will take over our coverage of the new Congress. Turque, author of "Inventing Al Gore: A Biography," spent last year on the Democrat's campaign. Is it hard to leave Gore behind? "I do have the feeling that there's a big chapter in my professional life coming to an end," says Turque. "And in a funny way, I felt bad for Gore when he lost. It was such a personal tragedy." Writing about Congress isn't completely new for Turque. In 1993 he spent months profiling three freshman congressmen from the class of 1992. "I got an up-close look at how convictions and good intentions can crack under the demands of office," says Turque. "I always had a sense that it would be fun to go back."



On the Hill

In this issue, Senior Editor **Sharon Begley** tells you everything you need to know about new research on the cosmos (page 52) and explores the moral questions raised by the birth of a genetically modified monkey (page 50). "When your beat ranges from the brain to genes to outer space, you can usually count on scientists' delivering something cool every week," Begley says. "The trick is to pick through what they consider important and find something meaningful to readers." Despite writing two pieces at once, Begley managed to do just that. And more: in her downtime last week, Begley was also filling in for her traveling editor.

Just One of Those Weeks



The monkey

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Courtesy *Wet Hot American Summer*

Janeane Garofalo stars in 'Wet Hot American Summer,' one of a dozen movies available for purchase in Park City

Cold Air, Hot Buys

Sales have never been all that sizzling at Sundance. But with a strike looming in Hollywood, big studios will probably be in a shopping mood

By B. J. Sigesmund
 NEWSWEEK WEB EXCLUSIVE

Jan. 11 — What a difference a strike makes. Or at least the possibility of one.

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Reach

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THE SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL in bone-chilling Park City, Utah—January's annual gathering of parka-clad publicists, journalists, filmmakers and executives—hasn't been a hotbed of sales for a while. But this year could be a different story.

Since last summer, the movie and TV industries have been worrying about a strike by writers and theatrical actors during 2001. Contracts for both the Writers Guild of America and the Screen Actors Guild are set to expire this May and June, respectively, with negotiations beginning well before that. But if last year's protracted commercial-actors strike is any indicator, talks could stretch on for months.

That means there's a higher premium on films already in the can and ready to be released. So although much of the early Sundance buzz has centered on anticipated films that already have distributors—such as "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," based on the off-Broadway play about German-transsexual-wannabe rock star, and "Series 7," a spoof of reality TV—the talk of the festival may ultimately be the large number of films bought by worried studio execs.

At least a dozen movies, none of which have been seen by buyers or the media, will be up for grabs. Their screenings are expected to be major draws among acquisitions executives. Here's a first look at what they'll be fighting over:

"Donnie Darko": Produced by Drew Barrymore, the film takes place at a high school in an upper-class suburb. The lead (Jake Gyllenhaal) is not just a maladjusted teenager, but borderline delusional. A monstrous rabbit, which comes to him repeatedly in visions, is just one of the many demons he fights. Barrymore has a supporting role.



Newsweek

B.J. Sigesmund
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

► A year-by-year tour through Sundance's bright spots

“Double Whammy”: The latest from Tom DiCillo, director of the hilarious “Living in Oblivion,” “Double Whammy” presents Denis Leary as a goofy, hash-smoking New York City homicide detective who can’t get out of his slump. Steve Buscemi is his partner and Elizabeth Hurley, a chiropractor who falls for him. Co-stars “Sex and the City’s” Chris Noth.

“Enigma”:

Directed by Michael Apted (the “7 Up” series and the recent “The World is Not Enough”) and written by Tom Stoppard (“Shakespeare in Love”), this British spy thriller is set in London in March 1943, at a turning point in World War II. It stars Kate Winslet, Jeremy Northam and Saffron Burrows and was produced by Mick Jagger. An intriguing mix.

Weekend Archive

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“The Business of Strangers”: Stockard Channing is a lonely executive on the brink of being downsized and Julia Stiles is her young, reckless assistant. Channing’s promoted instead, the two go out for an evening celebration—and through a series of dramatic turns that night, get to know far much more about each other than they’d ever expected.

“The Deep End”: A middle-class mother (Tilda Swinton) finds her son’s gay lover dead one morning on the beach near their home. She quickly enters into a world of blackmail and extortion. The psychological drama co-stars “ER’s” Goran Visnjic.



► *Web-exclusive reviews, Q&As and reports from the Park City scene*

“Jump Tomorrow”: Director Joel Hopkins based this film on his acclaimed short, “Jorge,” which screened at Sundance in 1999. It’s a layered romantic comedy about George, an introvert about to enter an arranged marriage with a childhood friend from Nigeria. But then he meets Alicia, who’s about to get married herself.

“Lift”: DeMane Davis and Khari Streeter’s film looks at a dysfunctional African-American family in Boston where the daughter’s a professional shoplifter. Turns out, she’s actually stealing it all for her mother.

“Intimacy”: Based on Hanif Kureishi’s controversial fourth novel about an affair between two

people who don't even know each other's names, "Intimacy" studies the differences between love and desire. It stars Mark Rylance ("Angels and Insects"), Kerry Fox ("Shallow Grave") and Timothy Spall ("Topsy-Turvy").

"Green Dragon": Timothy Linh Bui directed this story about the wave of Vietnamese refugees who came to America in 1975, when they were put in camps in the Southwest. It's a loving, textured study of the community—its children, leaders and eccentrics—and all its varying stories. Brother Tony Bui ("The Three Seasons," a Sundance winner from 1999) co-wrote the screenplay for the film, which features Patrick Swayze and Forest Whitaker.

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"In the

Bedroom": Todd Field's debut feature looks closely at an upper-middle-class New England family dealing with a sudden tragedy. The character study stars Tom Wilkinson and Sissy Spacek as a doctor and his wife and Marisa

Tomei in a crucial supporting role.

"Wet Hot American Summer": The slasher genre from the '80s had its "Scream." Now the sexploitation movies from that era are parodied in "Wet Hot American Summer," set on the last day at fictional Camp Firewood in 1981. Janeane Garofalo plays camp director Beth and the film co-stars David Hyde Pierce, Paul Rudd and Molly Shannon. Sounds like fun. We'll take it!

Stop by Newsweek.MSNBC.com every day during the Sundance Film Festival, which runs Jan. 18 to 28, for Web-exclusive coverage from our critics and reporters. Expect reviews, Q&As, and reports on the Park City party scene.

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