



2006 Sundance & Slamdance Festival Report

It's hard to believe Sundance is here again. It feels like almost yesterday that I was walking out of the screening of [Me And You And Everyone We Know](#) , hearing people buzz about [Hustle and Flow](#) and hearing raves about [Mad Hot Ballroom](#). The [graduating class of 2005](#) did so well this past year that the 2006 fests have even more importance and attention being paid to them. So I'm excited to bring you coverage again of both the Sundance and Slamdance Film Fests. This time around, I'm in Park City for a full week, so I'll be bringing you coverage of even more films.

Love is A Drug (Slamdance) - The first thing that struck me about Love is A Drug was how fantastic the soundtrack is. While I'm sure the filmmakers would appreciate this fact, I don't think they'd want the soundtrack to be the top thing you come away with from this film. Unfortunately, it's the film's strongest element. I honestly wanted to like Love is A Drug - it's full of solid performances including stand-out work by Lizzy Caplan as a teenager lost on the journey to adulthood and unprepared for the tragic events she experiences. I also really liked John Patrick Amedori, a geeky teen breaking out of his shell and finding himself surrounded by people he'd never imagine spending time with let alone even talk to. Love is A Drug has some nice moments, but it never really ventures outside its comfort zone. It's a film that has clear influences and similarities to dozens of Hollywood films, and while it struggles to find its own voice, it never quite finds it. Still, Love is A Drug is the perfect kind of indie film to discover on DVD and enjoy for the performances and kickass soundtrack.

Geoffrey Kleinman

