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## HATS OFF, ED.

Red Hat congratulates Ed Leonard and DreamWorks Animation on their Annie Award.

Learn about open source Linux technology in animation and gaming.



• SUNDANCE REVIEWS

# THE LINGUISTS

Posted: Fri., Jan. 18, 2008, 12:00pm PT [RSS](#) [RSS](#) [PRINT](#) [EMAIL](#)

An Ironbound Films presentation sponsored by National Science Foundation, Nonprofit Media Group. Produced, directed by Seth Kramer, Daniel A. Miller, Jeremy Newberger. Written by Miller.

**With:** Gregory Anderson, David Harrison, Vasya, Nora Vasquez, Johnny Hill Jr., Manideepa Patnaik, Mr. Panda.

• RECENT FESTIVAL REVIEWS

- Pretty Bird**  
1/29/08 11:21pm
- Durakovo: Village of Fools**  
1/29/08 11:21pm
- The Year of Getting to Know Us**  
1/29/08 11:18pm
- Patti Smith: Dream of Life**  
1/29/08 4:35pm
- A Raisin in the Sun**  
1/29/08 1:56pm
- [All Reviews >>](#)

By **JUSTIN CHANG**

A two-man mission to document the world's endangered tongues becomes a fleet-footed study of human communication and its limitless structural and functional possibilities in "The Linguists." Proceeding from the alarming reality that a language goes extinct every few weeks, this involving if somewhat scattershot travelogue sheds a well-intentioned light on how smaller native communities and their systems of speech are often marginalized by the dominant cultures around them. Cable-ready docu could easily be trimmed to a broadcast-friendly hourlong format and exported to viewers in any language.

Speaking an impressive combined total of 25 languages, David Harrison and Gregory Anderson make an engaging globe-trotting duo as they locate seven surviving speakers of Chulym in Siberia (two of whom had died by 2007); interact with speakers of the little-known Sora tongue in tribal India; and track down the few remaining Bolivians fluent in Kallawayá, a mysterious language linked to the practice of healing rites. Fascinating insights about the many uses and varieties of human communication – and the suppression of rural cultures by urban institutions such as boarding schools – compensate for pic's routine ethnographic approach and sometimes too-swift editing. Tech package is OK.

Camera (color, DV), Kramer, Newberger; editors, Anne Barliant, Kramer; music, Brian Hawk; music supervisor, Brooke Wentz; sound, Miller, James David Redding III. Reviewed at Wilshire screening room, Los Angeles, Jan. 10, 2008. (In Sundance Film Festival – Spectrum.) English, Russian, Chulym, Chemehuevi, Hindi, Sora, Quecha, Kallawayá dialogue. Running time: 65 MIN.

Links posted in this story: Anne Barliant, Brian Hawk, Brooke Wentz, James Redding, Jeremy Newberger, Johnny Hill, National Science Foundation, Seth Kramer, The Linguists

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• FILM FESTIVAL NEWS

- 'Moon' to rise at Miami Film Festival**  
163 films announced, including 56 premieres
- Spots, music videos join Anima**  
Festival runs February 1-9
- Glitz takes backseat to hits at Unifrance**  
Film promo org emphasizes reform, bottom line
- French films coming to a fest near you**  
Gangster sagas, Creole hauntings among fare

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• VIDEO: EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS



**'What Just Happened?'**  
Interview with Art Linson and Barry Levinson



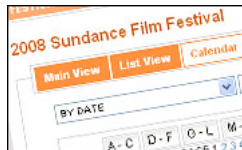
**'Trouble the Water'**  
Interview with Carl Deal and Tia

• 10 DIRECTORS TO WATCH



**Director profile: Seth Gordon**  
Donkey Kong is a lot like life -- one of the reasons Gordon's docu "The King

• FESTIVAL SCHEDULE



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**A sip of Sundance in New York**  
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