



ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKER STEVEN SPIELBERG JOINS BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER

Pleasantville, NY – October 3, 2011 – Academy Award-winning filmmaker Steven Spielberg has joined the Board of Directors of the Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC), a nonprofit institution with a dual mission of independent film exhibition and 21st century education.

“Janet Maslin, JBFC Board President, first shared the story of this fledgling theater with her great friend of 35 years Steven Spielberg even before our doors opened. He has been an inspiration to all we have done over the last decade. It is very gratifying that Steven Spielberg recognizes the importance of our film programming and educational missions and wants to join as we move into our second decade,” said Stephen Apkon, Founder and Executive Director of the JBFC. “The film center is the core of our community and our education programs teach children how to be visually literate citizens who are better prepared to view their world more critically and express themselves more effectively in today’s media-saturated world.”

“I have not heard of anything like the Jacob Burns Film Center happening anywhere else in the world,” said Steven Spielberg. “What makes the JBFC different from every other well-intentioned organization that brings community and film together is its educational outreach to under-resourced schools. They reach so deeply into the community to give kids a chance to find themselves early on and before it’s too late, because that’s all the kids really want. I am thrilled to be on the Board and look forward to the work we will do together.”

The JBFC Board of Directors is committed to the expansion of the Center’s innovative education programs, which are as vital to the organization as its acclaimed film programming and have reached over 75,000 students across the region. The JBFC programs teach students to communicate with visual and aural media while learning the skills of collaboration, innovation, problem solving, cross cultural understanding, and risk taking.

The JBFC Board of Directors, in addition to Steven Spielberg, includes David Swope, (Chairman), Janet Maslin, (President), Brian Ackerman (ex officio), David Alexander, Stephen Apkon, Lisa Hertz Apkon, David Barber, Janet Benton, Helen W. Bernstein, Joseph P. Carlucci, Sabrina Coughlin, Jonathan Demme, Paul D. Frankel, Ron Howard, Gary E. Knell, Nancy S. Kohlberg, Damian Kozlowski, Hugh Price, Art Samberg, (Chairman Emeritus), Jeff Samberg, Esmeralda Santiago, Barry Shenkman, and Brian Skarstad.

The Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) is a nonprofit cultural arts organization dedicated to: presenting the best of independent, documentary, and world cinema; promoting 21st century literacy; and making film a vibrant part of the community. Located on a 47,500 sq. foot, three-building campus in the center of Pleasantville, the JBFC is just 30 miles outside of New York City. Since the opening in 2001, over 1,000,000 people have seen over 4,500 films from more than 40 countries. The campus includes the 27,000 sq. feet Media Arts Lab, the JBFC’s state-of-the-art education center, a creative and educational community for storytellers in the digital age, offering one-time workshops, intensive courses, and weekend programs for children and adults of all ages.

To learn more about the Jacob Burns Film Center and Media Arts Lab, visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

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(L to R) Ron Howard, Janet Maslin, Steven Spielberg, Stephen Apkon (Photo: Lynda Shenkman Curtis)