1. 2016 Annual Report

STORIES WE SHARED
2016 was a very special year in the life of the Jacob Burns Film Center—our 15th anniversary. We marked this milestone the way the JBFC has approached every year of our life—celebrating all we have accomplished together while deepening our commitment to our community.

On the following pages, you will find just a sample of the memorable moments from a most memorable year. From welcoming writer-director Barry Jenkins and his breakthrough Academy Award–winning film Moonlight, to bringing our groundbreaking media education curriculum, Image, Sound, and Story, to three schools in New Orleans, we shared remarkable experiences.

In addition to the hefty line-up of film and education programs we presented throughout the year, you will also discover new and evolving initiatives that grew out of the strategic plan we completed in June 2015. Scattered throughout the annual report you will find the Next Chapter spotlights, focusing on projects we recently launched to help further our mission, scope, and reach.

We look back with great pride and an overwhelming sense of gratitude for all we have achieved. As we continue to implement our strategic plan, we look forward to illuminating, inspiring, and educating an ever-growing community of film lovers, filmmakers, change makers, teachers, and students of all ages through the amazing power of visual storytelling.

Thank you for helping to make so much possible. We will continue to make the JBFC story—together.

JANET BENTON
Chair

LYNN SOBEL
Vice Chair

EDIE DEMAS
Executive Director
A GREAT FILMMAKER AND A GREAT FRIEND

JBFC Board member Ron Howard joined us on Dec. 21 for a Q&A with JBFC President Janet Maslin following a screening of his spectacular documentary, *The Beatles: Eight Days a Week*. A smash sensation of our fall season, it ran for seven consecutive weeks at the JBFC.

OOH LA LA

At 32, Damien Chazelle is the youngest director to win an Academy Award. He spoke to JBFC President Janet Maslin about the joys and challenges of making *La La Land* (including shooting the opening number on a ramp connecting the 105 and 110 freeways) following a preview screening on Dec. 4.

THE JBFC TRAVELS TO NEW ORLEANS

On Dec. 3, JBFC faculty and staff conducted an *Image, Sound, and Story* professional development workshop for teachers at three ReNEW Cultural Arts Academy schools in New Orleans. These schools are our most recent partners through our ongoing collaboration with Turnaround Arts, which began in Bridgeport, CT and Brooklyn, NY in 2015–16.

BUGS: VIEWING AND TASTING

On Oct. 27, as part of “Focus on Nature,” the JBFC presented *Bugs*, a documentary that explores insects as a resource to combat world hunger. Following the screening, we hosted a reception featuring a tasting menu custom-crafted by Chef Mario Hernandez, renowned for his seamless and inventive integration of traditional Mexican ingredients of the insect variety—ants, grasshoppers, and more—into a menu that draws on his Cuernavaca roots.
A STAR IS BORN

With only one feature film under his belt, director Barry Jenkins created *Moonlight*, a powerful, hopeful, and beautiful work of art that won the Oscar for Best Picture. On Oct. 19, we screened *Moonlight* as part of “REMIX: The Modern Black Experience in Film, Media, and Art.” This special moment was followed by a conversation with Jenkins and writer Terrell Alvin McCraney (who shared the award for Best Adapted Screenplay), moderated by Darnell Moore. [Watch the full Q&A.](#)

THE JBFC GOES TO THE WHITE HOUSE

We were invited to attend the awards ceremony for the March on Washington Film Festival’s Student and Emerging Film Competition held at the White House on July 20. JBFC faculty and staff joined students and teachers from schools in Brooklyn, NY and Bridgeport, CT at this special event in recognition of the power and potential of our *Created Equal: Image, Sound, and Story* civil rights curriculum, developed in partnership with the Brooklyn Historical Society. [Learn more.](#)

THE BEST GET BETTER

On June 23, the JBFC launched “Retro Revival,” an ongoing series that gives our audience an opportunity to watch gorgeous remastered or restored versions of great classics. A most fitting choice for opening night: *It Happened One Night!*
AN ENCORE PRESENTATION WITH A SURPRISE GUEST

On June 16, John Pizzarelli recreated some of his most memorable musical moments at the JBFC, culminating with a surprise appearance by the seven-string jazz guitar virtuoso Bucky Pizzarelli. The audience went wild when father and son played a couple of numbers together. This was one of Bucky’s first public performances since the 91-year-old legend suffered a stroke the previous fall.

INSPIRING DIALOGUE AND SOCIAL CHANGE

On May 12, the JBFC was honored at the Westchester Martin Luther King Jr. Institute for Nonviolence’s seventh annual Celebration of Champions for our efforts to promote social change through film and education, community events, special guests, and international artists-in-residence.

FAMILY FUN: VIEWING AND DOING

Children of all ages, along with parents and grandparents, enjoyed a day of family fun featuring a preview screening of *The Little Prince* followed by an interactive party at the Media Arts Lab. Click here to watch the fun unfold as families played and learned together. All proceeds from An Afternoon of Film and Family Fun, which took place on March 6, benefited the JBFC’s education and outreach programs.

KUDOS TO OUR EMERGING ARTIST FELLOWS

In Jan. 2016, then a JBFC Valentine and Clark Emerging Artist, Tara Clune was selected as a Sundance Ignite Fellow. The new yearlong initiative enables young independent filmmakers (age 18–24) to attend the Sundance Film Festival, meet with filmmakers, and receive mentorship from Sundance Institute alumni. Fast forward: In Jan. 2017, two JBFC emerging artists, Leah Galant and Emily Ann Hoffman, were awarded Sundance Ignite Fellowships.
The breadth of the films in ‘Contemporary Arab Cinema’ is amazing. It is so fascinating to learn about cultures that are, unfortunately, pretty alien to so many of us; this experience reinforces our common humanity.

—Grace Kulwin
JBFC member

With 399 films from 62 countries, there was something for everyone at the JBFC in 2016. View the complete list.
Fifteen years ago, no one—certainly not me—would have imagined that the JBFC would wind up playing more films, staging more live events, hosting more special guests, and reaching a larger audience than any other suburban arthouse in the country.

We’re a giant community of film lovers, but when you think about it you realize we’re really a giant community with a vast array of passions: music, dance, art, nature, social justice, activism—the list goes on and on, because we discover so much together at the JBFC. And lest we get carried away, it’s worth saying that some of us are just lovers of popcorn, and that’s as it should be!

Movies have the ability to show us what we can’t see for ourselves and take us anywhere we’re brave enough to go. Thousands of us share new experiences collectively. Over the years, as our community has grown in size and scope, our theater has expanded to five screens, and, for the programming department, that change has been quite transformative. It’s allowed us to think more broadly about what we’re offering, while enabling us to provide more of what everyone wants to see. It’s also given us the freedom to offer esoteric or more demanding programs that will only appeal to the avid few. And that’s quite wonderful, too.

We will continue to evolve and grow as an institution and a community as we explore the world through the incredible window of film. Thanks for being part of this amazing journey.

—Brian Ackerman
JBFC Founding Director of Programming
ANNUAL SERIES
REMEMBERING JONATHAN DEMME  
(1944–2017)

Jonathan Demme and I hit the mainstream in the same year. He moved on from his Roger Corman era to make Citizens Band (or Handle With Care) in 1977, the year I began reviewing for the New York Times. So I was there to watch his thrilling rise in real time. In 1980 Melvin and Howard took the New York Film Festival by storm. I had the mind-blowing good luck to write about Stop Making Sense as a brand-new thing. Something Wild? Exactly that. And then Swimming to Cambodia and Married to the Mob and the fava beans/chianti/Oscar one and a beautiful doc about his Cousin Bobby. And then Philadelphia.

I thought of him as a staggeringly protean talent back then. He seemed to reinvent himself with each new film, and he just got better and better. He left me—and a lot of other people—awestruck and excited, and that was the full extent of my knowledge of him. So imagine how it felt when Jonathan Demme started showing up in the neighborhood on a regular basis.

He was one of the nicest, most exhilarating people I’ve ever known. He came to the JBFC as a moviegoer and decided to stick around—and then some. The guy I’d thought of so worshipfully was showing up at the Media Arts Lab with his poodles, letting our students pitch in with his editing, programming his unknown faves and raving about those faves in excited emails saying (translated from the Jonathanese): “Hey, you just can’t miss this! It’s that great!” I’d like to say I got used to that and forgot about his pedestal, but I never could.

Still, I adored him as much up close as I had from afar. He was such a beautiful sight: beaming, jubilant, excited, a sheer life force no matter the state of his health. It’s no exaggeration to say that he lit up any room he was in, just as he lit up the people he interviewed in his documentaries: You can see onscreen how welcome he became wherever he went. It was our amazing good fortune to have him among us for so long. I could never quite believe he was with us. I can’t believe he’s gone.

—Janet Maslin  
President, JBFC Board of Directors
23 black-and-white films

47 LANGUAGES SPOKEN on our five screens, including Catalan, Dari, Farsi, Kaqchikel, Kazakh, Kinyarwanda, Kurdish, Mongolian, Norwegian, Romani, Sanskrit, Serbian, Slovak, Tamil, Tibetan, and Urdu

399 FILMS
5 SCREENS
365 DAYS
= 7,564 SCREENINGS

LONGEST film shown:
Until the End of the World (295 minutes)

Shortest films shown (tied at 1 minute each): Tiny Tunes: Food
The Visitors

3,99 FILMS IN 35MM
= 143,300 FEET OF FILM

8,280 WESTCHESTER JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL ATTENDEES

39,555 hours clocked by theater staff

Halloween Movie Marathon
62 of whom made it through all 12 hours (they all went home tired, but with prizes!)

Halloween Movie Marathon
JBFC KIDS

In Sept. 2016, we launched JBFC Kids, an exciting initiative designed to deepen the experience of young viewers (and their families) and welcome a new generation of cinema-lovers and media-makers into our community. Together, kids and their families:

**VIEW:** Featuring kid-friendly snacks and low-light screenings for our youngest audiences, monthly movie selections include everything from classics to contemporary new releases from around the world. Select screenings are accompanied by free hands-on activities.

**CREATE:** Family Saturdays @ the Lab is a free program that takes place the first Saturday of select months, offering hands-on activities that change from month to month. With the help of JBFC education faculty and staff, families explore, discover, and create, while learning about animating, sound editing, green screening, and more. Click here to see a Family Saturday @ the Lab in action.

**DISCOVER:** JBFC Kids presents a full roster of innovative courses and workshops for ages 3–13 at the Media Arts Lab. All of our offerings are designed to spark creativity and build media-making skills. Learn more about JBFC Kids.

“As a parent, I’m thrilled to experience a wide range of stories and storytelling activities through JBFC Kids. It is a way for my family to slow down together, build memories, and connect through the JBFC’s unique film curation and unparalleled media education expertise.”

— Edie Demas
JBFC Executive Director

“It was a real thrill for me to relive the joy and excitement of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*—in a theater!—with my son, and share in his complete delight in the film. A truly great memory the two of us will treasure for a long time to come.”

— Paul Boccardi
filmgoer
SPECIAL GUESTS, SPECIAL MOMENTS

Just some of the 178 filmmakers, artists, musicians, authors, and others who entertained, educated, and moved us this year.

Steve Apkon
Hind Bensari
Joe Berlinger
Jacob Bernstein
Jon Bowermaster
Matthew Broderick
Bruni Burres
Majora Carter
Charles S. Cohen
Alexis Cole and Her Trio
Damien Chazelle
Lee Childs
Dave Davidson
Jonathan Demme
Clea DuVall
Maryam Ebrahimi
Stephen Frears
Vince Giordano
Jonathan Gold
Jeff Gordinier
Charles Grodin
David Harris
Mark Harris
Tyrone Hayes
Stephen McKinley Henderson
Mario Hernandez
Ron Howard
Barry Jenkins
Kent Jones
Grace Kelly Tri
Norman Lear
Deborah Lipstadt
Mia Mask
Elaine May
Tarell Alvin McCraney
Darnell Moore
Sam Neill
Tim Blake Nelson
New Orleans Swamp Donkeys
Mark Osbourne
Bucky Pizzarelli
John Pizzarelli
Hugh Price
Peter Pucci
Alysia Reiner
Andrew Revkin
Laura Rossi
Stephen Schiff
Julian Schlossberg
Taggart Siegel
John Siskel
Sam Waterston
Andrew Young
…and many more!

It’s always such an honor for me to bring my films here. It’s just not the launch of a film for me unless I do my hometown screening here at the JBFC.

—Filmmaker Joe Berlinger
Tony Robbins: I Am Not Your Guru
A variety of guests came to the JBFC in 2016!

81 filmmakers
24 local and national nonprofit leaders
23 musicians and composers
16 scholars
13 poets and writers
6 dancers and choreographers
6 film subjects
3 businesspeople
2 chefs
2 curators
2 government officials

Check out some special moments from 2016.
I am grateful for the Jacob Burns Film Center and the unparalleled experiences it creates for people of all ages. I feel extremely fortunate that the JBFC continues to share such amazing cinematic experiences and inspire young people.

—Eric Katz
teacher, New Rochelle High School
One of the most astonishing ways to reflect upon the last 15 years is to consider how our interaction with visual media has exploded. We understood, even in 2001, that the access to production and distribution of images was changing how we engage with one another. Yet who could have truly foreseen the platforms that have arisen in YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, and so many others? Who might have anticipated the impact these tools would have on the stories we could share and discover across the country and around the world?

At the JBFC’s founding, we committed to supporting a generation of students to be equipped and inspired to fully participate in—and contribute to—this digitally and visually connected world. Our programs now span pre-K–adulthood, with each step providing opportunities to view, create, and connect. We know the pace of media innovation in the next 15 years will not slow down, and as a result, our efforts to help students and schools keep up with technology must only increase.

As we move through this evolving landscape of media education and, in some cases, even help to define the field, we look to the future with great anticipation. We’re more resolved than ever to inspire and empower educators through professional development, supporting the integration of media production into their teaching practices and content. By bringing our integrated pre-K–grade 12 curriculum, Image, Sound, and Story, to schools, we are helping create the storytellers, media artists, and change makers of tomorrow.

—Emily Keating
JBFC Director of Education
The JBFC supports educators with curriculum for innovative literacy education. In this age of visual communication, students who are truly college- and career-ready demonstrate skills of critical analysis, creative collaboration, and multimedia communication. From pre-K through grade 12, all our programs are aligned with the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy. Field trips, residencies, and school partnerships give students and teachers an opportunity to engage with the JBFC’s stellar faculty of mediamakers, storytellers, and educators.

“Thank you so much for the opportunity to bring our students to see 475: Break the Silence by Hind Bensari. Our students came away from the experience with new perspectives and a deeper cultural understanding of the issues raised in the film, but also making connections between these issues and the circumstances of their own lives and culture.”
—Jillian McRae
teacher, Ossining High School

Programs for Schools and Community Organizations
WE CONTINUE TO MAKE A LASTING IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

Programs for Schools and Community Organizations

The JBFC is in 33 school districts—26 in Westchester County, 2 in Connecticut, 4 in New York City, and 1 in New Orleans. We waive the participation fee and reimburse transportation costs for schools where at least 35% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.

Total enrollment: 12,744

Students fully subsidized by the JBFC: 9,062

71% fully subsidized

Karolina Manko

Lori Zakalik

Karolina Manko
In 2016, the Jacob Burns Film Center offered nearly 800 students of all ages innovative programs in new media, documentary and fiction film production, screenwriting, animation, and so much more.

“My unanticipated early retirement closed one door; my enrollment in The Power of Story opened another. After the course, I kept writing, and my short story ‘Shadows’ was published in 2014. I continue to write and to practice the basic premise of The Power of Story: Truly, everything is possible.”

—Pat Esposito
Lab Student

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The JBFC provides educators creative and technical experience with digital media, and support and inspiration for innovative approaches to teaching literacy in the classroom. Teachers learn to enhance their instruction through digital projects designed to integrate creativity, literacy, and technology.

“As a teacher, one of the hardest things is finding material to use in your classroom that is fun, engaging, and exciting, but still teaches the standards that are needed in order for student success on tests. The JBFC’s lesson plans seamlessly incorporated viewing, seeing, and hearing into the classroom. I am excited to use it with my seventh graders.”

—Ariel Siegel
teacher, New Orleans ReNEW Schools

“I am always hoping to find new ways to perfect my craft, and I can’t tell you how much this professional development has helped me and my colleagues. It was not only invigorating, but extremely applicable as well. We are extremely fortunate and delighted to be working with the JBFC!”

—Michelle de Bonis
teacher, Lincoln High School, Yonkers
Nearly 4,000 middle and high school students viewed 26 different films through Classroom to Screening Room.

Students were treated to 16,529 bags of popcorn.

Through Cinemania nearly 70 seventh and eighth graders viewed 26 films from 13 countries, including Iran, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, and Palestine.

13 Screenings of He Named Me Malala for more than 450 middle and high school students.

379 Teachers participated in our programs.

55 unique Lab courses & 80 student projects created at the Lab.
Image, Sound, and Story

On Dec. 8, the JBFC Education Department introduced our media education curriculum, Image, Sound, and Story, to a broader audience through a live webinar on Educator Innovator, the National Writing Project’s online portal for educators. Director of Education Emily Keating, Director of Curriculum Brady Shoemaker, and Senior Faculty Member/Program & Curriculum Developer Aaron Mace were joined by three teachers who have implemented Image, Sound, and Story in their lesson plans: Kate Fox (Birch School, Rock Tavern, NY); Jennifer Mundo (JFK Magnet School, Port Chester, NY); and Alicia Robinson (Roosevelt School, Bridgeport, CT).

A curriculum and a professional development program, Image, Sound, and Story, is designed to develop students’ visual literacy through viewing and discussing curated media; completing short activities called View Now Do Nows; capturing and editing images and video; and revising and reflecting on their work. All projects are aligned with Common Core Standards and the JBFC Learning Framework and develop through these core literacy concepts:

- Image
- Sound
- Story
- Character
- Setting
- Structure
- Mood
- Point of View
- Theme
- Style

Through our partnership with Turnaround Arts, we expanded the reach of Image, Sound, and Story to 11 schools in Brooklyn, Bridgeport, and New Orleans. On the home front, 70 educators throughout Westchester County are using the curriculum in their classrooms in 2016–17. They come from a wide range of school districts, including Yonkers, Port Chester, Ossining, and White Plains.

Image, Sound, and Story prepares teachers in grades 5–10 to integrate viewing and creating media into their classroom culture and literacy instruction. The curriculum will eventually expand to reach pre-K–12.

“The Image, Sound, and Story curriculum has brought depth and texture to my classes, giving students a more refined lens through which to experience all types of visual media, and giving them more techniques for their own storytelling.”

—Johanna Mustacchi

teacher, Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School

“With more than a decade of pioneering film and media education programs as a foundation, the JBFC’s Image, Sound and Story program gives educators a relevant and engaging approach to teaching and learning. By embracing the storytelling technology that students carry around in their pockets, this curriculum inspires young people to communicate and succeed in our highly visual and digitally connected world.”

—Ron Howard

filmmaker and JBFC board member
2016 EDUCATION PARTNERS

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Lincoln High School, Yonkers, NY
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Mamaroneck Avenue School, White Plains, NY
The Masters School, Dobbs Ferry, NY
Millennium Art Academy, New York, NY
Mt. Kisco Elementary School, Mt. Kisco, NY
New Rochelle High School, New Rochelle, NY
Oakside Elementary School, Peekskill, NY
Ossining Children’s Center, Ossining, NY
Ossining High School, Ossining, NY
Paideia School 15, Yonkers, NY
Paideia School 24, Yonkers, NY
Palisade Preparatory School, Yonkers, NY
Park School, Ossining, NY
PEAK Center, Mt. Vernon, NY
PEARLS Hawthorne Elementary, Yonkers, NY
Peekskill High School, Peekskill, NY
Pelham Preparatory Academy, Bronx, NY
Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, Croton-on-Hudson, NY
Pleasantville High School, Pleasantville, NY
Pocantico Hills Central School, Sleepy Hollow, NY
P.S. 165 Ida Pasner, Brooklyn, NY
Quaker Ridge School, Scarsdale, NY
ReNEW Cultural Arts Academy, New Orleans, LA
ReNEW Dolores T. Aaron Academy, New Orleans, LA
ReNEW McDonogh City Park Academy, New Orleans, LA
Richard J. Bailey School, White Plains, NY
Ridgefield Academy, Ridgefield, CT
Rippowam Cisqua School, Bedford, NY
Roaring Brook School, Chappaqua, NY
Roosevelt Elementary School, Ossining, NY
Roosevelt High School, Yonkers, NY
Roosevelt School, Bridgeport, CT
Rozemarie Ann Siragusa School, Yonkers, NY
RSHM Life Center, Sleepy Hollow, NY
Rye Middle School, Rye, NY
Scarsdale High School, Scarsdale, NY
Scarsdale Middle School, Scarsdale, NY
School 5, Yonkers, NY
School 15, Yonkers, NY
School 16, Yonkers, NY
School 30, Yonkers, NY
Sleepy Hollow High School, Sleepy Hollow, NY
Sleepy Hollow Middle School, Sleepy Hollow, NY
Temple Israel of Northern Westchester, Croton-on-Hudson, NY
Theodore D. Young Community Center, White Plains, NY
Thomas A. Edison Community School, Port Chester, NY
Thomas Cornell Academy, Yonkers, NY
Thornton High School, Mt. Vernon, NY
Todd Elementary School, Briarcliff, NY
Traphagen Elementary, Mt. Vernon, NY
Trinity Elementary School, New Rochelle, NY
Washington Irving Intermediate School, Tarrytown, NY
Westlake High School, Thornwood, NY
Westorchard Elementary School, Chappaqua, NY
White Plains High School, White Plains, NY
William Holmes Elementary School, Mt. Vernon, NY
Woodlands Middle School, Hartsdale, NY
Yonkers Middle High School, Yonkers, NY
Yonkers Montessori Academy, Yonkers, NY
CREATIVE CULTURE

"Storytelling is central to human existence. What excites me most about Creative Culture is how the JBFC is cultivating the storytellers of tomorrow—filmmakers, animators, and virtual reality artists—through collaborative and innovative professional learning experiences.

—Ron Howard
filmmaker and JBFC Board member
Recognizing a lack of support for filmmakers in the Hudson Valley, the Jacob Burns Film Center developed Creative Culture, a unique initiative designed to champion diverse voices and foster a thriving artistic community in the region. A primary goal is to transform makers into strong and successful storytellers by strengthening their voices, providing a supportive network, and helping to connect them to industry jobs and opportunities.

FELLOWS
The Jacob Burns Film Center is committed to supporting the development of new filmmakers through fellowship opportunities that encourage community engagement, foster thoughtful media creation, and provide the necessary time and resources to fully realize and share a creative project with mentors, peers, and students.

STEFANIYA VEY
Spring 2016 Valentine and Clark Emerging Artist

Stefaniya Vey is a New York–based director and producer, originally from Perm, Russia. A recipient of the HBO Digital Filmmaking Scholarship, she graduated in 2016 with an Associate’s Degree in Digital Filmmaking from Westchester Community College, where she won Best Cinematography and Best Short Film awards for her film *Closer*. While at the JBFC, she directed and produced her film *Awake*. Stefaniya served as an intern at Leopard USA and later became an associate producer on the TV show *House Hunters International*. 
**LUCY ADAMS**  
*Summer 2016 Valentine and Clark Emerging Artist*

Lucy Adams is a documentary filmmaker from Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. A recent graduate of Kenyon College, Lucy curated films for Kenyon’s Gund Gallery, and produced short-form videos for Kenyon’s Office of Public Affairs. Her senior thesis is a documentary featuring three women on a roller derby team in central Ohio. Her work has shown at the National Film Festival for Talented Youth, and the AMLit Film Festival. She spent her fellowship editing a documentary about a road trip she took with her grandfather to the Grand Canyon.

**EMILY ANN HOFFMAN**  
*Fall 2016 Valentine and Clark Emerging Artist*

Emily Ann Hoffman is an animator, filmmaker, and illustrator based in New York. Her first short film, *The Emily & Ariel Show* (2016), created with Ariel Noltimier Strauss, was screened at festivals around the world. Specializing in stop-motion animation, Emily likes to tell female-driven stories with heart and humor. She graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with a BFA in illustration and was a freelance illustrator and animator before coming to the Jacob Burns Film Center. She is currently a Sundance Ignite Fellow.

*The Valentine and Clark Emerging Artist Fellowship is made possible thanks to generous support from the Westchester Community Foundation.*

**LEAH GALANT**  
*Fall 2016 Sally Burns Shenkman Woman Filmmaker Fellow*

Leah, a recent documentary studies graduate from Ithaca College, grew up in Cortlandt Manor, NY. She was named one of *Variety* magazine’s “110 Students to Watch in Film and Media” in April 2015. Past projects have won a College Emmy Award and screened nationally, at SXSW, and on PBS. Leah was recently awarded the 2017 Sundance Ignite Fellowship. Her short documentary *Kitty and Ellen*, included in the JBFC’s 2017 Westchester Jewish Film Festival, portrays the dynamic friendship of two Holocaust survivors and takes us through powerful memories of their past, as well as the impact of the 2016 election.

*The Sally Burns Shenkman Woman Filmmaker Fellowship is made possible thanks to generous support from the Jacob Burns Foundation.*
ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

The Jacob Burns Film Center welcomes filmmakers, artists, and educators from across the country and around the world to live, work, and teach on the JBFC campus. Thanks to a generous grant from Kathryn W. Davis in 2007, the Jacob Burns Film Center purchased 5 Grant St., a home adjacent to the Media Arts Lab, for our visiting artists.

Hind Bensari (April 2016)

Hind is a journalist and self-taught filmmaker who became interested in filmmaking while working in London as a media development manager. Her award-winning first documentary, 475: Break the Silence, investigates the perception and misrepresentation of rape, family, and relationships in her native Morocco, and helped to change the laws protecting rapists by offering them marriage to their victims. Her current work-in-progress feature documentary, Weight Throwers, highlights disabled athletes struggling for rights and recognition in Morocco.

Hind Bensari and Maryam Ebrahimi came to the JBFC as artists-in-residence as part of our ongoing collaboration with the Greenhouse Documentary Development Program.

Maryam Ebrahimi (April 2016)

Maryam studied at the Art University of Tehran and continued her education at the University of Konstfack in Stockholm, where she now lives and works. She has produced and codirected several acclaimed documentaries on contemporary political and social themes, including Those Who Said No and No Burqas Behind Bars, which focuses on how “moral crimes” are used to control women in post-Taliban Afghanistan and was named Best Documentary at the 2014 International Emmy Awards. Her work-in-progress documentary feature, Stronger than a Bullet, explores the misuse of photographer Saied Sadeghi’s images from the first Persian Gulf War for Iran’s war propaganda, helping to propel a generation to their deaths as martyrs.
Creative Culture Maker Experience

Since 2009, the JBFC has supported 22 emerging artists through intensive fellowship programs. Emerging artist fellows receive a stipend for a full semester as they work on a film project at any stage of production. Over the years, we received consistent feedback from emerging artist fellows after their terms ended: While they had deeply valued the fellowship experience, they missed the opportunity to share their work, glean feedback, and work together with a supportive community of fellow young artists.

Inspired by this feedback, the JBFC launched a pilot Creative Culture Maker Experience program for eight emerging artists in Sept. 2016. For five months, makers were provided with equipment, resources, and space, as well as access to networking opportunities and the support of fellow class members as they worked on their own projects, helped each other, and learned new skills.

On March 9, 2017, the JBFC presented a special program featuring the work these filmmakers created during the pilot program. Projects ranged from nonfiction to narrative, stop-motion animation to virtual reality. Following the screening, there was a reception and an exhibition featuring elements of the filmmakers’ creative process, including costumes, puppets, and behind-the-scenes artifacts.

In Sept. 2017, emerging and working professionals will be invited to submit applications for the Maker Experience. Fellowship opportunities and financial assistance will be available to accepted applicants with demonstrated financial need. In addition to the five-month project-based program, makers will benefit from guest speaker series, master classes and presentations by leading creative professionals, workshops and work-in-progress screenings, access to networking events, and numerous other community-building programs. Maker Experience is crucial to developing and sustaining a thriving community of makers in the Hudson Valley region.

If you’ve ever seen our film guide or visited the JBFC website, then you’ve read three words essential to our mission: Film, Education, Community. Creative Culture is a coalescence of all three, a creative community of storytellers working together in pure collaboration to lift each other up.

Creative Culture gives the JBFC the opportunity to play an active role in championing unheard voices on screen by cultivating filmmakers from all backgrounds. In doing so, these storytellers are helping us to redefine what a film center can be.

It is with great pride and aspiration that we launch Creative Culture.

—Sean Weiner
Director of Creative Culture

Meet the members of the pilot class of the Creative Culture Maker Experience.
Filmmakers, composers, producers, distributors, curators, and visual journalists have come to live and work at the JBFC from 16 countries:

Bosnia and Herzegovina
Burkina Faso
China (2)
Egypt (2)
Iran (2)
Israel
Italy
Lebanon (2)
Morocco
Romania
Saudi Arabia
Spain
Thailand
Tunisia
United Kingdom (2)
United States (2)

Kathryn W. Davis, who provided the JBFC with a generous grant to purchase our residence for visiting artists, died in 2013 at the age of 106. An author, philanthropist, and scholar, she was a passionate advocate for peace and an avid traveler. She was also a very dear friend to the Burns.
On behalf of the American Muslim Women’s Association, I want to thank you for your generosity. All the members and friends of AMWA who attended the *Sonita* screening yesterday were very moved by this documentary.

—Dr. Mahjabeen Hassan  
American Muslim Women’s Association
Community-building through dialogue is at the very core of everything we do. In 2016, the JBFC partnered with more than 90 nonprofit organizations. These collaborations remain an important component of our mission and provide enriching opportunities for our members, as well as the community at large. We look forward to developing new and strategic partnerships throughout Westchester County and beyond.

Our outreach partners have increased in number by an average of 14% per year over the past three years.

“...My group of Girl Scouts and moms all LOVED The Eagle Huntress—what a great and beautiful story! A perfect message filled with girl power and grace.

—Georgia Franklin
Local Girl Scout Leader
The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT
Alliance Française de Greenwich, CT
Alliance Française de Westchester, White Plains, NY
Alzheimer’s Association
American Muslim Women’s Association
ARC of Westchester
ArtsWestchester, White Plains, NY
Blythedale Children’s Hospital, Valhalla, NY
Boys and Girls Clubs of America
Burke Rehabilitation Hospital, White Plains, NY
Center for the Urban River at Beczak, Yonkers, NY
Cerebral Palsy of Westchester
Clearwater, Beacon, NY
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Dance Films Association
Down to Earth Markets
Family Services of Westchester
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Girl Scouts of America
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The Ground Glass
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Heritage Hills Senior Community
Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center, West Harrison, NY
Holy Innocents Church, Pleasantville, NY
Hudson Link, Ossining, NY
Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, NY
Hudson Valley Writers’ Center, Sleepy Hollow, NY
Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, NY
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The LOFT, White Plains, NY
Manhattanville College Dance and Theatre Department, Purchase, NY
Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, NY
Mosaic of Westchester
Mt. Pleasant Public Library, Mt. Pleasant, NY
My Sisters’ Place, White Plains, NY
Neighbors Link, Mt. Kisco, NY
Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, NY
New York Film Festival, New York, NY
Ossining Children’s Center, Ossining, NY
Pace University, Pleasantville, NY
Planned Parenthood, Hawthorne, NY
Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce

2016 OUTREACH PARTNERS
2016 OUTREACH PARTNERS (CONT.)

Pleasantville Cottage School
Pleasantville Farmers Market
Pleasantville FOVA (Friends of the Visual Arts)
Pleasantville Garden Club
Pleasantville Middle School PTA
Pleasantville Music Festival
Pleasantville Recycles
Pleasantville Senior Citizen Center
Pleasantville SEPTA (Special Education PTA)
Pleasantville STRONG
The Pocantico Center, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Tarrytown, NY
ReelAbilities, New York, NY
Rehabilitation Through the Arts, Ossining, NY
Riverkeeper, Ossining, NY
Romanian Film Initiative, New York, NY
RSHM Life Center, Sleepy Hollow, NY
Saw Mill River Audubon, Chappaqua, NY
Scenic Hudson, Poughkeepsie, NY
Steffi Nossen School of Dance, White Plains, NY
Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, Pocantico Hills, NY
SUNY Purchase College
SUNY Westchester Community College
Symphony Space, New York, NY
Taconic Road Runners
Teatown Lake Reservation, Ossining, NY

Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations
United Way of Westchester
Volunteer New York, Tarrytown, NY
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WESPAC, White Plains, NY
Westchester Children’s Association
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Westchester County African American Advisory Board
Westchester County Department of Corrections
Westchester County Tourism & Film
Westchester Jewish Community Services
Westchester Library System
Westchester Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence, White Plains, NY
WFUV, Bronx, NY
White Plains Youth Bureau
Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem, NY
World Heritage Cultural Center, Pleasantville, NY
Yonkers Residential Center, Yonkers, NY
The Youth Shelter Program of Westchester
COMMUNITY

We treasure our membership year after year. Thank you so much. We are so fortunate to have the JBFC to learn from and to enjoy!

—John Rubino
JBFC member
The strength of our community rests on the generosity and vision of our donors, members, and volunteers. We are able to realize dreams, expand programs, and open hearts and minds through our collective desire to fully achieve our mission. While we have built a thriving campus where stories are shared and created, our learning community transcends physical space through the power of film and an innovative approach to education.

Each year, we depend on our community to help raise the nearly $3 million needed to fulfill our commitment to our audience, students, teachers, and partners.

MEMBERS
Through annual contributions, members provide a solid base for all of our film, education, and outreach initiatives. In grateful appreciation, we offer all members ticket discounts and special opportunities to engage in our programs.

SILVER SCREEN CIRCLE
Through their annual support at levels starting at $2,500, Silver Screen Circle members are instrumental in helping us build and sustain a thriving campus filled with people eager to see and hear stories from around the world and learn to tell their own. We are delighted to provide Silver Screen Circle members with exclusive benefits, including easy access to tickets, private screenings and receptions, and so much more. Silver Screen Circle members at all levels are invited to be our guests at the annual Silver Screen Circle Dinner.
**JBFC PROGRAM FUND**

The JBFC Program Fund supports a wide range of initiatives, including film series and programs, scholarships and fellowships, and program and curriculum development. Gifts to the Program Fund, which can be restricted or unrestricted, are made through individual donations, foundation grants, and corporate sponsorships.

**THE JBFC VISION CIRCLE**

The Vision Circle is a group of donors who have made a commitment to the future of the Jacob Burns Film Center by including it in their estate plans.

[Learn more about giving.](#)
Enhancing the JBFC Experience

Are you enjoying printing tickets at home or scanning them off your phone? And renewing your membership online?

If so, you can thank Tessitura, a new and fully integrated software system that we launched in Oct. 2016. In addition to ticketing, subscriptions, and box office features, Tessitura has a wide range of functions including customer relationship and contributions management, as well as robust data analysis tools. Implementing Tessitura is a major advance toward our goal of creating a deeply satisfying JBFC experience for our community.
A SALUTE TO OUR DONORS

“

We continue to view the JBFC as a community treasure.

—Roberta and Joe Rosenblum
JBFC donors and members
ANNUAL GIVING

The Jacob Burns Film Center thanks the thousands of individuals, corporations, and foundations who support our film, education, and outreach programs through their annual gifts. While we deeply appreciate all gifts at every level, we are pleased to recognize our major supporters.

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COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR HUMANITIES
15TH SILVER SCREEN CIRCLE DINNER

On Sunday, Nov. 20, the JBFC honored Matthew Broderick at the annual Silver Screen Circle Dinner. This special evening included a preview screening of *Rules Don’t Apply* followed by a seated dinner and Q&A with Matthew Broderick and Janet Maslin, JBFC President and *New York Times* critic, in the Jane Peck Gallery.

Matthew Broderick is among a group of distinguished guests who have been honored at the Silver Screen Circle Dinner, including Robert Redford, Kevin Spacey, Kathleen Turner, Robert Duvall, Hilary Swank, Jeff Bridges, and Ed Harris.

This annual event is held in grateful appreciation for the generous support we receive from Silver Screen Circle members.

*Click here for more information about the Silver Screen Circle.*
In celebration of our 15th anniversary, an anonymous JBFC Board member pledged to match all new and increased Silver Screen Circle gifts in 2016. Thanks to 29 generous donors, we received $77,786 in new and increased donations at the $2,500 and above level. Every penny of this amount was matched by the generous Board member.

**Donors to the 15th Anniversary Silver Screen Circle Challenge**

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CORPORATE PARTNERS

The Jacob Burns Film Center’s programming, education, and outreach initiatives provide corporations with innovative and unique sponsorship and giving opportunities. From enhancing brand awareness to entertaining clients, the JBFC helps bring corporate sponsors together with their audiences. We are happy to design a sponsorship package tailored to your unique needs and goals. Sponsoring our education programs enables corporations to further the JBFC’s efforts to reach out to children from under-resourced school districts and to help us create a model for 21st century media education.

MATCHING GIFT PARTNERS

The JBFC gratefully acknowledges the following partners, which generously matched their employees’ gifts.

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ExxonMobil
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YourCause

Your gift to the Jacob Burns Film Center can go even further in supporting our film, education, and outreach programs, as many companies will double or even triple employee donations. Check with your company to see if your gift to the Jacob Burns Film Center qualifies for matching funds. If you have any questions about securing a matching gift please e-mail Allie Garner at agarner@burnsfilmcenter.org.
15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On June 20, we hosted our 15th Anniversary Celebration. This special evening began with a program in Theater One where we presented the Vision Award to Sheila Johnson, the Leadership Award to David Swope, and the New Lens Award to Nichole Sobecki.

We are deeply grateful for the many different ways the JBFC community participated and supported our Anniversary Celebration, helping to make this important event a wonderful success.
SHEILA JOHNSON
JBFC VISION AWARD
As a leading executive in the hospitality sector, one of the nation’s top professional sports team owners, a pioneer in the entertainment industry, a prominent patron of the arts, and a champion of women’s empowerment around the world, Sheila Johnson has a distinguished record of accomplishment that reflects her wide-ranging passions. She also shares our deep commitment to elevating diverse voices through the power of film and media.

DAVID SWOPE
JBFC LEADERSHIP AWARD
A founding Board member and a Chairman Emeritus, David Swope has had a significant impact on the life and the future of the Jacob Burns Film Center. David’s guidance, unwavering support, and boundless love for the JBFC inspires us all. Simply put, David embodies the heart and soul of this organization.

NICHOLE SOBECKI
JBFC NEW LENS AWARD
While she was raised in Pleasantville, Nichole Sobecki also grew up at the Burns. A former JBFC student, Nichole was part of the World Crew team that created a documentary in Uganda in the summer of 2007. She has gone on to become a courageous and acclaimed visual journalist, currently based in Nairobi, Kenya. She recently appeared in TIME Magazine as “one of 34 women photographers to follow right now.”
15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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David M. Oliver
Lorraine H. Pantaleo
Larry & Kathleen Pedowitz
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Teatown Lake Reservation
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SPECIAL INITIATIVES

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors who so generously supported special initiatives in 2016. Your additional support helps us continue to offer inspiring and unique film programming to our audiences and innovative media education initiatives to our students. Thank you for helping us fulfill our commitment to thousands of under-resourced students each year.

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During our Building on 15 Years of Shared Experiences campaign we asked, “What is your favorite JBFC shared experience?” These are just a few of the responses we received, along with contributions in support of our film, education, and outreach programs, from members of our community.

“Finding a comfortable seat in a lovely theater and enjoying memorable films from near and far.”
—Selma Feinberg

“Making friends with fellow filmgoers. Being greeted by the courteous theater staff.”
—Donna Franzese

“Vince Giordano!”
—Robert and Mary Ann Cappiello

“The Jewish Film Festival—each and every year!”
—Larry and Susan Brandes

“Seeing movies with my daughter!”
—Ellen Wales

“Jonathan Demme’s programs, foreign films, seeing Neil DeGrasse Tyson.”
—John and Faye Vanover
Volunteers

So much of what we do is made possible by our wonderful volunteers!

Madeleine Accardi  
Keir Alexander  
Naomi Allen  
Lisa Archigian  
Ethan Balletta  
Naomi Barr  
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Rosalyn Beck  
Gretchen Beckhorn  
Sherry Beckman  
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Elliot Bisgier  
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O’Leary  
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Justin Woods  
Nancy Woolf  
Elise Workman
For a copy of the 2016 audited financial statements, please contact Judy Exton at jexton@burnsfilmcenter.org or 914.773.7663, ext. 414.
The Jacob Burns Film Center mourns the passing of Martin Gold on Feb. 6, 2017. Marty had been an active member of the JBFC Board of Directors since 2014, serving as Treasurer, Chair of the Finance Committee, and member of the Investment and Development Committees. He was a generous, enthusiastic, and passionate supporter of the Burns. Marty took great pride and joy in our film and education programs and worked tirelessly to help fulfill our mission and achieve our goals.

Marty and his beloved wife, Ginny, joined the JBFC family on Day One and have been strong supporters of the organization ever since. His signature smile and that constant twinkle in his eyes were outward signs of Marty’s kindness, engaging personality, and zest for life. Marty was deeply loved by the JBFC Board, staff, and the countless friends he made at the Burns over the years.

Marty’s guidance, wisdom, friendship, and unfailing support will remain in our hearts and minds forever.
JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER

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Executive Director

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Thank you for your support!

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