



## **Jacob Burns Film Center Launches New Creative Culture Initiative Program Connects Local Makers to Creative Careers**

**Pleasantville – February 22, 2017** – Recognizing a gap in support for filmmakers in the Hudson Valley, Jacob Burns Film Center staff developed Creative Culture, a unique initiative designed to foster a thriving artistic community in the region. The goal of the program is to transform makers into strong and successful storytellers by strengthening their voice, providing a supportive network, and helping to connect them to industry jobs and opportunities.

Participants can take part in Creative Culture through three pathways: the pre-existing Valentine & Clark Emerging Artist or Sally Burns Shenkman Woman Filmmaker Fellowships, the pre-existing Artist-in-Residence program, or the new Lab Experience.

Ron Howard, director and JBFC board member, said, “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.”

The Artist-in-Residence program has brought a wide range of artists to the JBFC campus, from experimental filmmaker Ja’Tovia Gary to South Korean director Bong Joon-ho. As part of their residency, artists will serve as mentors to fellows and Lab Experience makers. The Artist-in-Residence program is invite only.

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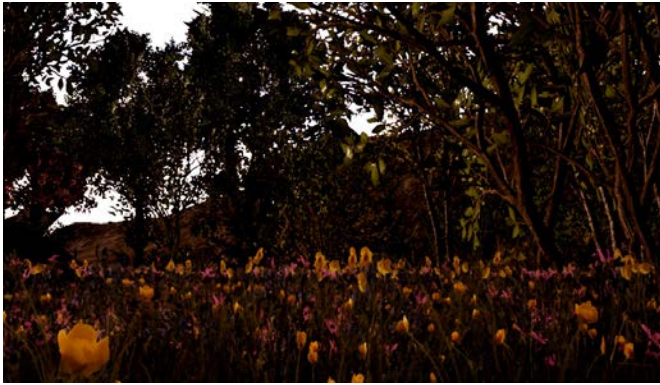
**— Ron Howard, director and JBFC board member**

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The Creative Culture Lab Experience is a five-month program that will invite emerging and working professionals to fully realize their short artistic projects through the support of:

- **professional equipment**
- **production and post-production space**
- **mentorship from JBFC staff and visiting filmmakers**
- **peer support of others within the community**

JBFC fellowship grantees will be included in the Lab Experience program as a perk of their fellowships. Applications for the Lab Experience and fellowship programs will open March 9 and run through July 1.



"Jacob Burns Film Center has been building relationships with filmmakers, industry professionals, and film festivals for the past 15 years. Now, Creative Culture is using those connections to provide emerging filmmakers a path to success in the film industry," said Sean Weiner, Creative Culture director. "We've already seen success with this model as two members of Creative Culture were awarded prestigious Sundance Ignite fellowships for 2017."

On Thursday, March 9 at 7:00, JBFC will hold a launch event celebrating the work of the pilot class of Creative Culture. The event will include the premiere of short films by the seven Creative Culture makers in animation, documentary filmmaking, virtual reality, narrative storytelling, and more.

The screening will be followed by a reception where audience members can meet the makers and view an exhibit in the JBFC's Jane Peck Gallery highlighting costumes, puppets, and other behind-the-scenes artifacts from the seven films.



The Valentine and Clark Emerging Artist Fellowship is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Westchester Community Foundation. The Sally Burns Shenkman Woman Filmmaker Fellowship is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Jacob Burns Foundation.

### About Jacob Burns Film Center

Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) is a nonprofit arts and education hub located on a three-building campus in the New York Metro area. The JBFC brings the transformative power of film to the surrounding community through unique programming and discussion, shared experiences, and educational initiatives. Since opening in 2001, over 2,000,000 people have enjoyed the best of current American and foreign cinema, unique film series, and special events at the five screen theater complex. A pioneer in visual literacy education, the Jacob Burns Film Center offers courses in filmmaking, screenwriting, and animation for students of all ages at our state-of-the-art Media Arts Lab and develops curriculums for public schools throughout the region.



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