

Jacob Burns Film Center Spearheads Nationwide “Celebration of Jonathan Demme”

Art House Theaters Across the Country to Screen Demme’s Stop Making Sense on July 19

Pleasantville, NY – June 6, 2017 – Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) announced today that it is organizing a nationwide screening of Jonathan Demme’s 1984 seminal concert documentary, *Stop Making Sense*, on July 19. The program will provide independent theaters and audiences the opportunity to celebrate the life and work of the Academy Award-winning filmmaker who passed away in April at the age of 73.



Heralded by many as the greatest performance film of all time, *Stop Making Sense* was Demme’s documentary debut, showcasing the Talking Heads just after they achieved mainstream success with the album *Speaking in Tongues* and the single “Burning Down the House.”

“Truly inspired by the Art House Convergence’s 1984 screening earlier this year, I reached out to the art house community to put this screening together,” said JBFC Senior Programmer Andrew Jupin. “The art house community, which Jonathan adored so much, will band together to shine their projector lamps in unison and celebrate the man whose work touched us all so deeply. I firmly believe there’s no better film for the job than *Stop Making Sense*—the greatest performance film ever made, a fantastic musical document, and 88 brilliant, beautiful minutes of the kind of pure cinematic joy that only Jonathan Demme could deliver.”

A staunch lover of art house theaters, Demme made it his mission to champion independent films and connect audiences to the best that cinema had to offer. In 2016, Demme helped launch the first-annual Art House Theater Day with a [video](#) in which he discussed his love of art house movie theaters.

Over 30 independent theaters and counting from across the country will participate in this celebration on or around July 19. For more information and to find a screening near you, visit: celebratedemme.com. Join the conversation online using the hashtag #celebratedemme. Theaters looking to participate in the screening event can contact Andrew Jupin (ajupin@burnsfilmcenter.org) for more information.

This screening event is made possible thanks to the generous support of [Palm Pictures](#).

Special thanks to [Eclair/CineConductor](#) for their additional technical support.

About Jonathan Demme

One of the most innovative directors of our time, Jonathan Demme directed and produced more than 40 films over his 40-year career. His films were nominated for 19 Academy Awards for *Beloved*, *Melvin and Howard*, *Philadelphia*, *Married to the Mob*, *The Silence of the Lambs*—for which he won the Oscar for Best Director—and more. Most recently, he created *Protection Not Protest: the People of Standing Rock*, a 20-minute short film for Tavis Smiley and PBS. Demme was a long time curator of Jacob Burns Film

Center's *Rarely Seen Cinema* and *Saddle Up Saturdays* series, a co-curator of JBFC's *REMIX: The Modern Black Experience in Film, Media, and Art* series, and a JBFC board member from 2006–2015.

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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