

## JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER ELECTS THREE NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Newly-Created Board Seat Named in Honor of Filmmaker Jonathan Demme



*Noah Hutton, first young filmmaker to fill The Jonathan Demme Changemaker Board Seat.*

**Pleasantville, NY – November 28, 2017** – The Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) announced today that three new members have been elected to the Board of Directors: Richard Abramowitz of Armonk, Virginia Gold of Bedford Hills, and Dorian Goldman of Chappaqua. Each will serve a three year term. In addition, The Jonathan Demme Changemaker Board Seat has been established and filmmaker Noah Hutton, a Brooklyn resident, will be the first young filmmaker to fill this seat.

The Jonathan Demme Changemaker Board Seat was created to honor Demme’s commitment to the JBFC, his nine years of board service, and his unwavering championing of emerging and overlooked filmmaker voices. The purpose of this seat is to maintain and nurture a vibrant vision of youthfulness, diversity, creativity, community engagement, and social justice to the board, the JBFC staff, and the community. The seat is for a limited term of two years.

“I am so pleased to welcome these three new board members; their backgrounds will broaden the board’s knowledge and expertise,” Janet Benton, Chair of the JBFC board said. “Noah Hutton has been a part of the JBFC community for over a decade, as a student and as a theater staff member. It was during these years that his mentorship with Jonathan Demme began. He then returned as an emerging documentary filmmaker to screen his work,” Benton added.

Richard Abramowitz has been in the film industry for over 35 years, distributing and marketing independent films. His company, Abramorama, takes a personalized approach to film marketing and distribution, bypassing traditional film studios and providing valuable distribution alternatives to filmmakers. Amongst many titles, he has focused particularly on music films, distributing Jonathan Demme’s *Stop Making Sense*, and his three Neil Young performance films, Laurie Anderson’s *Heart of a Dog*, and Ron Howard’s *Eight Days A Week*. He was a co-founder of Stratosphere Entertainment and President/COO of RKO Pictures Distribution; prior to that he was a

senior executive at Cinecom. He teaches at New York University Tisch School of the Arts, Institute of Film and Television, and the film conservatory at Purchase College.

Virginia (Ginny) Gold has been actively involved in Westchester cultural organizations for many years. She served on the Board of the Katonah Gallery of Art (later the Katonah Museum of Art), as well as the boards of ArtsWestchester and the Westchester Community College Foundation. She currently serves on the Advisory Board of Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts and is a Vice Chair of the New Combinations Fund of the New York City Ballet.

Dorian Goldman is President of the Joyce and Irving Goldman Family Foundation and Vice President of the New York-based BLDG group, a family-owned real estate enterprise. She is an advocate for research dedicated to the cure and eradication of breast cancer, an investor in efforts to end global poverty by strengthening local community resources, and a supporter of institutions and ideas that create civic and spiritual connections for young Jewish adults. She has previously served on the Boards of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and currently serves on the board of 21/64. She is an active supporter of local efforts to preserve farmland and train young farmers.

Noah Hutton is a film director and founder of the website The Beautiful Brain. He has presented on art and neuroscience at the Venice Biennale and at many other organizations. In 2015 he was named a Salzburg Global Fellow in Neuroscience & Art, and created Brain City, a multi-platform installation in Times Square commissioned by the Times Square Arts Alliance. He is in the eighth year of work on his film *Bluebrain*, a 10-year documentary centering on the Blue Brain Project, based in Geneva, Switzerland. Previously he directed the award-winning documentary features *Deep Time* (SXSW 2015) and *Crude Independence* (SXSW 2009). He is a graduate of Wesleyan University, where he studied art history and neuroscience, and was the recipient of the 2015 JBFC New Lens Award.

"I am blown away, delighted, and humbled to be the first person selected to serve in this seat," Hutton said. "Jonathan had such a profound influence on me as a filmmaker; it is an honor to be given the opportunity to follow through on his visions and to also give back to the JBFC."

[Jacob Burns Film Center](#) 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 3,000,000 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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