



CREATIVE CULTURE

Connecting Local Makers to Creative Careers

What is Creative Culture?

Creative Culture is an initiative designed to support local and visiting filmmakers by providing:

- production space
- equipment
- industry-oriented programming
- networking opportunities

Creative Culture fosters an artistic community in the Hudson Valley with the goal of connecting local artists to industry jobs and opportunities.

The Creative Culture Fellowship Program

This 5-month, project-based program invites emerging and working professionals to the JBFC Theater, Media Arts Lab, and Grant St residence to fully realize their short artistic projects. Creative Culture is an application-based program, and JBFC offers fellowship opportunities.

Participants are provided with:

- professional equipment
- production and post-production space
- mentorship from JBFC Staff and visiting filmmakers
- peer support of others within the community
- two sessions of participation
- stipend for the first session

“ 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 VR artists—through collaborative and innovative professional learning experiences. ”

—RON HOWARD,
filmmaker and JBFC board member



Reggie Altidor is the spring 2017 Valentine & Clark Emerging Artist Fellow. He is a Westchester Community College alum and recent Brooklyn College graduate. In his fellowship project, *The Jux*, Reggie tells the story of a young teen in Mount Vernon who follows in his fallen brother's footsteps as a stickup kid only to encounter a neighborhood vigilante seeking to set him straight.



Leah Galant is a recent documentary studies graduate from Ithaca College and grew up in Cortlandt Manor, NY. She was the fall 2016 Sally Burns Shenkman Woman Filmmaker Fellow and a 2017 Sundance Ignite Fellow. She was named one of *Variety* magazine's "110 Students to Watch in Film and Media" for their April 2015 issue. Her films focus on social justice themes through the powerful stories of individuals. Past projects include a documentary film about a traveling abortion provider, *The Provider*, which won a College Emmy Award and screened at SXSW, and *Kitty and Ellen*, a documentary film about two holocaust survivors who are best friends, which screened at DOC NYC 2017.



Emily Ann Hoffman is an award-winning animator, filmmaker, and artist. She has written and directed three short films—*Nevada* (to play Sundance 2018), *Ok, Call Me Back*, and *The Emily & Ariel Show*—which have all screened at Academy Award qualifying festivals and internationally. She recently emerged from a 2017 Sundance Ignite Fellowship and a Valentine & Clark Emerging Artist Fellowship. She is currently a Sundance Feature Film Program screenwriting mentee.



Crystal Kayiza is a Brooklyn-based documentary filmmaker and the fall 2017 Sally Burns Shenkman Woman Filmmaker Fellow. After graduating from Ithaca College with a degree in Documentary Studies and Production, Crystal spent two years at the ACLU working on criminalization of poverty issues. While at the Jacob Burns Film Center, Crystal will produce a short documentary portrait of a rural community in North Carolina. Crystal was recently awarded a 2018 Sundance Ignite Fellowship.



Nick LeDonne is an independent animator who makes films to make a difference. Nick is a fall 2017 Creative Culture Maker and the honored recipient of the JBFC's inaugural Silver Sun Diversity Scholarship. His debut film, *Hanging*, screened internationally, winning awards such as "Best Animated Short" at the Catalina Film Festival. His forthcoming Creative Culture film, *Reaching OUT*, is a supportive message to the LGBT community.



Kerry LeVielle is a fall 2017 Valentine & Clark Emerging Artist Fellow. A Schenectady native, Kerry found herself exploring the whimsical realm of Westchester during her time as an undergraduate at SUNY Purchase College. Her senior thesis film, *Her Natural Crown*, has received accolades from The IndieFEST 2017. Eager to continue her development as a filmmaker in the Creative Culture community, Kerry is excited to create inspiring work and support her fellow filmmakers.



Tyler Rabinowitz is an alumnus of NYU Tisch School of the Arts, where he was named one of *Variety Magazine's* 2015 "Students to Watch." Recently, he co-produced the short *The Mess He Made*, an Official Selection at SXSW, and co-directed *Hell You Talkabout*, a social-justice-oriented tap dance performance developed in response to the deaths of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling. Tyler is also a 2017 Sundance Ignite Fellow, a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, a YoungArts Winner in Cinematic Arts, and a TED speaker.



Ariel Noltmier Strauss is the spring 2016 Sally Burns Shenkman Woman Filmmaker Fellow. She graduated from RISD in 2015 and works with stop motion puppet animation. Her film *The Emily & Ariel Show* has screened at festivals including the New Orleans Film Festival and the Mallorca International Film Festival, where it won Best Experimental Short. During her fellowship, Ariel will write, direct, and animate a stop-motion ballet.



Rahessa Vitória is a fall 2017 Valentine & Clark Emerging Artist Fellow. She grew up in Sao Paulo, Brazil and graduated from Anhembi Morumbi University with a major in Film and Television. She feels honored to participate in this fellowship and be surrounded by talented people. Rahessa will write, direct, and edit a short film about a recently emigrated woman, lost in her own ambition, thrown in her own sea of doubts, and completely discouraged. Rahessa was one of 25 finalists for the 2018 Sundance Ignite Fellowship.