



## Step into Spring with a Riveting Slate of Events at the Jacob Burns Film Center

*The JBFC's compelling spring schedule includes the return of Jonathan Demme's Rarely Seen Cinema, a retrospective of the beloved Agnès Varda's work, the return of The Meditative Life series, the 2020 Westchester Jewish Film Festival, Q&As following powerful documentaries, live broadcasts of stage shows, and more.*

Pleasantville, NY – Jan. 29, 2020 – The [Jacob Burns Film Center \(JBFC\)](#), a nonprofit cultural arts center and one of the most successful art house theaters in the country, announced today a variety of unique, compelling, and one-of-a-kind events, series, and screenings for spring 2020. With special events and thought-provoking Q&As featuring filmmakers, actors, activists, writers, academics, historians, and more, there's something for everyone to see this spring at the JBFC.

### Highly Anticipated Events Include:

- **Feb. 18:** [Global Watch](#) screening of [Midnight Traveler](#), followed by a Q&A with filmmaker/2018 JBFC Artist-in-Residence Emelie Mahdavian (via Skype) & JBFC Senior Film Programmer Andrew Jupin.  
When the Taliban puts a bounty on Afghan director Hassan Fazili, he is forced to flee the country with his wife and two young daughters. Capturing their uncertain journey, Fazili shows firsthand the dangers facing refugees and a family's love. We are proud to show this award-winning, influential documentary, which was written, produced, and edited by Emelie Mahdavian, a 2018 Artist-in-Residence at the JBFC under our Creative Culture program.
- **Feb. 23:** [Jonathan Demme's Rarely Seen Cinema](#) screening of [Jo Jo Dancer, Your Life is Calling](#), followed by a Q&A with Gina Duncan, VP of Film at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.  
Over the 12 years he hosted Rarely Seen Cinema at the Burns, Jonathan Demme often discussed his "dream guests," including Toni Morrison, who selected Richard Pryor's 1986 semiautobiographical feature for her screening—a brutal, hilarious, and poignant testimony to Pryor's comic brilliance. Morrison's visit never came to pass, so we are sharing this film to celebrate and remember both Demme and Morrison during their shared birthday month.
- **Feb. 25:** [Children of God](#) screening, followed by a Q&A with producer Richard LeMay  
Set against the backdrop of a nation grappling with violent homophobic crime, Bahamian director Kareem Mortimer's debut narrative feature tells the stories of three very different individuals, all heading for the spectacularly beautiful and tranquil island of Eleuthera, each with a different reason for escaping current circumstances. Presented in collaboration with Creatively Speaking, a year-round film series programmed by Michelle Materre.

### Other Highlights of the Spring Season at JBFC Include:

- [Retro Revival](#) presents [Varda: a Retrospective](#)  
Feb. 28—Mar. 12

Agnès Varda was a true original. When she passed away last year—after making nearly 50 films in practically every conceivable genre—Richard Brody wrote in *The New Yorker*, “She was so far ahead of the world that she had to wait for it to catch up to her.” We’re proud to present this retrospective of her dazzling, uninhibited, entertaining, and endlessly unconventional work. And since so many of us here at the Burns are Varda fans, several staff members will host Reel Talks, informal discussions after selected screenings. In the week leading up to the retrospective—Feb. 21 through 27—we’ll screen Varda’s final film, [Varda by Agnès](#), a characteristically playful, profound, and personal summation of the director’s own brilliant career.

**More Info on the Series [HERE](#)**

- [Dance on Film: Cunningham \(Feb. 21–27\)](#)

**Feb. 27: Q&A with Dance on Film host Peter Pucci with dancers/choreographers Gus Solomons, Meg Harper, and Jennifer Goggans of The Cunningham Trust**

Celebrating Merce Cunningham’s 100th year, this breathtaking film brings the legendary choreographer and his dances to life, immersing audiences in a 3D experience that puts them “there, in the room, with these bodies in motion” (*New Yorker*).

**Returning this Spring are the Following Fan Favorites:**

- [The Meditative Life: Consciousness, Meaning, and Connection](#)

**Feb. 6–19**

Our annual series explores not only meditation and mindfulness, but also the many ways in which we investigate different realms of the human experience. Immerse yourself in provocative ideas via deep discussions with guests including meditation teacher Tracy Cochran, who’ll tackle [Heart of a Dog](#) (Feb. 12) and [Spirited Away](#) (Feb. 19). It all starts on Feb. 6 with an unforgettable film about the late great teacher Ram Dass—the playful and profound [Becoming Nobody](#)—followed by a Skype Q&A with producer/friend of Ram Dass Raghu Markus, and a reception.

**Films Include:** [Sing Me a Song](#) (Feb. 8), [Blessed Child](#) (Feb. 10: Q&A with filmmaker Cara Jones via Skype), [Rituals of Resistance](#) (Feb. 13), and [Gift](#) (Feb. 17).

- [Remix: The Black Experience in Film, Media, and Art](#)

**Feb. 13 & Mar. 12**

REMIX is a year-round series examining the legacy of institutional racism and the black experience in film, media, and art. Join us for programs that will challenge perceptions, inspire dialogue, and celebrate the richness and breadth of cinema that is too often overlooked.

**Films Include:** [The Black Power Mixtape 1967–1975](#) (Feb. 13) & [The Watermelon Woman](#) (Mar. 12)

- [World Stage on Screen](#)

**Feb. 13–May 21**

This series brings the best of international theater and fine arts programming to the silver screen.

**Films Include:** Royal Opera House’s [Don Giovanni](#) (Feb. 13), a live broadcast of National Theatre’s [Cyrano De Bergerac](#) (Feb. 20), Royal Opera House’s [Don Pasquale](#) (Mar. 5), and a live broadcast of National Theatre’s [The Welkin](#) (May 21).

- [Retro Revival](#)

**Feb. 14**

Retro Revival represents the JBFC's ongoing commitment to the world of repertory cinema. Each month, we present remastered or re-released versions of great films from all points of cinema history that are best experienced together with a crowd of film fans. From Hollywood classics to more contemporary gems, art house mainstays to newly rediscovered knock-outs, Retro Revival gives us the opportunity to rediscover— or experience for the first time— fantastic cinema on a big screen.

**Films Include:** Valentine's Day screening of [Holiday](#) (Feb. 14)

- **[JBFC Kids](#)**

**Feb. 15 & 17**

JBFC Kids is designed to deepen the experience of viewers ages 3–13 (and their families) and welcome a new generation of cinema-lovers and media-makers into our community.

**Films Include:** [Supa Modo](#) (Feb. 15) & [Shrek](#) (Feb. 17)

- **[Caramoor at the Burns: Movies Musicians Love](#)**

**Feb. 18–May 21**

We tend to think that film is essentially visual, but often music is the beating heart, the invisible place where the emotional life of a film happens. Movies are now at the very center of the musical world, the place where some of the most interesting and innovative music finds home. This made us wonder: What movies do *musicians* love because of their music, and why? As such, we're thrilled to partner with our fellow Westchester institution, [Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts](#), who reached out to some extraordinary performers to ask them for their favorite films.

**Films Include:** [A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries](#) (Feb. 18), [Koyaanisqatsi](#) (Mar. 17), [Amadeus](#) (Apr. 21), and [West Side Story](#) (May 12).

- **[2020 Westchester Jewish Film Festival](#)**

**Mar. 24–Apr. 7**

The 2020 iteration of this annual festival features 24 thought-provoking, captivating, and entertaining films—including cinematic narratives and revealing documentaries from Israel, Hungary, France, Ethiopia, the US, and many other countries.

**Tickets on sale to the public Feb. 28 at noon; visit [burnsfilmcenter.org](http://burnsfilmcenter.org) for more info.**

- **[Senior Afternoon Cinema](#)**

**Feb. 4, Mar. 3, Apr. 14 & May 5**

This year-round, daytime series presents outstanding films designed to appeal to senior moviegoers.

**Films Include:** [My Blue Heaven](#) (Feb. 4), [Viceroy's House](#) (Mar. 3), [Maria by Callas](#) (Apr. 14) & [The American President](#) (May 5)

For more information, visit [burnsfilmcenter.org](http://burnsfilmcenter.org), FB: [@JacobBurnsFilmCenter](#), Twitter: [@JBFC\\_ny](#) and Instagram: [@JBFC\\_pville](#).

*[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 JBFC offers courses in filmmaking, screenwriting, animation, and more for students of all ages at our state-of-the-art Media Arts Lab, and develops media literacy curricula for schools throughout the region.*

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