

## BRIT FRYER ELECTED TO JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Young Filmmaker Fills Board Seat Honoring the Late Jonathan Demme

**Pleasantville, NY – April 22, 2020** – The Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) announced today that Brooklyn-based filmmaker Brit Fryer, an alumnus of the JBFC’s Creative Culture Fellowship Program, was elected to serve as the Jonathan Demme Changemaker board member.

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 dedication to championing emerging filmmakers. The purpose of this seat is to maintain and nurture a vibrant vision of youthfulness, diversity, creativity, community engagement, and social justice among the board, the JBFC staff, and the community. The seat is for a term of two years.

“I am so pleased to welcome Brit, whose passion and creative voice will be of great value to our board,” said Lynn Sobel, JBFC chair. “Brit has been a part of the JBFC community both as a Creative Culture fellow and as an Interim Creative Culture Program Coordinator. In this new role Brit will be able to more fully engage with our nonprofit mission and operations.”



Brit Fryer is a Brooklyn-based director and creative producer. His films focus on the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality, and his work includes *Caro Comes Out, Across, Beyond, and Over*, and *trans-ience*. He has presented his work across the country at festivals like Indie Grits, NewFest, Outfest, Inside Out, MIX NYC, and the Blackstar Film Festival. In addition to directing, Brit has produced a variety of narrative and nonfiction projects, most recently the Tribeca Film Institute-supported documentary *BUG FARM*. Brit joined the Jacob Burns Film

Center community as the 2019 Northwell Health and Wellness Fellow. He is also an ADCOLOR Future, an alumnus of the Sundance Ignite Fellowship, and serves on the board of the youth media nonprofit Global Action Project. Brit currently works for the “Made in NY” Post-Production Training Program and holds a B.A. from Carleton College in Cinema and Media Studies.

“It’s an honor to join the board of the Jacob Burns Film Center, especially in a role that pays tribute to a filmmaker like Jonathan Demme, whose work was so full of humanism and compassion,” said Fryer. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to give back to the Burns community and look forward seeing what the two years of my board term will bring.”

Brit succeeds Noah Hutton, who served as the first Jonathan Demme Changemaker board member. Noah is a documentary filmmaker with a background in neuroscience. His films *Deep Time* and *Crude Independence* both premiered at the South by Southwest Film Festival, and he is currently at work on a decade-long documentary centering on the Blue Brain Project, based in Geneva, Switzerland.

[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 for students of all ages at our state-of-the-art Media Arts Lab and develops curriculums for public schools throughout the region.

###

Contacts: Denise Treco ([dtreco@burnsfilmcenter.org](mailto:dtreco@burnsfilmcenter.org))  
Sarah Soliman ([ssoliman@burnsfilmcenter.org](mailto:ssoliman@burnsfilmcenter.org))