

Jacob Burns Film Center Launches Free Virtual Field Trip Opportunities for 2020-21 School Year

Classroom to Screening Room Program Adapts to the New Reality in Education

November 12, 2020—Pleasantville, NY— Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) announces the creation of a virtual curriculum for its popular education experience, [Classroom to Screening Room](#). The innovative, interdisciplinary, school-based program is now available online both locally and nationally for the current school year. In order to bring film-based media literacy programs to the classroom without barriers, these virtual programs will be offered at no cost for the academic year to any school wishing to participate.



Song of the Sea

Classroom to Screening Room has consistently been one of the JBFC's most beloved school-based programs. Students in grades 3 through 12 encounter film as a fun and accessible art form while exploring connections to social, economic, and cultural forces. The newly-virtual field trip format allows students to participate in a unique experience and engage thoughtfully through the power of film.

“For nearly 20 years, the Jacob Burns Film Center has been offering Classroom to Screening Room throughout Westchester. Through innovative educators and partnerships with schools and teachers, the program enables students to watch a film followed by a fun and developmentally targeted post-screening discussion led by a JBFC educator,” said Sean Weiner, Director of Programs, Media Arts Lab. “During this difficult time, we sought to meet an urgent need from teachers and schools to continue the program, adapting it for a virtual platform and making it widely and easily available without cost to participant schools this year.”

Educators interested in learning more about or registering for the program can [visit this webpage](#) for further details.

Classroom to Screening Room boasts a carefully curated film library that features a culturally relevant collection of stories from around the world. These animated, documentary, and narrative films invite students to engage with new cultures and build empathy through memorable characters and personal stories.

Post-screening discussions are moderated by film educators who facilitate a thoughtful and lively conversation that follows student curiosity. The experience focuses on filmmaking techniques, story structure, character development, thematic elements, historical background, and emotional engagement.

Every Virtual Classroom to Screening Room experience includes:

- An **Intro Video** to be shown ahead of time to share key concepts and questions with students before the film screening
- A **Viewing Guide** to prepare students to be active viewers, with activities for teachers to use in the classroom
- A password-protected **Link to the Film** for students to either watch at school or remotely from home
- A **Post-Screening Discussion** with students on Zoom (45 min-1 hour) securely facilitated by a JBFC Film Educator

The JBFC Education Department plans to continue responding to this moment by making more of its school-based programs available for classroom engagement in the remote learning arena.

The [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. Until recently, 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, the JBFC offers educational experiences for students of all ages at our state-of-the-art Media Arts Lab, including curricula for public schools and a fellowship and residency program for professional filmmakers.

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