

JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER

# STORIES WE SHARED

2022 ANNUAL REPORT





Ed Cody

Lynne Starkman

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# OUR YEAR TOGETHER

Yes—our year **TOGETHER**. This was certainly a highlight of 2022—our first full year together since we reopened on May 12, 2021.

As we look back at the year, we want to thank our donors, members, students, teachers, artists, staff, and board for helping to make so much possible, including:

- Presenting 245 films and hosting 85 special guests, including Paolo Sorrentino, Ron Howard, Luis A. Miranda, Jr., Jennifer Venditti, Tony Kushner, Anna Quindlen, Ethan Hawke, Mary McCartney, Sacha Jenkins, Kenny Loggins, and Brendan Fraser.
- Relaunching a number of annual series, including **Life on the Stage** and **Community Matters: Now More Than Ever**.
- Welcoming students back to the JBFC campus on March 20! In total, more than 2,000 students came to the JBFC to experience the power of film through our innovative media education programs.
- Supporting eight emerging filmmakers and seven Artists-in-Residence from across the country and around the world.

You'll learn more about our shared experiences and memorable moments on the following pages. As we celebrate all that we accomplished together, we are creating a vibrant future directed by a dynamic strategic planning process. With our artistic vision and engaged community as our guide, we will continue to open hearts and minds through the power of film for many years to come.

Thank you for helping us embrace opportunities, bringing bold dreams to life.



**Mary Jo Ziesel**  
JBFC Executive Director



**Lynn Sobel**  
JBFC Board Chair

# CONNECTING THROUGH CINEMA



“ My wife, Cindy, and I absolutely LOVE the JBFC—  
we’ve been members from the very beginning.  
The JBFC is a shining star in Westchester County.  
Keep up your terrific work!”

—John Rubino, JBFC Member

# JUST A FEW OF OUR SHARED EXPERIENCES IN 2022

## LIFE ON THE STAGE: AN EVENING WITH KENNY LOGGINS

JUNE 10

Grammy-winning rock star Kenny Loggins joined us to discuss his extraordinary career and new book *Still Alright*. He recounted his incredible 50-year career, first as one of the most popular songwriters of the '70s and then as "King of the Movie Soundtrack" in the '80s. Kenny surprised our sold-out audience with a performance, accompanied by his lead guitarist and singer Scott Bernard.

“I loved everything about the event. I was very engaged as Kenny’s songs were the music of my 20s and 30s. I cried when he sang ‘House at Pooh Corner,’ as I rocked my baby daughter to sleep to that song every night. It hit home.”

—Nancy Strong, JBFC Member and Donor

## PRIDE OVER PREJUDICE: QUEER LIFE ACROSS GENERATIONS

JUNE 14–29

A series celebrating people who have dedicated their lives to fighting for equality, happiness, and each other.

“My favorite part of this series is that it existed. This is why I am a JBFC member.”

—Maura Pianka, JBFC Member and Donor



Lynda Shenkman



## RELAUNCHING COMMUNITY MATTERS

SEPTEMBER 29

*Dramatic Escape*, presented in partnership with Rehabilitation Through the Arts, marked the return of Community Matters. The documentary transports viewers behind the bars at Sing Sing and into the lives of a group of incarcerated men who are mounting a stage production of *A Few Good Men*.

“*Dramatic Escape* was phenomenal. Not only did we learn about lives changed through the power of the arts, but also the subjects of the film joined us for a Q&A, allowing us to delve further into their journeys. It was powerful.”

—Jenny Sendek, JBFC Member

## NOSFERATU: 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SCREENING WITH LIVE PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY BEN MODEL

OCTOBER 25

Just in time for Halloween, a sold-out audience experienced the silent horror classic *Nosferatu*, the unauthorized adaptation of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* crafted by legendary German director F. W. Murnau.

“This was one of the greatest filmgoing experiences of my life. Ben Model's score was incredible. His introduction and closing remarks were informative and entertaining. Thank you, JBFC, for preserving live cinema and silent film.”

—Daniel Gobaud, JBFC Audience Member







Ed Cody

## MEET RYAN HARRINGTON

In October 2022, celebrated film industry executive, four-time Emmy Award winner, and Peabody Award winner Ryan Harrington joined the JBFC as Director of Film Programs, Curator-in-Chief. Ryan came to us with an extensive career in the film industry, including serving as VP, Documentary Films at National Geographic/Disney+. As VP, Artists Programs at Tribeca Film Institute (TFI) for ten years, Ryan determined the vision and funding priorities of all of TFI's artist programs and supported the careers of hundreds of filmmakers worldwide. He is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences Documentary Branch and a board member of Women Make Movies.



Thank you for welcoming me so warmly to the JBFC. It took me no time at all to realize the strength, energy, and resiliency of this engaged community. Together, we will continue to gain new perspective through the transformative power of film.

The late great film critic Roger Ebert once wrote, “The movies are like a machine that generates empathy.” Ebert’s words will guide us as we continue to discover films to share with the JBFC community.

Film opens a window to the world. I am excited to be on this cinematic journey with you.

—Ryan Harrington, Director of Film Programs,  
Curator-in-Chief

# SPECIAL GUESTS, SPECIAL MOMENTS

Just some of the 85 special guests who entertained, educated, and moved us this year.

“What an incredible conversation with Tony Kushner! Thank you for this opportunity at our very special Burns! I am proud to be an active and involved member since it opened.”

—Marilyn Jablonski,  
JBFC Member



Jennifer Venditti



Paolo Sorrentino



Mary McCartney



Ron Howard



Anna Quindlen



Brendan Fraser



Kenny Loggins



Ethan Hawke



Sacha Jenkins



Luis Miranda, Jr.



Tony Kushner

[CLICK HERE](#)

for a list of the 245 fantastic films and the special guests who joined us in 2022.



# INSPIRING STUDENTS, SPARKING CREATIVITY



The JBFC's media education programs continue to inspire creativity, compassion, and social change through the power of film. By integrating media-making and critical viewing skills, our programs provide learners of all ages with the essential tools to participate in an increasingly visual and digital world.

# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS IN EDUCATION

## WELCOMED STUDENTS BACK TO THE JBFC CAMPUS

MARCH 20

Buses rolled up to the JBFC Theater for the first time since February 2020! More than 130 students attended a Classroom to Screening Room program featuring *Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America*, a film that interweaves lectures, personal anecdotes, and interviews as criminal defense and civil rights lawyer Jeffery Robinson draws a stark timeline of anti-Black racism in the United States. Following the screening, students engaged in a Q&A with Westchester Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins.

“This is a tough conversation to have, but a necessary one.”

—Ken Jenkins, Westchester  
Deputy County Executive

## SUMMER CAMP RETURNS TO THE LAB

JULY 11-AUGUST 5

We welcomed students to the Media Arts Lab for filmmaking and animation camps. In addition, the JBFC designed and presented a weeklong session for girls from Girls Inc., who participated completely free of charge. This ongoing partnership embraces our film, education, and artist programs.



# JBFC KIDS

## REEL TO REAL PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES!

**AUGUST 13**

A farmer and sheep from Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture visited the JBFC before a screening of *Shaun the Sheep Movie*.

**NOVEMBER 19**

After watching *Charlotte's Web*, kids and their families headed upstairs to the Jane Peck Gallery where they met spiders from the Greenburgh Nature Center.



# LAUNCHED THREE NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT THE JBFC

## COMMUNITY MATTERS CLASSROOM TO SCREENING ROOM

SEPTEMBER 29

Screening of *Dramatic Escape* followed by a conversation with Clarence Maclin, stage manager for *A Few Good Men* at Sing Sing. His story line is a highlight of the documentary. Clarence is now youth coordinator at Lincoln Hall Boys' Haven, striving to help young men avoid the mistakes he made. Presented in partnership with Rehabilitation Through the Arts.

DECEMBER 6

Screening of *Afghanistan Undercover*, a documentary about the Taliban's crackdown on women, followed by a conversation with investigative journalist and PBS FRONTLINE correspondent Ramita Navai. Presented in partnership with Open Arms for Refugees.

**Students attended both of these programs completely free of charge, thanks to the generous support of the JBFC community.**







## SHOW, DON'T TELL

In a three-hour workshop at the Media Arts Lab, students in grades 5–12 explore how to “show, don’t tell,” learn basic shot types and storyboarding skills, and make a short scene of their own. The experience culminates in a celebratory screening of the projects.

## WHAT’S THE STORY?

A writing- and creating-based visual literacy program for third graders that consists of three consecutive field trips to the Media Arts Lab. Students learn to be active viewers and improve their storytelling and writing skills. They watch a variety of animated, live action, fiction, and non-fiction films from around the world, while learning basic tools filmmakers use to bring their stories to life.



“We had an amazing time at the Show, Don’t Tell workshop!!”

—Jennica Vieira,  
Sleepy Hollow Middle School teacher

“Through the JBFC’s curriculum, students learn the craft of visual storytelling as they develop the skills to navigate rapidly changing and challenging needs of the 21st century. It also provides teachers with the opportunity to become participants, learning alongside their students.”

—Tara O’Gorman,  
Casimir Pulaski School teacher, Yonkers



# ONLINE RESOURCES— VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

## IMAGE, SOUND, AND STORY

Searchable library of media literacy lessons on filmmaking and storytelling fundamentals for teachers.

## SHORT FILM LIBRARY

Curated library of short films with accompanying filmmaker backgrounds and discussion questions.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Opportunities for educators to engage with our team for skill building, resources, and guidance on integrating media literacy into the classroom. We are currently piloting an intensive professional development program for teachers in New Mexico in partnership with Film Prize, Jr.

“I came away encouraged, informed, and stimulated by the generous and intelligent participation of the group and JBFC staff. The exercises all had practical application and genuine enthusiasm and appreciation for the art of cinema. This experience reminded me of my cinema classes at SUNY Purchase.”

—Joe Goldman, Harpswell (Maine)  
Historical Society, PD participant



# 2022 EDUCATION IN NUMBERS

**PROGRAMS AT THE JBFC CAMPUS**  
(MARCH 30-DEC. 31, 2022)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS

**2,100**

GRADES

**3-12**

MORE THAN

**70%**

of these students are from  
under-resourced schools

**VIRTUAL PROGRAMS**  
(JAN. 1-DEC. 31, 2022)

REGISTRANTS

**630**

**REPRESENTING**

23 states and 18 foreign countries,  
including Australia, Pakistan,  
Norway, and Spain

**PARTICIPANTS**

Students of all ages, teachers,  
and media specialists

[CLICK HERE](#)

for a list of our education partners.

# ARTIST SUPPORT

Empowers filmmakers through inclusivity and collaboration



“ I spent so much time writing my film in the city with the street noise floating in through the window and I was at the point where I needed peace and quiet. This residency gave me the space and time to lock myself in my film once again.”

—Haley Anderson, REMIX Artist-in-Residence





**In 2022, the JBFC supported eight Fellows and seven Artists-in-Residence from across the country and around the world.**

**CLICK HERE**

**for the 2022 Fellows.**

**CLICK HERE**

**for the 2022 Artists-in-Residence.**

“The JBFC residency was a fantastic opportunity to focus, to detach, and to be in a space with creative possibilities and creative people. We’d love to stay connected and take advantage of your resources for storytellers, especially from our part of the world.”

—Mariam Al-Dhabhani and  
Mohammed Al-Jaberi (Yemen),  
Close Up Artists-in-Residence





# SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMS

## ON THE DIVIDE

APRIL 9

Award-winning filmmakers and former fellows Leah Galant and Maya Cueva returned to the JBFC for a Q&A following a screening of their feature documentary *On the Divide*, a story of three Latine people who—despite their views—are connected by the most unexpected of places: the last abortion clinic on the U.S./Mexico border.



## WILDCAT

DECEMBER 14

Winner of multiple film festival Audience Choice awards, *Wildcat* follows a young veteran into the Amazon, where caring for an orphaned baby ocelot at a wildlife rescue and rehab center gives his life new meaning. Director Melissa Lesh edited *Wildcat* in part at the Media Arts Lab, where she was a JBFC 2021 Focus on Nature Artist-in-Residence.



# A TRIBUTE TO OUR COMMUNITY



As a community, we come together to learn, laugh, discover, create, and inspire. The JBFC is sustained by the generosity of thousands of people who share our dedication to human connection through film. We will continue to embrace opportunities and challenges while opening hearts and minds, thanks to our engaged and resilient community.

## ANNUAL GIVING

JANUARY 1, 2022-DECEMBER 31, 2022

We rely on annual gifts over and above membership support to sustain our vital and vibrant programs. While we deeply appreciate all gifts at every level, we are pleased to recognize our major annual supporters.

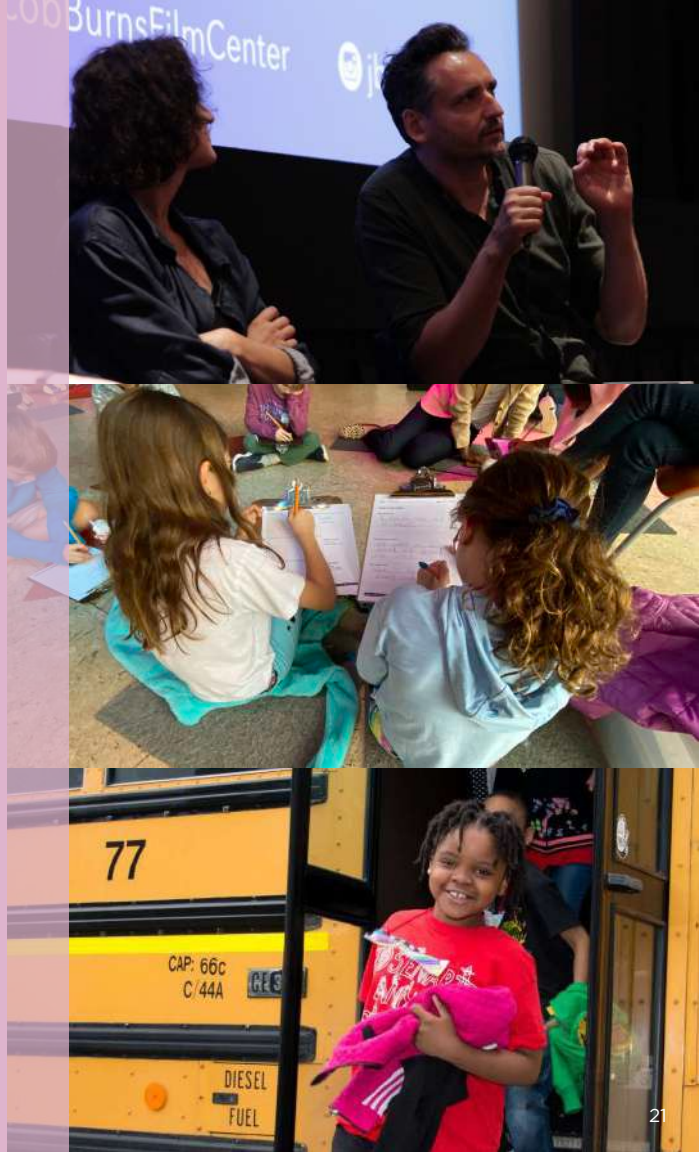
[CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF DONORS](#)

## IGNITING THE POWER OF FILM

2022 YEAR-END GIVING CAMPAIGN

Our devoted community inspired the JBFC Board of Directors to match ALL year-end contributions received by December 31 dollar for dollar up to \$85,000. We are profoundly grateful to all of our donors for their thoughtful and generous contributions to our year-end giving campaign.

[CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF DONORS](#)







Lynda Shenkman



Ed Cody



Lynda Shenkman



Ed Cody



Lynda Shenkman



Ed Cody



The JBFC is proud to receive support from

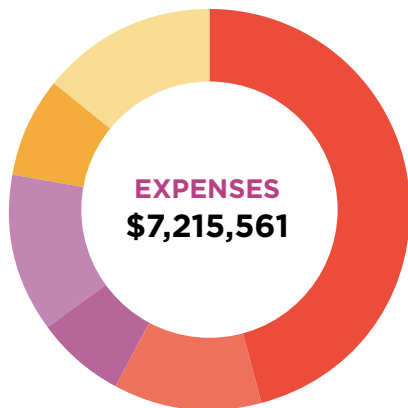


Council on the Arts

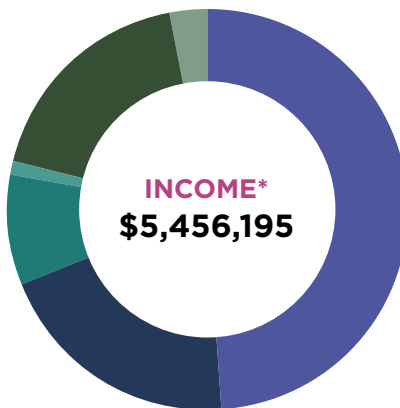


# OPERATING FINANCIALS

FY 22: OCT. 1, 2021-SEPT. 30, 2022



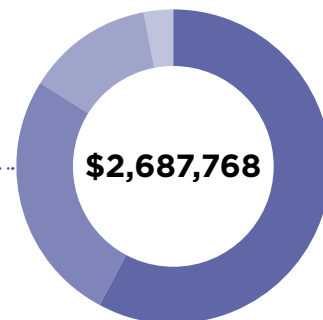
- Film Programming-46%
- Education-12%
- Artist Support-7%
- Management-13%
- Fundraising-8%
- Depreciation-14%



- Contributions-49%
- Tickets/Concession Sales-20%
- Membership-9%
- Education-1%
- Investment Income-18%
- Other-3%

\*Does not include \$2,253,226 in  
COVID Relief funding

## CONTRIBUTIONS



- Individuals-58%
- Foundations-26%
- Government-13%
- Corporations-3%

**CLICK HERE** for a copy of the 2022 audited financial statements

For further information, please contact Judy Exton at  
jexton@burnsfilmmcenter.org or 914.773.7663, ext. 414



# JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER

## MEDIA ARTS LAB/EXECUTIVE OFFICES

405 Manville Rd.  
Pleasantville, NY 10570  
914.773.7663

## THEATER

364 Manville Rd.  
Pleasantville, NY 10570  
914.747.5555

## RESIDENCE FOR VISITING ARTISTS

5 Grant St.  
Pleasantville, NY 10570

[burnsfilmcenter.org](http://burnsfilmcenter.org)

[CLICK HERE](#)

to meet the JBFC staff

[CLICK HERE](#)

for a list of the JBFC  
Board of Directors



**THANK YOU**  
**FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**