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# MONTCLAIR FILM FESTIVAL

*For Immediate Release*

## The Montclair Film Festival Announces 2016 Emerging Filmmaker Competition Winners

*Student Film Competition winners to be featured  
at MFF screening on May 7, 2016*

**March 30, 2016, Montclair, NJ**— The Montclair Film Festival (MFF) today announced the winners of the 2016 Emerging Filmmaker Competition (EFC). This year's competition, the festival's 5<sup>th</sup> annual, features 20 winning films from 17 different area schools. The winning films will be screened at MFF's the annual Emerging Filmmaker Competition ceremony on Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 11:00 AM the Wellmont Theater. A complimentary after party for all attendees follows the screening.

The MFF assembled a jury of local film and television professionals to adjudicate a record number of film submissions. All films were placed in groups based upon the age of the filmmaker; Cinemaniacs (Grades 4-6), Storytellers (Grades 7-9), and Visionaries (Grades 10-12). Awards were given to films in each group in the Narrative, Comedy, Documentary, Experimental film categories, as well as a special award for films that seek to make a social impact.

2016 EFC Jurors included Evan Baily, Margaret Bodde, Evan Cutler, Amy Friedman, Mark Fitzmartin, JoAnn McCullough, Raphaela Neihausen, and Nina Sloan. MFF Education Director Sue Hollenberg and Emerging Filmmaker Competition Coordinator Michelle Anderson oversaw the submissions process on behalf of MFF.

"We are incredibly proud of the work of every young filmmaker who had the courage and creative vision to make and submit a film for our Emerging Filmmakers Competition," said MFF Education Director Sue Hollenberg. "We hope the entire community will join us on May 7 at the Wellmont to celebrate all of the wonderful stories these filmmakers have shared with us."

*Tickets for MFF Members go on sale Tuesday, April 5, at 11:00 AM and will be on sale to the public on Friday, April 8, at 11:00 AM by visiting the MFF Box Office, located at 544 Bloomfield Avenue in Montclair, NJ or by visiting [www.montclairfilmfest.org](http://www.montclairfilmfest.org).*

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## 2016 Emerging Filmmaker Competition Winners

### **Cinemaniacs (Grades 4-6)**

#### **Comedy - Grand Prize**

*The Nuclear Burrito*

Cora Tinker, Liv Hammer

Alfred E Hanmer Elementary School, Wethersfield, CT

#### **Documentary - Grand Prize**

*Holiday of Holidays*

Talia Cohen-Vigder

Watchung Elementary

#### **Experimental - Grand Prize**

*Text to Talk*

Milanya Navani, Samaara Navani

Charles C Bullock

#### **Narrative - Grand Prize**

#### **Social Impact - Grand Prize**

*Invisible*

Olyvia Okochi, Mareau Hall, Hartley Peterson, Zach Liss-Bialik, Nick Steinmetz

Renaissance Middle School

### **Storytellers (Grades 7-9)**

#### **Comedy - Grand Prize**

*Travis through the Multiverse*

Zack Reichgut, Andy Reichgut

The Craig School

#### **Documentary- Grand Prize**

*La Escuelita*

Lucia Ledesma, Julia Abate, Madison Stanton

Montclair High School

#### **Experimental - Grand Prize**

*Agoraphobia*

Lily Jones, Anna Babboni, Gracie Theobald Williams

Glenfield Middle School

41 Watchung Plaza, #345 | Montclair, NJ 07042

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## Narrative - Grand Prize

*The Three Day Stint*

Aidan Sullivan, Declan Lynch, Nicholas Shires  
South Orange Middle School

## Cinematography - Special Jury Prize

*Mr. Lonely*

Mark Richards  
Montclair High School

## Social Impact - Grand Prize

*The Hurt Within*

Jacob Gradaille, Jency Luna, Kelly Rueda, Anthony Chavez  
Newark Arts High School

## Visionaries (Grades 10-12)

### Comedy - Grand Prize

*Product Placement*

Aidan Champeau, Jake Diamond, Jake Weinberg, Jacob Manthey  
Montclair High School

### Comedy Special Jury Prize

*The Shapeshifter*

Zach Vallese, Darrel Tsinadze, Jack Motherway, Sam Grossman, Heather Giudice, David Champion, Claudia Garbien, Stephanie Jeanette, Christine Pak  
Montville Township High School

### Comedy - Special Jury Prize

*Chasing Sophie*

Crystal Tepale, Jairus Bostick  
Passaic County Technical Institute

### Documentary - Grand Prize

### Social Impact - Grand Prize

*Individuality*

Al-Nafi Walker, Jahleel Giles, Jailene Perez  
Essex County Vocational Bloomfield Tech

### Documentary - Special Jury Prize

*Ride to Freedom*

Isabela DeSa, Jehan Abayhan, Andy Valer  
Passaic Valley High School

### Experimental - Grand Prize (tie)

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## *I Remember*

Gabriella Cecala, Maeve Peebles, Daani Naidau, Annie Swenson  
Randolph High School

## **Experimental - Grand Prize (tie)**

### *Entropy*

Adam Present, Matt San Miguel  
The Pingry School

## **Narrative Grand Prize**

### *Hadley*

John Valle, Ethan Hoffman  
Morris County School of Technology

## **Narrative –Special Jury Prize**

### *Hue*

Holly Grobholz, AnnMarie Ciulla  
Warren Hills Regional High School

## **Narrative - Special Jury Prize**

### *For the Love of God*

William Blackman, Annie Blackman, Nia Holton-Raphael, Max Kolomatsky,  
Sam Friedman, Will Jacobson, Eric McKenzie  
Montclair High School

## **ABOUT THE MONTCLAIR FILM FESTIVAL**

The Montclair Film Festival, Inc. (MFF), a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, nurtures and showcases the talents of filmmakers from around the region and world. MFF unites, empowers, educates and celebrates our region's diverse cultural heritage and robust artistic community by presenting an annual spring festival and a growing assortment of engaging programs and events all year long. The fifth annual spring festival will take place from April 29 through May 8, 2016. MFF 2016 is made possible through generous support from Investors Bank, Audible, Audi, HackensackUMC Mountainside, Chubb, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, among others. For information about MFF, visit [www.montclairfilmfest.org](http://www.montclairfilmfest.org).

**For more information, please contact**

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