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# MONTCLAIR FILM FESTIVAL

***For Immediate Release***

**May 3, 2016**

## **The Montclair Film Festival Announces Additional 2016 Festival Education Programs**

**Junior Jury, Sensory Friendly Screenings, Spotlight on Immigration,  
Immigration Art Project, and Students In The Cinema round out  
previously announced Program**

***The 2016 Festival reaches thousands of area students and families***

**May 3, 2016, (Montclair, NJ)**—The Montclair Film Festival (MFF) today announced the complete slate of education programs taking place at the 2016 MFF. These programs join the previously announced **Young Voices: A Community Conversation** program, presented by Partners For Health and taking place May 3 at 7:00 PM at the MFF's Audible Lounge, located at 544 Bloomfield Ave, and the MFF's **Emerging Filmmakers Competition (EFC)** screening, taking place Saturday May 7 at 11:00 AM at the Wellmont Theater.

### **The 2016 Junior Jury**

The MFF's 2016 Junior Jury program features 14 students from 11 different area high schools who will view six festival films before presenting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Junior Jury Prize at the MFF's Filmmaker Award Ceremony, taking place Saturday, May 7, at 7:30 PM at the Wellmont Theater in Montclair.

This year's jurors are Mariam Abukwaik (Montclair Kimberley Academy), Carla Bello (Verona High School), Zivia Berkowitz (Montclair High School), Emma Boatwright (James Caldwell High School), Angelo Capacyachi (Rutherford High School), Henry Christian (Montclair High School), Sam Dixon (Glen Ridge High School), Steven Freeman, Jr. (Newark Tech), Miranda Madrazo (Nutley High School), Jonathan Moore (Gill St. Bernards), Casey Naranjo (Indian Hills High School), Ryan O'Toole (Mount Olive High School), Rowan Odair (Montclair High School), and Judson Potenza (Montclair Kimberley Academy).

### **Sensory Friendly Screenings**

The MFF is also offering two free sensory friendly screenings for children and families. With the lights up and the sound lowered, the theatrical experience of watching a film is made accessible for children and students with autism and other disabilities, allowing audiences the freedom to be themselves at the movies! This program is co-presented with SEPAC (Special Educational Parents Advisory Council) and features a screening of **AN AMERICAN TAIL** and **FAMILY SHORTS** featuring **JOE'S VIOLIN** and a Q&A with Director Kahane Cooperman and Producer Raphaela Neihausen.

### **Spotlight On Immigration**

In November 2015, the Montclair Cooperative School, in conjunction with the MFF and Rutgers University's Newest Americans Project, held an immigration event as part of a

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global initiative designed to spark conversation about this hot button topic. Students from the Montclair Co-op and Montclair High School screened the movie *Ellis*, directed by the artist JR, followed by a powerful discussion led by prominent immigration experts and activists.

Inspired by the discussion, the Co-op's art teacher, Debbie Harner, envisioned an Immigration Art Installation designed to visually represent who we are as a nation. Utilizing street art techniques such as stenciling and pasting, students from area high schools created imagery to represent their own immigration story and words that reflect the diversity of the American experience.

A public reception to celebrate the artists took place on Sunday, May 1, and the immigration conversation will continue at screenings and events throughout the festival. Students' art will be on display in the Audible Lounge, located at 544 Bloomfield Ave. throughout the festival, and their work can be purchased via silent auction, with proceeds benefitting Comic Relief's Red Nose Day, which seeks to create lasting change by tackling the root causes of poverty and social injustice.

## Students In The Cinema

In support of the MFF's Spotlight On Immigration, hundreds of students from Montclair High's Global Studies, Center for Social Justice, and Women of the World programs, along with students from East Orange Campus High School and Montclair Immaculate Conception High School are visiting the MFF and attending free screenings of the film SONITA during school days. The screenings are co-presented by Shine Global and will be followed by a conversation with Erin Williams, Program Officer for International Women's Health Coalition, and Shine Global co-founder and Executive Director, Susan MacLaury.

The MFF will announce its 2016 Summer Education Programs after the conclusion of the 2016 festival, which runs through May 8.

For more information, please contact MFF Education Director Sue Hollenberg at [sue@montclairfilmfest.org](mailto:sue@montclairfilmfest.org)

## 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 presented by Investors Bank and made possible with support from Audible, Inc., Horizon Foundation for NJ, HackensackUMC Mountainside, Ashenfelter, Slous, McDonough & Trevenan, LLP, Chubb, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Kensington Senior Living, Applause Theatre & Cinema Books, The Healthcare Foundation of NJ, Partners for Health Foundation, RBC Wealth Management, Wellmont Theater, William H. Connolly & Co., Shine Global and Montclair Radiology, among others. The festival is supported by grants from the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. For more information about MFF, visit [www.montclairfilmfest.org](http://www.montclairfilmfest.org).

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## About the Montclair Cooperative School

Founded in 1963, the Montclair Cooperative School is a private progressive day school, nursery through eighth grade, with a focus on strong academics, experiential learning, meaningful social curriculum and individualized teaching. For information about the Montclair Co-op, visit [montclaircoop.org](http://montclaircoop.org).

## About Shine Global

Shine Global, a non-profit media company, gives voice to children by telling stories of their resilience to raise awareness, promote action, and inspire change. The organization's films have won more than 50 major awards including an Academy Award® for Best Documentary Short Subject for *Inocente* and an Academy Award®-nomination for *War/Dance*. For more information visit [shineglobal.org](http://shineglobal.org)

## About International Women's Health Coalition

IWHC advances the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and young people, particularly adolescent girls, in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. IWHC furthers this agenda by supporting and strengthening leaders and organizations working at the community, national, regional, and global levels, and by advocating for international and U.S. policies, programs, and funding.