



*For Immediate Release*

**MONTCLAIR FILM ANNOUNCES THE FUNDING OF THE  
MARK URMAN AWARD**

**OVER \$75,000 RAISED TO FUND ANNUAL \$5,000 CASH  
PRIZE FOR THE MARK URMAN AWARD FOR FICTION  
FILMMAKING, SUPPORTING FIRST AND SECOND TIME  
AMERICAN INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS**

**OVER \$37,500 OF IN-KIND FILMMAKER SERVICES ALSO  
INCLUDED IN 2020 AWARD**

**AWARD FUND IS LAUNCHED WITH THE SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION OF DEBORAH  
DAVIS AND THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE URMAN FAMILY**

**February 11, 2020, Montclair, NJ-** Montclair Film, New Jersey's leading non-profit film organization, today announced the completion of the initial phase of funding of the Mark Urman Award, in honor of the late film distributor Mark Urman. The Fund has been established with Mark's wife Deborah Davis and the family and close friends of the Urman family to fund a cash prize for the Montclair Film Festival's Mark Urman Award For Fiction Filmmaking, offering direct financial support to the winning filmmaker of the annual Montclair Film Festival's Future/Now Competition, a juried competition of five films made by first and second time American Independent filmmakers.

Montclair Film received over 120 generous donations to the fund, taking total donations to over \$75,000. These donations will fund a \$5,000 annual cash prize for the Mark Urman Award for over 15 years, with future donations and contributions extending the life of the prize.

Additionally, Montclair Film received in-kind donations for the Award that include Poster Design (Indika Entertainment Advertising), Music Consultation (Propeller Music), Marketing & Distribution Consultation (Paladin Film), and Press Kit (Deborah Davis), which are valued at over \$37,500 combined, taking the overall value of the 2020 Mark Urman Award to more

than \$42,500 in cash and in-kind filmmaker services, and bringing the combined total raised in cash and in-kind services to \$114,000.

“Montclair Film remains committed to supporting artists in all phases of their career, and we are so proud to be able to offer this incredible package of cash and in-kind services for the next decade and beyond,” said Montclair Film Executive Director Tom Hall. “The overwhelmingly generous support we have received in launching the Mark Urman Award means that we can continue to honor Mark’s legacy by providing emerging artists with the opportunity to create new and exciting works that will invigorate the future of American cinema.”

The inaugural Mark Urman Award will be presented at the annual Filmmaker Awards Ceremony, taking place May 9, 2020 at the Montclair Film Festival.

For those inspired to support this award and ensure its sustainability, a tax-deductible contribution to the Fund may be made directly at [bit.ly/MarkUrmanAwardFund](https://bit.ly/MarkUrmanAwardFund) . All gifts will be restricted to providing direct financial support to the filmmaker who wins the Mark Urman Award For Fiction Filmmaking at the annual Montclair Film Festival.

As the home for the Mark Urman Award For Fiction Filmmaking, the Montclair Film Festival’s Future/Now Competition celebrates American, low-budget independent filmmaking by first or second time feature film directors who are creating innovative, challenging films. Past winners of the competition are MICKEY AND THE BEAR by Annabelle Attanasio (2019), WE THE ANIMALS by Jeremiah Zagar (2018), BEACH RATS by Eliza Hittman (2017), THE FITS by Anna Rose Holmer (2016), and EDEN by Elise DuRant (2015). Four of the five past winners of this competition are women directors.

### **ABOUT MONTCLAIR FILM**

Montclair Film, a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization connects filmmakers from around the region and world with audiences by presenting films and year-round programs that engage, educate, and entertain through the power of visual storytelling. The ninth annual Montclair Film Festival will take place from May 1-10, 2020. Our programs are made possible by funds from the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism, as well as the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, among many others. Montclair Film provides unique and meaningful ways to engage with diverse, creative, and sophisticated audiences and seeks sponsors for its signature spring film festival and other year-round programs that attract more than 46,000 annual attendees and generate more than 750 million media impressions yearly. For information about Montclair Film, visit [www.MontclairFilm.org](http://www.MontclairFilm.org).

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