

**MONTCLAIR<sup>®</sup>  
FILM**

**Virtual Programs  
2020**



## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO SINCE MARCH

Our plans changed dramatically when we announced our decision to postpone what would have been the 9th annual Montclair Film Festival, originally scheduled to take place May 1–10, 2020. That moment now seems ages ago, and was clearly the right decision. Thanks to our quick action, a PPP grant, a small operating reserve, and your generous support, we're been fortunate to be in a financial position to maintain our core year-round staff of 14 non-profit professionals. Our nimble, small, and mighty staff shifted courses quickly to produce our film, education, and community programs as virtual content, reaching new and existing audiences in brand new ways during these days of social distancing.



- ✚ We created our new DISCOVER TOGETHER Film Program on Facebook and our website, with a special discussion group for Members. The program is approaching its 25th week, with our Executive Director, Tom Hall, making daily film recommendations to our community, providing daily film introduction videos, giving our members background and history on each film, followed by conversation about each day's movie on social media. We have 300+ participants in our Member group and thousands more on social media. It has become a film studies class, and those following along have truly enjoyed this new forum.

✚ In early June, to reinforce our support for justice for the Black community, to elevate Black stories and perspectives, and to inspire each of us to actively listen and engage, we decided to re-direct our daily DISCOVER TOGETHER film program to feature films by Black artists that explore the Black experience in America. We will continue to accompany each film with a daily live video introduction. Since our founding, Montclair Film has worked as an organization to elevate Black voices, and to connect our community to the experiences, ideas, and stories of Black artists. We are proud to do the work of creating space for Black voices to be heard.



✚ On what would have been Opening Night of the 9th annual Montclair Film Festival, we put together a small program on Facebook where we shared our plans for the future, and invited folks to watch the film CRIP CAMP on Netflix. This terrific film about the history equality and advocacy for those with disabilities is one that we had hoped to screen at the Festival. After the movie, we hosted an online Q+A with the filmmakers.



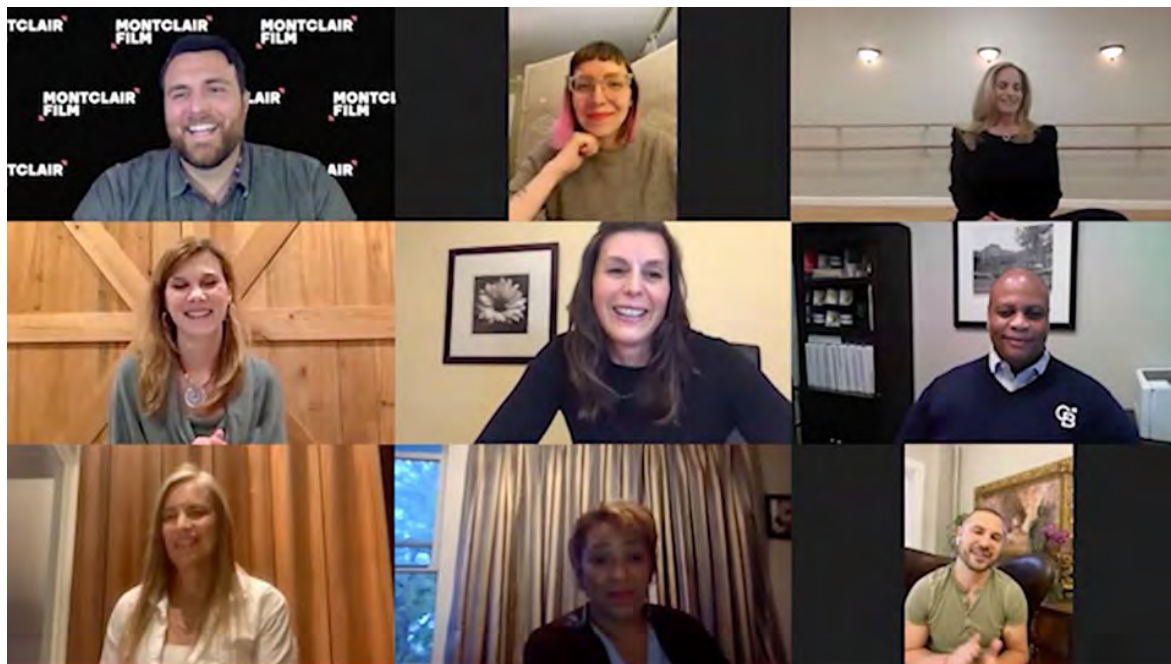
- We continue to offer financial scholarships to film education classes, now online, for students who cannot afford to pay enrichment class and summer camp fees. We've also shifted our hands-on film + storytelling programs for high school students in underserved districts to online formats, providing valuable resources for districts, educators and students who've had to adjust to virtual teaching and learning.



- We quickly shifted our popular "505 Films + Friends" inclusive film club for teens and young adults who live with autism from an in-person meet up twice a month to an online Zoom format—providing the continuation of one of our most meaningful programs. 505 Films + Friends is a place where young people can gather in a safe, positive and thought-provoking environment to engage socially through the viewing and discussion of films. We heard from scores of parents about how significant it has been to keep this program running while we can't gather in person.



- ✚ We produced our first online StorySLAM, featuring local businesses, featuring the theme WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS. We will continue to produce StorySLAM online until it is safe to gather again in groups.



- ✚ We shifted our Summer Series Under the Stars to a new Carpool Theater Program that we tested in two different locations over two weekends to model best practices for quality and safe socially distant outdoor gatherings. This program inspired our plans for our fall festival!



- ✚ We also moved our Film + Discussion Programs for Older Adults to a Zoom format, helping to keep our senior audiences engaged and in touch with one another during these days of social isolation.

Ultimately, we've learned a lot over the past several months that is informing our plans for the 9th annual Montclair Film Festival, which will now feature both virtual and drive-in formats.



## MORE ABOUT MONTCLAIR FILM

Founded in 2010, Montclair Film's mission is to engage, educate, and entertain through the power of visual storytelling. Our programs connect filmmakers from around the region and world with audiences by presenting films and year-round programs, while promoting a greater understanding, awareness, and appreciation of the art of filmmaking and the role that media arts and storytelling play in our community. We are widely recognized for celebrating the transformative power of film and providing a showcase for emerging and established filmmakers to share their work, interact with audiences, and network with each other.

In addition to supporting emerging and celebrated artists and innovations in filmmaking, Montclair Film designs programs that bring communities together to think and talk about films. This celebration of storytelling cultivates curiosity, inspires dialogues, and builds creativity across our region. These films lift up the mirror to our community, for us to look at ourselves, better understand each other, and hopefully grow in that process. With a reach of 46,000 constituents each year, our audience reflects our diverse community and includes filmmakers, industry insiders, and film enthusiasts, as well as families, educators, community partners, K-12 students, teens, seniors, and those with special needs. 2020 marks our ninth year of programming.