

MONTCLAIR FILM+ EDUCATION

Film education,
creative exploration,
and career pathways
for all ages.



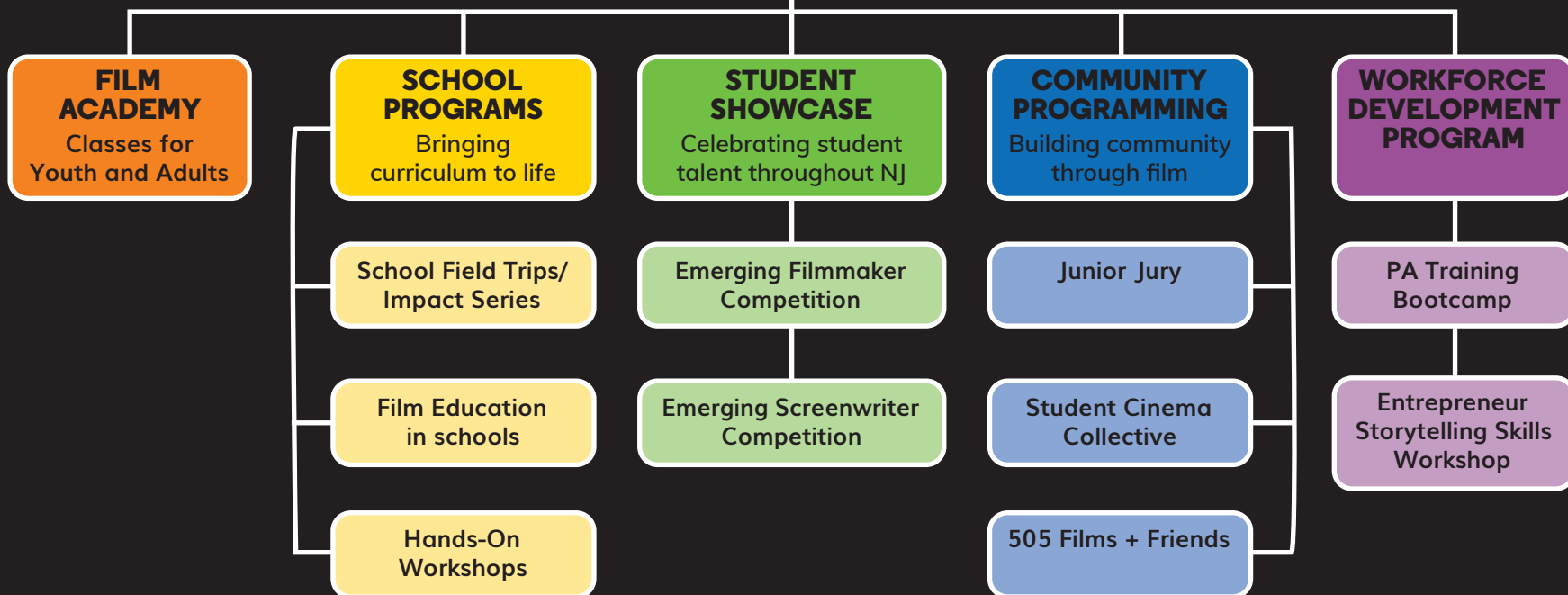
Inspiring Storytellers. Empowering Futures.

Our Mission

- ✦ Empowering youth and adults through storytelling.
- ✦ Building 21st-century skills: collaboration, media literacy, critical thinking in addition to technical filmmaking skills.
- ✦ Using film to spark dialogue, foster empathy, and open creative career pathways.



MONTCLAIR FILM+ EDUCATION



Montclair Film Academy



Year-round classes for adults and students in grades 6–12. Scholarships are available for any student in need.

■ ■ Such a beautiful place to explore your own creativity, make valuable friendships and connections, and learn with excellent instructors and quality equipment.

For me, in many ways, this experience was life changing. ■ ■

WILLOW KILLEBREW, Montclair Film middle school + high school student 2019–2025

- + Filmmaking
(Narrative + Doc)
- + Indie Filmmaking:
Portfolio Building
- + Screenwriting
- + Acting for Film & TV
- + Editing
- + Cinematography
- + Visual Effects
- + SFX Make-up
- + Podcasting
- + Improv
- + Storytelling and
Story Slams
- + Stand up Comedy
- + Director's Lab
- + Voice Acting
- + Sketch Comedy

Creative Classes For Adults (16+)

Fun, skill building workshops

- ✦ Filmmaking
- ✦ Screenwriting
- ✦ Editing With Premiere Pro
- ✦ Improv
- ✦ Voice Acting
- ✦ Podcasting
- ✦ Stand-up Comedy
- ✦ Sketch Comedy Writing
- ✦ Storytelling



■■ It's a really solid, hands-on crash course in filmmaking and was a great way to jumpstart my career shift into film. ■■

GIGI TOLES

School + Community Partners

Montclair Film works with more than 50 school and community partners to bring hands-on media education to students across the region.

Our partners include:

- + Public and charter schools in towns like Newark, Orange, Kearny, and Montclair
- + Community organizations focused on education, equity, and youth empowerment

Together, we reach students from a wide range of backgrounds, creating space for storytelling, creativity, and career exploration in classrooms and afterschool settings.



Impact Series + Film Field Trips

FILMS THAT SPARK CONVERSATION

Screenings at The Clairidge bring students together around curated films tied to classroom themes like media literacy, STEM, and social justice. Each film is followed by powerful post-screening conversations with filmmakers and experts.

Field trips can be customized to meet curriculum goals



“ I didn’t expect the lasting impact the film would have on my students’ understanding of US History. The conversations that we had the day of the viewing were impactful and continued for many weeks afterwards. My favorite takeaway, as a history teacher, is that the film allowed the students to see that studying history matters beyond school. ”

SHANA STEIN, Teacher, Montclair High School

Hands-On Workshops

Creative learning that builds 21st-century skills and exciting career pathways

“We were so impressed by the professional film educators who led our group in a customized film screening and filmmaking workshop for an incredible field trip experience!”

Cranford Public Schools Teacher

Newark’s West Side High Cosmetology students learn professional SFX makeup skills and explore careers in film and TV.



Cranford students practice interviewing and recording in this professional podcasting workshop.



Orange High School students explore the art and craft of filmmaking with Montclair Film educators.

Free Filmmaking Programs Expanding Access for All

EMERGING FILMMAKER LAB @ NEWARK

A summer intensive for Newark high school students. Participants gain hands-on experience in all aspects of filmmaking, meet with industry mentors, and leave with portfolio-ready work.

STORYTELLING LAB @ OASIS

A program for Paterson high school students that teaches interviewing and filmmaking through the creation of a short film celebrating Oasis: A Haven for Women and Children.



■ ■ What an amazing experience this has been for the teens at Oasis. These are kids who would never have the opportunity to be exposed to the many facets of filmmaking, who now have an appreciation for the craft. MF empowered the students by letting them tell a story of impact within their own community. This has been an incredibly powerful experience, and it has been a pure joy to witness! ■ ■

JENNIFER BRADY, Executive Director of Oasis

Student Competitions

EMERGING FILMMAKER COMPETITION (GRADES 6-12)

An inspiring red carpet event juried by industry professionals that showcases the vision and originality of student filmmakers from across New Jersey.



2025 Emerging Filmmaker Competition winners

EMERGING SCREENWRITER COMPETITION (GRADES 8-12)

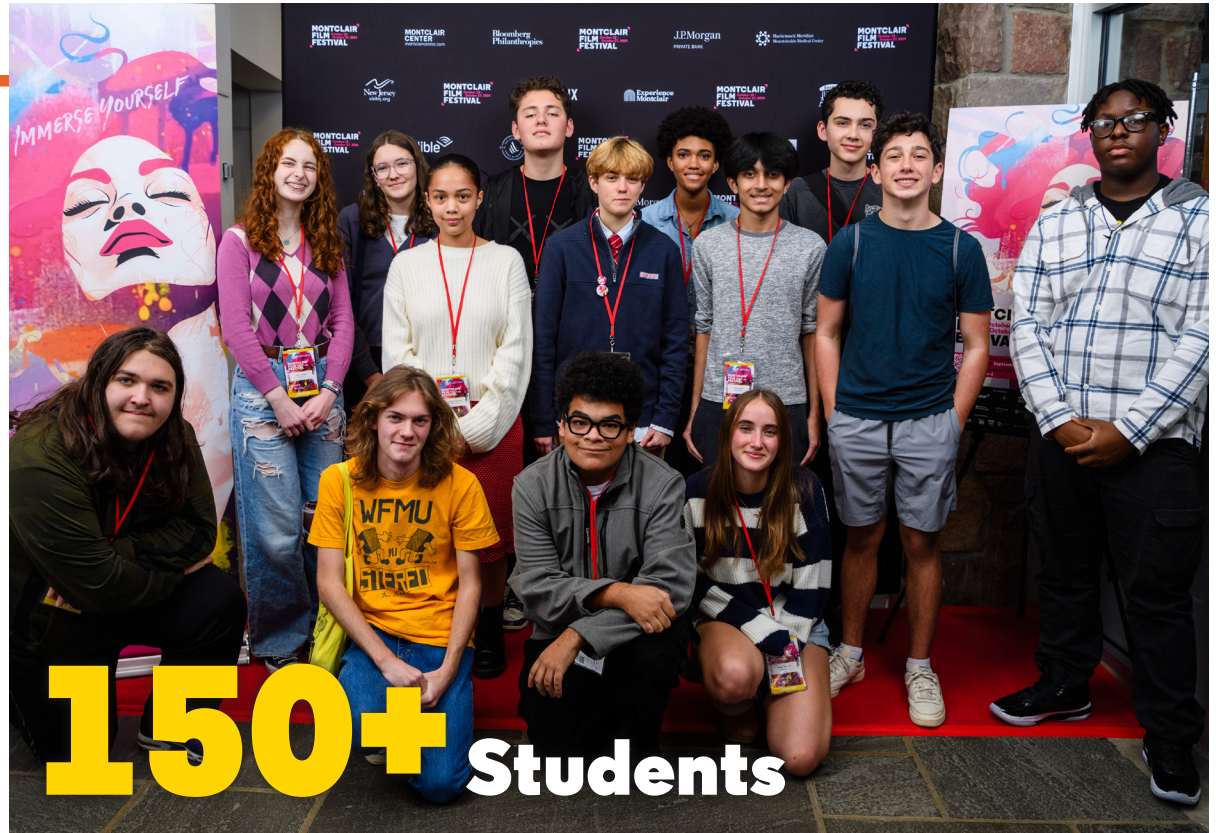
A statewide competition that honors the creativity and storytelling power of young screenwriters, culminating in a professional live reading of finalist scripts by professional actors.



2025 Emerging Screenwriter Competition winners

Junior Jury

Junior Jury offers students an opportunity to be a vital part of the Montclair Film Festival. Participants learn to evaluate films, build critical thinking and communication skills, and engage in meaningful conversations about storytelling—all while gaining exposure to industry professionals and real-world film culture.



150+ Students from over 40 regional high schools represented since 2015!

“Joining the Junior Jury as a high schooler was my first opportunity to see myself as someone who had something to contribute to the film world. 10 years later, I am re-entering the film world to direct and produce my own documentary film.”

ZIVIA BERKOWITZ, Junior Jury Participant

Student Cinema Collective

A community of students that gather to watch cutting-edge films and discuss them under the leadership of Montclair Film Education staff



■■ Not only did SCC open my eyes to a new world of film, It rejuvenated my love for a medium I thought I knew everything about. This club creates a small community of like-minded individuals who love film and gives them a space to view and discuss films new and old. ■■

XAVIER MARTE

505 Films + Friends

A CREATIVE, INCLUSIVE FILM CLUB FOR ALL ABILITIES

An inclusive space where young people of all abilities connect through a shared love of movies. Led by a teaching artist and psychologist, the club encourages creativity, builds confidence, and supports social connection.



My son enjoys attending Film Club and always comes home with some interesting insights about the film and often about himself. The moderators do a wonderful job of engaging the participants during the discussion sessions, connecting themes to relevant topics of the day and/or lives of our young adults.

PARENT OF ATTENDEE

Production Assistant Training Bootcamp

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN FILM AND MEDIA

PA Bootcamp equips students with the knowledge, tools, and professionalism needed to step onto a working film set. Designed as a bridge to workforce entry, the program supports students in taking their first steps into film industry careers.



“ I highly recommend the PA program. My experience in this role was incredibly rewarding. I gained valuable insights into film production, set organization, industry terminology, and the interaction between departments. This program allowed me to develop essential skills and build a solid foundation for my career in film and art. I'm excited to apply the knowledge and experience gained through this program to future projects. ”

PA BOOTCAMP PARTICIPANT

Coaching the Next Generation of Storytellers and Entrepreneurs

Montclair Film partners with the Feliciano School of Business to help student entrepreneurs prepare for an annual Pitch Competition. With support from our expert storytelling coach, students refine their narratives, strengthen their delivery, and gain the confidence to present their ideas with clarity and impact. This unique collaboration blends creativity and commerce, preparing students for real-world success.



Inspiring and training the filmmakers of tomorrow

Montclair film helped cultivate a love of filmmaking for me as a kid and allowed me a great foundation for pursuing it professionally.

TREY WAKESHIMA,
former student

It led me to finding something I love and gave me the confidence to follow it into the professional world.

JACQUES CIAMBRA,
former student

Learned so much from my time at Montclair Film. It set the framework for the work I do at Ithaca College!

LEAH WAESSA,
former student

Montclair Film opened my eyes to a whole world of career possibilities and friendships that helped shape who I was as a young adult. I am so grateful that such a fun experience became critical to my career.

KAYLIN WILLIAMS,
former student

Montclair Film's classes are a place for fun and education. I couldn't have gotten into my school without them.

ROBBIE RECHTSCHAFFER,
former student

Contact

To learn more about how you can help support Montclair Film + Education please contact:

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