

Fostering Film Literacy: SFFS Education



Since 1957, the San Francisco Film Society has been enriching the lives of Bay Area residents through the presentation of the best films from around the world. Over the last two decades, SFFS has also cultivated a firm commitment to educational outreach and film literacy for audiences of all ages and has made education one of the key components of the organization's mission.

SFFS Education encompasses Youth Education, Film Craft & Film Studies, and the Colleges & Universities programs, with a long-term goal to create a comprehensive media education institute that will serve a broad spectrum of students, educators, filmmakers and cinephiles in the Bay Area and beyond.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Engaging and Inspiring Bay Area Students

The Film Society's year-round Youth Education program works with students ages 8–18 to cultivate media literacy, broaden insights into other cultures, enhance foreign language aptitude, develop critical thinking skills and establish a lifelong appreciation of cinema.

Since its inception in 1991, the Youth Education Program has served more than 60,000 teachers and students at over 300 educational institutions through film screenings, multimedia presentations, interactive discussions, filmmaker school visits, classes, trainings and curriculum support.

The need for programs that utilize film as a teaching tool has never been greater. Government funding for arts education is sorely lacking, and today's young people are growing up in a globalized,

media-saturated world that requires both visual literacy and cross-cultural open-mindedness. SFFS Youth Education fills major gaps in media education and cultural awareness, and helps to create a new generation of outward-looking, visually literate global citizens. Outreach to diverse, at-risk and underrepresented communities is emphasized.

FILM CRAFT & FILM STUDIES

Cultivating Creativity and Passion for Film

In August 2008, the Film Society launched a comprehensive film education program that features a full slate of classes and workshops addressing both the business and artistic aspects of filmmaking for adult students of all skill levels. The program more than doubled in size in its first year and now offers 40 different classes on a trimester basis that foster creativity, cultivate cinema appreciation and further the careers of both emerging and professional filmmakers. Subjects range from concept and creation to exhibition and distribution with classes in screenwriting, directing, producing, editing, financing, budgeting, grantwriting, marketing, publicity, legal issues and more.

The program also includes an extensive film studies track, which provides in-depth exploration and discussion in film criticism, appreciation and theory across a wide range of film genres for cinephiles and film enthusiasts of all kinds.

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Building Bridges and Connecting Communities

In the spring of 2009, SFFS created the Colleges & Universities program to support and encourage college-level film students as they prepare to transition from the academic arena to the professional world. Offering an array of creative, educational, social, financial and professional opportunities, it is a valuable bridge that connects and engages students with the Film Society and the Bay Area filmmaking community.

PROGRAMS SEEKING SUPPORT

Screenings for Schools & Filmmaker School Visits

Exclusive theatrical screenings and in-school filmmaker visits at both the K-12 and college level introduce young people to enriching media content, the global community and careers within the media arts. All events include interactive discussions with filmmaker guests from around the world as well as industry professionals and scholars.

Filmmakers in the Classroom

The Filmmakers in the Classroom program matches select Bay Area classes with local professional filmmakers for an extended series of classroom sessions in film literacy, critical thinking, screenwriting and filmmaking. The program is designed to provide valuable instruction for students while training teachers to effectively utilize media in their classrooms.

Study Guides

Comprehensive study guides are provided as a critical supplement to Youth Education screenings to help teachers prepare their students in advance of an event and to offer follow-up questions, activities and resources that help integrate the film into their curriculum.

Curriculum Development

To ensure that all of our programs continue to meet the Content Standards for California

public schools and provide the most current and effective media education models possible, we aim to work more closely with professional curriculum developers and educators to provide an even stronger foundation for all of our classes, workshops, trainings and in-school programs.

Professional Development for K-12 Teachers

SFFS aims to provide teachers with the resources they need to better integrate media into their classrooms, including teacher training opportunities in media literacy, film appreciation, critical analysis, production and curriculum development.

Artists-in-Residence

As part of the Film Craft & Film Studies program, SFFS will host international filmmakers in San Francisco for several weeks to teach specialized classes and present screenings of their work for students and audiences of all ages.

Young Filmmakers Camp

This new summer series is designed for teens who strive to become serious students of film. First-class film professionals help youth filmmakers reach their creative potential as they prepare for further filmmaking and/or studies in high school, college or beyond.

Causes & Impacts

This forward-looking initiative aims to link audiences, films and networks for social good by providing resources and opportunities for film viewers to respond and take action on a wide range of social issues.