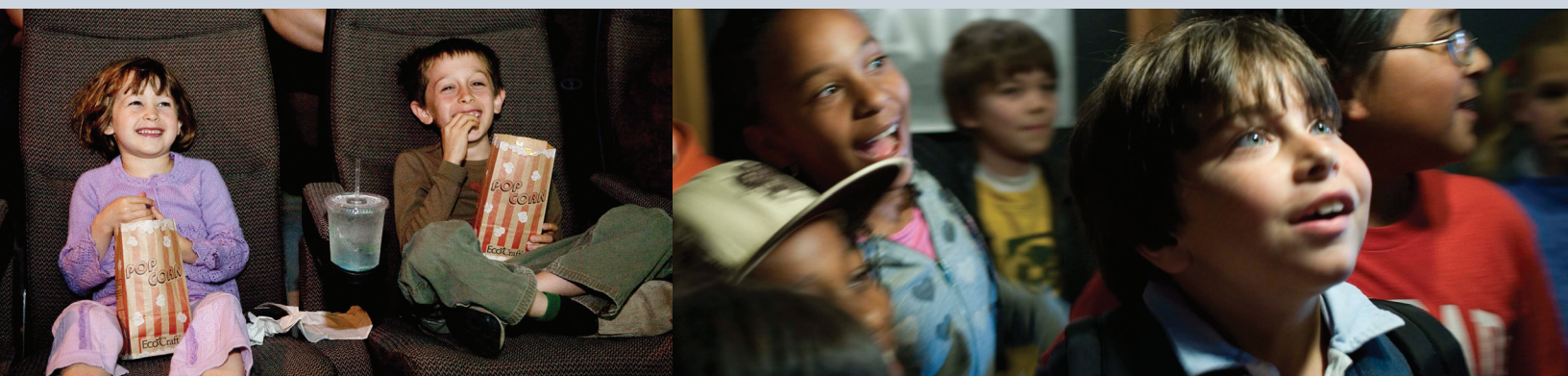


Creating True Global Citizens: SFFS Youth Education Program



PHOTOS (L TO R): TANYA DUERI, PAMELA GENTILE

The Film Society's year-round Youth Education program introduces students ages 8–18 to the best in world cinema. An instructive and inspirational forum for understanding and awareness, the program promotes media literacy, broadens insights into other cultures, enhances foreign language aptitude, develops critical thinking skills and lays the foundation for a lifelong appreciation of cinema.

Engaging and Educating Bay Area Youth

Since 1957, the San Francisco Film Society has been enriching the lives of Bay Area residents of all ages through the presentation of the best films from around the world. The Film Society's contributions to the cultural life of the San Francisco Bay Area over the past half century are inestimable, but their value is particularly evident in the work of the SFFS Youth Education program. Since its inception in 1991 the program has touched the lives of more than 60,000 children, teachers and community leaders through screenings, interactive presentations, filmmaker school visits, curriculum support, professional development for teachers and other special events and educational resources. Outreach to diverse, at-risk and underrepresented communities is emphasized.

The need for programs that use 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 these major gaps in media education and cultural awareness and helps to create a new generation of outward-looking, visually literate global citizens.

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES SEEKING SUPPORT

Screenings for Schools & Filmmaker School Visits

Exclusive theatrical screenings and in-school filmmaker visits are offered free of charge to students and teachers, introducing 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.

Schools at the Festival

Each year during the annual San Francisco International Film Festival, thousands of students attend Festival screenings, including shorts programs, documentaries and narrative features from around the world. Four thousand students from more than 60 different schools around the Bay Area participated in the program at SFIFF53, including more than 30 visits by local and visiting filmmakers to schools and classrooms. In 2008, an essay contest was added to the program, awarding cash prizes for essays written by students about Festival films. SFIFF54 will mark the 20th anniversary of this pioneering program.

Schools at the Festival 2010

Screenings: 17
Filmmaker school visits: 39
Teachers and students served: 4,825
Educational institutions served: 70

SFFS Youth Education 2010

Teachers and students served: 10,000
Educational institutions served: 175

SFFS Youth Education 1991–2010

Teachers and students served: 60,000
Educational institutions served: 300

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 to help integrate the film into their curriculum.

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.

Target Schools

Youth Education partners with a handful of Bay Area schools each year to provide more extensive support and programs targeted to a school's curriculum. Special assistance is provided to help classes attend off-site events, and additional programs are presented on-site at each school in order to serve smaller groups of students over longer periods of time.

Youth Media

SFFS Youth Education focuses not just on media made for young people but on media made by them. Through a series of events, awards and exhibition opportunities, we support, encourage and champion the work of youth media makers and youth media organizations from around the Bay Area and around the world.

Media Literacy Training for Youth

Classes in media literacy and critical analysis guide students through the filmmaking process, demonstrating how films are constructed, who constructs them and how audiences are influenced when viewing them. Students learn how to be critical viewers and even future SFIFF jurors.

Professional Development for K-12 Teachers

SFFS Youth Education strives to provide educators 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.

Curriculum Development

As SFFS Youth Education offers more in-depth programming each year, we need 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. To that end, 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.