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JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER HOSTS PREMIERES OF ANIMATED SHORT FILMS CREATED BY 4th GRADE STUDENTS

Minds in Motion Pleasantville, NY – June 2, 2010 – The Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC), a cultural arts institution with a dual mission of film and education, announced today the premieres of 39 animated short films created by fourth-graders in the JBFC's MINDS IN MOTION program. The films will be shown at three red-carpet premiere screenings on Tuesday, June 15, Wednesday, June 16, and Thursday, June 17, all at 6:00 pm with receptions to follow. Some of the film titles include *The Indestructible Balloon and the Famished Shark*, *Verizon Lifeless*, *A Giraffe's Happiest Nightmare*, *Pants on the Ground*, and *The Epic Adventure of the Robot Turtles*.

"We are extremely proud of all of our student filmmakers who have participated this spring in the MINDS IN MOTION program," said Emily Keating, Director of Education Programs. "We have been running this program and working with fourth grade students in Westchester for years, and each year has become more enriching for our staff and volunteers." MINDS IN MOTION introduces the skills that students are learning in school and incorporates them with the tools of filmmaking, integrating media and technology into this visual learning experience.

The schools that participated this spring include PEARLS Hawthorne Elementary School and Casimir Pulaski Elementary School in Yonkers, Mt. Kisco Elementary School, Bedford Central School District, Graham Elementary School in Mt. Vernon, Mt. Vernon City School District, JFK Elementary School in Brewster, Port Chester Public Schools District, Yonkers City School District, Jefferson Elementary School in New Rochelle, and the New Rochelle City School District. Each premiere will include a walk down the red carpet by the young filmmakers, and a screening of their films followed by an awards presentation and a reception. Screenings are open to the general public and are free of charge. If you are interested in volunteering with the MINDS IN MOTION program during the summer, please contact Alana Benoit at abenoit@burnsfilmcenter.org or 914.773.7663, ext. 436.

MINDS IN MOTION is a project-based learning experience that successfully integrates fourth-grade Math, English Language Arts, Technology, and Arts standards. The students spend 12 two-hour sessions collaboratively creating original films, led by professional animators with the assistance of trained volunteer educational facilitators. This is one of the Jacob Burns Film Center's many groundbreaking education programs that touch the lives of 15,000 students every year. Half of these students come from underserved school districts, and participate absolutely free of charge. The JBFC's commitment to helping raise a generation of students with 21st century literacy skills is now enhanced with the opening of its 27,000 sq. foot Media Arts Lab, just down the street from the Film Center on Manville Road in Pleasantville. *Minds in Motion* is made possible by The Edith Glick Shoolman Children's Foundation, The Frog Rock Foundation, Reader's Digest Foundation, Ann Pinkerton Charitable Trust, and JBFC Program Fund.

The Jacob Burns Film Center is a not-for-profit cultural arts organization in Pleasantville, New York dedicated to: presenting the best of independent, documentary and world cinema; promoting 21st century literacy, and making film a vibrant part of the community. Located on a 47,500 sq. foot, three-building campus in the center of Pleasantville, the JBFC is just 30 miles outside of New York City. The programs are inspired by the power of film to challenge, educate, and inspire; to transport us to worlds beyond our own; and to create community through shared dialogue and cultural experience. Since the opening in 2001, over 1,000,000 people have seen over 3,000 films from more than 40 countries. The JBFC campus includes the 27,000 sq. foot Media Arts Lab, equipped with 16 editing suites, a recording studio, a soundstage, a 60-seat screening room, an animation studio, a large Center Studio, and 4 small studios. To learn more about the Jacob Burns Film Center, visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org. To view a selection of work in various JBFC education programs visit www.youtube.com/burnsfilmcenter.

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