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**JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER ANNOUNCES  
“FOCUS ON NATURE” FILM SERIES  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TEATOWN LAKE RESERVATION AND SCENIC HUDSON**

**Pleasantville, NY – June 9, 2010** – Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) announced today that it will screen **“Focus on Nature”**, a new film series in October 2010. This series is presented in partnership with Scenic Hudson and Teatown Lake Reservation and made possible through generous support from the Hoch family and the van Hengel Family Fund.

**“Focus on Nature”** will feature a wide variety of environmental and nature films followed by panel discussions. “Audiences will have the opportunity to explore a full cinematic treatment of nature as well as many other relevant issues related to the environment,” said Brian Ackerman, JBFC Program Director. “There are so many great films about nature, some showing beautiful images of the world around us, and some presenting the frightening realism of the many pressing issues before the public, that we thought it deserved its own series, which we anticipate will become annual.”

Ned Sullivan, President of Scenic Hudson, said, “This series will help fuel greater advocacy by people to protect our environment—for clean drinking water, healthy air to breathe, and preserved land to ensure we have local, nutritional produce. More and more people recognize that our environment is our economy. These films will bring entertainment and enlightenment on vital topics.”

“Film offers a compelling medium to convince the public of the essential need to conserve nature and live more sustainably. Once the commitment is made, Teatown aims to provide the “how to” knowledge, through its educational activities for both children and adults”, said Fred Koontz, Executive Director of Teatown.

Scenic Hudson works to protect and restore the Hudson River and its majestic landscape as an irreplaceable national treasure and a vital resource for residents and visitors. A crusader for the valley since 1963, Scenic Hudson is credited with saving fabled Storm King Mountain from a destructive industrial project and launching the modern grass-roots environmental movement. Today with more than 25,000 ardent supporters, it is the largest environmental group focused on the Hudson River Valley. Its team of experts combines land acquisition, support for agriculture, citizen-based advocacy and sophisticated planning tools to create environmentally healthy communities, champion smart economic growth, open up riverfronts to the public and preserve the valley’s inspiring beauty and natural resources. To date Scenic Hudson has created or enhanced more than 50 parks, preserves and historic sites up and down the Hudson River and conserved more than 28,000 acres. Learn more at [www.scenichudson.org](http://www.scenichudson.org)

Teatown Lake Reservation is a nonprofit, environmental organization with an 834-acre nature preserve and education center located in towns of Yorktown, Cortlandt, and New Castle, New York. Teatown Lake Reservation’s mission is to conserve open space and to educate and involve the regional community in order to sustain the diversity of wildlife, plants and habitats for future generations. We are devoted to conserving biodiversity, teaching ecology and promoting nature-friendly living throughout the Hudson Hills and Highlands. Annually, over 15,000 people walk our 15 miles of trails and 18,000 people enjoy our nature programs. Learn more at <http://www.teatown.org/>

The Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) is a nonprofit cultural arts organization dedicated to presenting the best of independent, documentary, and world cinema; promoting 21<sup>st</sup> 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. Since the opening in 2001, over 1,000,000 people have seen over 3,500 films from more than 40 countries. The campus includes the 27,000 sq. feet Media Arts Lab, the JBFC's state-of-the-art education center, a creative and educational community for storytellers in the digital age, offering one-time workshops, intensive courses, and weekend programs for children and adults of all ages. To learn more about the Jacob Burns Film Center and Media Arts Lab, visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

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