DEAR SBIFF FAMILY,

When we look back upon 2020, the story will begin simply and impossibly – when, in a flash, the world changed.

That first day, reeling, disbelieving, we quickly understood the role SBIFF was to play. Movies.

Movies have always inspired, transported and educated — and we cannot diminish their essential role in helping to lighten our burden, to comfort, to distract. We knew our community would be turning to film, just as we were; so we stepped up to offer everything we could.

The SBIFF staff went to work immediately – reimaging everything. First, our team began collaborating on daily film recommendations and study guides, enhanced with robust social media activity. Then, we launched a series of virtual Q&As with filmmakers. We realized film students would miss the opportunity to publicly screen their end-of-the-year projects, so we created an online Student Film Showcase. We partnered with studios to offer the same arthouse programming we’d normally screen at the Riviera, only now, via video-on-demand.

In solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, we dedicated our daily newsletter to highlighting films that focus on the Black American experience, celebrating the work of noteworthy Black filmmakers and actors, and promoting local Black-owned businesses. We have always championed diversity at SBIFF, the events of this spring have us remain committed to seeking out and showcasing new perspectives and distinct voices in our programming, tributes, panels, and special events.

Contrast all of that with the highlights of SBIFF’s 35th edition: Although it feels light years ago, this past January’s Festival was the biggest, brightest, and most successful in our history. We honored Academy Award winners like Bong Joon Ho and Brad Pitt. We hosted hundreds of filmmakers and thousands of students, and entertained more than 100,000 attendees — a SBIFF record. Our Education Programs were thriving and our Riviera Theatre was drawing enthusiastic crowds.

It seems like a different world. And it is.

These times are something no one could have imagined, but, at SBIFF, they’ve crystallized what we’ve always known to be true: at our heart, we are about community. We’ve found that the community we’ve built around the appreciation of film is something no virus can take down.

And so, we are enthusiastically planning our 36th Festival, in whatever form—in all of the forms—it might take. And we are looking forward to seeing you there.

WITH LOVE,

Roger Durling
Executive Director
Barbakow Family CENTER FOR Film STUDIES

SBIFF’s Education Center opened its doors to the community. The facility, located in Santa Barbara’s Arts & Culture Building, is where SBIFF hosts film seminars for adults, mentorship programs for students, and each month showcases a local filmmaker as a part of Downtown Santa Barbara’s First Thursdays. During the Festival, the Education Center serves as the Festival Volunteer Hub, Ticketing Office, and meeting place for students and filmmakers.
This year’s festival had the largest attendance in the history of the organization with 100,000+ film lovers coming together to celebrate cinema from all over the world.
ONSTAGE at the screening of "Toy Story 4" and Q&A with Academy Award Winner Josh Cooley.

"Mike’s FieldTrip to the Movies is one of our favorites of the year! It brings true joy to each and every face, student and teacher alike, because going to the movies is not just a field trip, it’s an EVENT. Knowing that they get to talk to the creators of the film directly after the film lets the students feel that they are almost a part of the filmmaking themselves."

— JENNIFER J. GRIFFITH, HARDING ELEMENTARY TEACHER

Mike’s FieldTrip to the Movies is SBIFF’s flagship education program. Each year, SBIFF provides thousands of underserved students with a film studies guide at school, special visits from industry professionals, and a trip to the Arlington Theatre for a movie and Q&A with its director during the height of the Festival.
AppleBox Family Films provides low-income families with a theatre-going experience – at absolutely no cost. The program served over 6,000 children and families during the most recent SBIFF. This year the program expanded with additional free screenings at the Riviera Theatre.

**FREE SCREENINGS AT RIVIERA THEATRE**
- TOY STORY 1
- TOY STORY 2
- TOY STORY 3

**FREE SCREENINGS DURING SBIFF**
- TOY STORY 4
- FROZEN 2 (TWO SCREENINGS)

**CONCESSIONS PROVIDED**
Free popcorn and refreshments were given to attendees at all film screenings.

30 underserved low-income teens enjoyed a week long overnight stay at Camp Whittier where they learned filmmaking from notable artists and created their own short films.

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNITED BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SANTA BARBARA**

Film Camp student filming for a group movie project.
The Film Studies Program provided 30 local and 30 national college students curriculum driven access to SBIFF for the educational experience of a lifetime.

Director David O. Russell talking with Film Studies students at SBIFF 2020.

5-MONTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
10 teams of student directors and screenwriters from local high schools and colleges were paired with industry professionals to create a short film that was premiered at SBIFF.

“The 10-10-10 program is brilliant. It helps emerging young writers and filmmakers to develop their craft and find new skills they might not be aware that they have.”
— RACHEL ROSE, SAN MARCOS HIGH SCHOOL

“The impact this has left on me has allowed me to think about a career in the film industry as an attainable goal. I felt such a connection with the people I got to know and I felt so exposed to art that I would have not otherwise been exposed to.”
— ROXANNA IBARRA, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Award recipients of the 2020 SBIFF 10-10-10 screening and award ceremony.

Director David O. Russell talking with Film Studies students at SBIFF 2020.
“Wow sold out 350 seat Q&A at Riviera Theatre in Santa Barbara right now! Feeling the love SB.”

– JOHN CHESTER, DIRECTOR OF THE BIGGEST LITTLE FARM

Poster still from Director John Chester’s “The Biggest Little Farm” which was the Theatre’s longest running film in 2019.

SANTA BARBARA’S ONLY NON-PROFIT ARTHOUSE THEATRE

FEATURING STATE-OF-THE-ART DOLBY VISION LASER PROJECTION, DOLBY ATMOS SOUND SYSTEM, AND HEARING LOOP TECHNOLOGIES

PRESENTED 109 FILMS

Poster still from Director John Chester’s “The Biggest Little Farm” which was the Theatre’s longest running film in 2019.
Director Bong Joon Ho and his translator Sharon Choi speaking after the Cinema Society screening of "Parasite".

“This is such a special theatre to have in Santa Barbara, I didn’t know something like this existed. To watch a film with this incredible technology and to then step outside to the beautiful view of your city, it is very emotional for me.”

– Bong Joon Ho, Director of Parasite
In partnership with Easy Lift, SBIFF provides free transportation for 500+ senior citizens to the Riviera Theatre to enjoy the communal film-going experience at no cost and with concessions provided.

12 local college students were provided with access to 42 private screenings and Q&As with some of the year’s top filmmakers, including Bong Joon Ho, Greta Gerwig, and Adam Sandler.

Silver Screeners making their way into the Theatre to enjoy the FREE film and popcorn!

Rosebud students take a quick picture after speaking with Adam Sandler.
RIVIERA FESTIVALS

THE WAVE FILM FESTIVAL
8TH EDITION - 11 FILMS OVER 7 DAYS

CALL TO ACTION FILM FESTIVAL
2ND EDITION - 7 FILMS OVER 7 DAYS

4 PANEL DISCUSSIONS WITH FILMMAKERS AND TOPIC EXPERTS

FREE ACCESS TO FILMS AND PANELS PROVIDED FOR 35 LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, WHO WROTE ESSAYS ABOUT THE ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED IN THE FILMS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH 6 LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

VIVA PEDRO
A WEEKLONG RETROSPECTIVE FESTIVAL CELEBRATING THE WORK OF DIRECTOR PEDRO ALMODOVAR
Leonardo DiCaprio, Honoree Martin Scorsese, Al Pacino, and Roger Durling on the red carpet.
COVID-19 RESPONSE

RIVIERA THEATRE
During the COVID-19 quarantine, the Riviera Theatre was temporarily closed. During this time, SBIFF partnered with studios to offer the same quality arthouse programming on-demand for virtual rental via SBIFF’s website. Inside the Riviera Theatre, seats have been carefully removed and rearranged to facilitate social distancing and the theatre staff is working diligently to create the safest environment possible for all attendees.

DAILY FILM RECOMMENDATIONS
Each day, SBIFF’s 20,000+ newsletter subscribers receive a film recommendation accompanied by a detailed study guide to provide educational background and artistic perspective on each film. These recommendations and resources are accessible through sbiff.org and promoted on SBIFF’s social media channels.

“Thank you for the film recommendations. The history of each director, backgrounds of how the movies moved from screen writing to production and highlights of the actors have been so informative. I feel like I’ve been able to take a spring course on Film from my living room!” — BARBARA & ALAN WANN

STUDENT SHOWCASE-IN-PLACE ONLINE FESTIVAL
SBIFF introduced a virtual film festival to showcase the work of Santa Barbara County high school and college filmmakers who were not able to present their films publicly due to school closures. Student films will be premiered on sbiff.org where the community of Santa Barbara and a jury of respected professionals will vote for their favorites.

VIRTUAL ARTIST Q&As
SBIFF’s Education Center is currently closed to the public, but is instead being used as a production studio for virtual Q&As with filmmakers, both aspiring and well-known. These conversations are made available to film lovers everywhere through SBIFF’s social media channels.

STAFF MEMORIES
The Film Festival staff, volunteers, and patrons are sharing inspiring memories on a bi-weekly basis, providing their unique perspectives on the organization and the community that makes SBIFF so special.

HELP AT HAND RESOURCE GUIDE
The heart of the SBIFF has always been community, and Help at Hand is SBIFF’s offering of support - an evolving list of current resources that may be of help during this difficult time.

FINANCIALS

INCOME
Contributed Income
Foundation Grants $ 526,175 20%
Government Grants 143,060 6%
Corporate Sponsorships 755,123 29%
Individual Donations 721,359 28%
In-Kind Contributions 454,663 17%
Total Contributed $ 2,600,380

Earned Income
SBIFF $ 3,060,017 74%
Riviera Theatre 1,049,128 26%
Total Earned $ 4,109,146
TOTAL INCOME $ 6,709,526

EXPENSE
Programs $ 4,805,075 81%
Administrative 596,676 10%
Fundraising 537,481 9%
TOTAL EXPENSE $ 5,939,232

SURPLUS / DEFICIT $ 770,293
PLANNED GIVING
Build a legacy in the arts by supporting SBIFF with a planned gift. For information on how you can give, please contact our Development office at 805.963.0023 x 809.

MAKE A DONATION
To support SBIFF, please make a 100% tax deductible donation at www.sbiff.org or call us at 805.963.0023.

STAFF
Roger Durling, Executive Director
Sean Pratt, Managing Director
Benjamin Goedert, Development Director
Shannon Kelley, Development Manager
Mickey Duzdevich, Senior Programmer
Audrey Arn, Programmer
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Claire Waterhouse, Education Coordinator
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