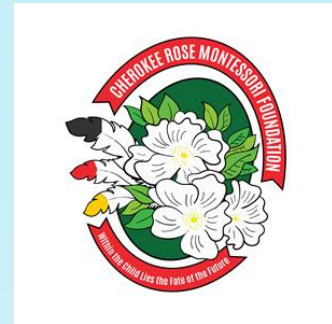


# KIDS FIRST! Film Festival

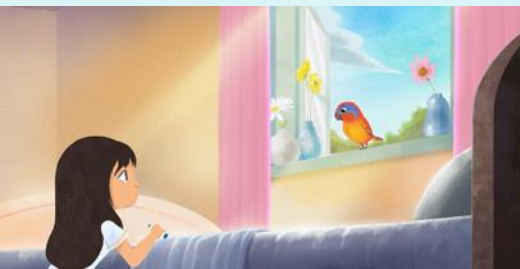
In Partnership with Cherokee Rose Montessori Foundation

*Host a Film Festival for Your students & Families*

2025



Unique and Inspiring Films for Preschool, Elementary,  
Middle School, and High School Students



# KIDS FIRST! Film Festival

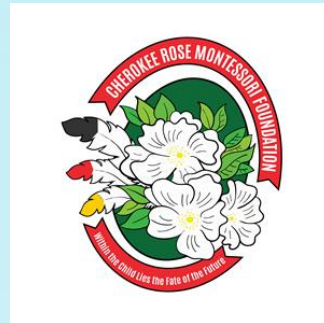
## *What can you expect?*

- Access to a collection of high-quality, inspiring, and entertaining films from independent and student filmmakers worldwide.
- We have over 300 films available to you. They are globally diverse, award-winning short and feature films.
- All of the films have been watched, evaluated and reviewed by the KIDS FIRST! team of youth and adult reviewers, assuring that they meet the KIDS FIRST! criteria of
  - no gratuitous violence; no inappropriate sexual behavior; no bias in terms of race, gender, culture or religion; no condescension towards children; no replicable unsafe behavior.

More importantly, they address values that are core tenets of *Montessori Principles* such as respect for the child as a unique individual and concept of the “absorbent mind.”

We also look for films that address trust, integrity, empowerment, excellence and community.

- Films are suitable for kids and young adults and we have sorted into 4 recommended age categories, based on our jurors’ analysis: ages 2 to 5, 5 to 8, 8 to 12, and 12 to 18
- We have created clusters for you that address issues including: love and compassion; bullying; environment / climate change; films for and about the Black Community; Films for and about the Latinx Community; and more.

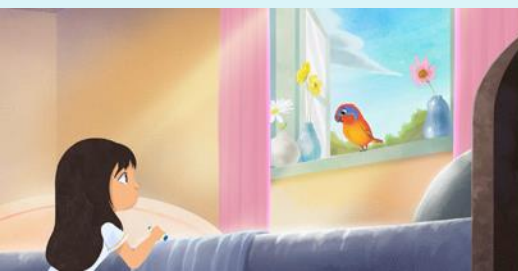
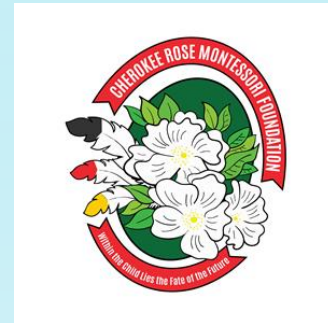


# KIDS FIRST! Film Festival

## *Film Selection Process.*

*We have made this as simple as we can for you...*

1. As an affiliate, you can view all available films on our Film Programmers' website where the entire collection can be viewed.
2. We will give you a link and a password to access the site. You can view the films individually or by topic in the film clusters.
3. We will also give you a spreadsheet which lists all the available films, and is sorted by topic into clusters.
4. Take your time to peruse the site; as a curator of your festival, you may want to have a team of people collaborating on the decision-making process. Give yourself enough time to make your decisions.
5. We need your final film selection no less than 8 weeks before your event.
6. Once you have your final "list" determined, you will email it to us at [admin@kidsfirst.org](mailto:admin@kidsfirst.org).
7. When we receive that, we will set up a folder on the programmers' site just for your school and will move all of your selections into that folder.
8. You will be able to play the films directly from here at your festival, whether it is a live or streaming event.



# KIDS FIRST! Film Festival

## *Things to keep in mind*

This is not brain surgery, it's children's entertainment, so have fun while you're doing it.

1. Engage your team. Don't try to do everything yourself.
2. Start small and build upon it. For your first festival, you might want to make it a Saturday morning or all-day event, showing 10 to 15 films – a mix of 2/3rds shorts; 1/3 features.
3. Allow time to discuss the films afterwards; maybe even play one film more than once. Play it one time; have a discussion; then play it again.
4. Engage parents; We have short, 5 question evaluation forms that you can pass out and have the parents sit with their kids and discuss the film with them after watching it and put their comments down on paper.
5. Don't be afraid to show something off the wall – like make a documentary about sharks using LEGOS.
6. Have a call for action! Don't just point out a problem; offer solutions. We have some wonderful documentaries about climate change and things kids can do to address it.



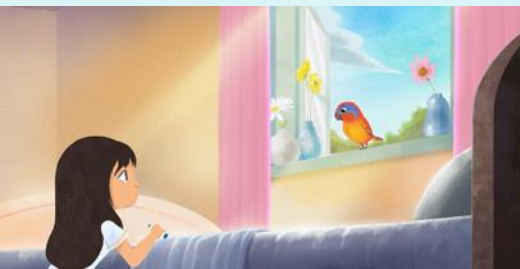
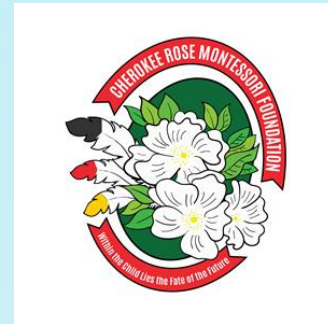


# KIDS FIRST! Film Festival

## *What does it cost?*

### *We have two basic programs available to you.*

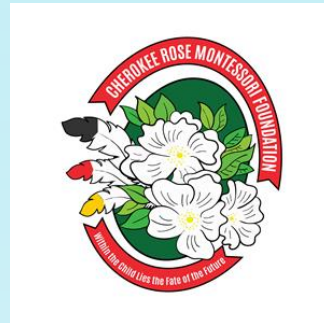
1. Our Monthly program allows you to select up to 30 films, that you can play as often as you want for one month – at both live and online screenings.\*
2. The cost to you is \$350 per month
  1. This is ideal if you want to do an annual film festival or just select a few films for a special
3. Our Annual Program allows you access for up to 300 films, that you can play as often as you want for one year at both live and online screenings.\*
  1. The cost to you is \$3500 per year.
  2. This is a great way to have an on-going program of films that you can play on a regular basis at your school.
4. Our programming changes quarterly so new films are added to our KIDS FIRST! Film Festival collection frequently.
5. \*100 % of our films can be screened at live screenings at your school, or a venue of your choice. About 80% of our collection may be screened digitally as well. Many of our venue partner will follow-up a week of live screenings with a week of digital screenings.



# KIDS FIRST! Film Festival

## *How To Use It As A Fundraiser For Your School*

- Flexible scheduling: You are allowed to play the films as often as you wish within your contracted time frame.
- Admissions: You retain all admission fees.
- Concessions: Selling popcorn, drinks, and other snacks during the film screenings can be a significant source of revenue. You might partner with local businesses for donations or sponsorships of these items.
- Raffles and Silent Auctions: Organize a raffle with donated prizes from local businesses or school families. A silent auction featuring student artwork, themed gift baskets, or even experiences (like a "principal for a day") could generate substantial funds.
- Merchandise: Offer branded merchandise related to the film festival or the school itself such as T-shirts, stickers, or small toys.
- Sponsorships: Generate sponsorships from local businesses that, in return, receive recognition in promotional materials, signage at the event, or even a booth to showcase their business.
- "Red Carpet" Photo Booth: Set up a fun photo booth with a red carpet and props related to movies or the Montessori philosophy. Charge a small fee for photos, either printed on-site or sent digitally.
- Donation Station: Have a clearly marked donation station at the event for attendees who wish to contribute beyond the ticket price or other purchases.
- Online Fundraising Campaign: Extend the fundraising efforts beyond the day of the festival with an online campaign. This could include a crowd-funding platform or a simple donation page on the school's website.



# About KIDS FIRST! Film Festival

**KIDS FIRST!** Film Festival is a project of the Coalition for Quality Children's Media, a national, nonprofit organization founded in 1991 whose mission is to teach children critical viewing skills and to increase the visibility and availability of quality children's media.

Cherokee Rose Montessori Foundation's goal is to provide resources to offer Montessori education to underserved communities and to certify more Montessori teachers.

To see a sample of films from the KIDS FIRST! "Cherokee Rose Montessori Foundation Collection" go to:

- <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11710945>
- Password: Stingray

Ask about our KIDS FIRST! Media Reviews!

For more information, please contact

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