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## **TIFF and Teaneck Board of Ed partner on program of performance, films, and panels**

The Teaneck International Film Festival, in partnership with the Teaneck Board of Education, will present films and panels, plus a performance by the Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson Middle School bands, Sunday, November 4, at BF Middle School, as part of the 13<sup>th</sup> annual TIFF. The film festival, with the theme, *Activism: Making Change*, is working with the Board on a program that will attract students as well as adults and inspire interest and involvement in important issues.

On the agenda is *101 Seconds*, which is being sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women/Bergen County Section and the Bergen County Brady Chapter. Both organizations will participate in a talkback following the documentary, which chronicles the debate on gun control that erupted in Oregon in the wake of a shooting at Clackamas Town Center and the Sandy Hook massacre, which occurred three days later. It follows the relatives of the Clackamas victims as they advocate for more vigilant gun control laws in Oregon. Director Skye Fitzgerald says that he "didn't set out to make a film about guns at all. I set out to make a film about the impact that a single act of gun violence has on families who are deeply impacted by it."

*Home is a Human Right* is a documentary with six shorts that tell the stories of refugees in Syria and undocumented immigrants in the United States, and explore the impact of U.S. policies on those who are seeking refuge in this country. Among the selections are *Pursuing the Dream*, which looks at Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and the threats faced because of intensified deportation actions; *Divided by Deportation*, in which we hear directly from children whose lives are shadowed by constant fear and uncertainty due to increasingly harsh immigration policies; and *Immigrant Stories*, about the disruption of students' lives across the nation. There will a discussion after the screening.

The 1978 musical, *The Wiz*, finishes the program. During the Q & A, TIFF Executive Director Jeremy Lentz will share his thoughts and memories about the making of this classic film - with an all-Black cast - which he says, "was to an earlier generation, what *Black Panther* is to today's young people." He will be joined by

singer/songwriter/ actress/activist Rhonda Ross, daughter of Diana, who starred as Dorothy in the Sidney Lumet version of the Broadway play. The BF and TJ bands will play selections from the film.

For details about these and all the TIFF 2018 happenings November 1-4, four days when Teaneck is the center of the film world, check the website, [www.teaneckfilmfestival.org](http://www.teaneckfilmfestival.org) .