ABOUT THE TFI SCREENING SERIES

The TFI Screening Series is a media literacy program and yearlong presentation of films that serve New York City youth and educators with access to free, relevant programming. Available in classrooms or in theater venues, each screening is followed by a discussion, a workshop, or Q&A talkbacks with the filmmakers to enhance students’ academic engagement and foster critical thinking skills. Offering documentary and narrative films, the TFI Screening Series provides an interactive experience where students participate in thematic discussions, interact with filmmakers, and engage with each other through post-screening activities. Screenings are available on a first come, first served basis and are free of charge.

IN-SCHOOL SCREENINGS:

The TFI Screening Series comes to your school or cultural institution! Adjustable to school assembly or classroom formats, screenings and workshops are co-facilitated with TFI teaching artists to help educators effectively run activities and discussions. In-school screenings will focus on documentary shorts, and they can be designed to be completed within a one-hour school period or a longer time slot.

STUDY GUIDES:

For each film, TFI provides a study guide that students and instructors can use to delve into the topics of the film. Study guides include historical and cultural information, discussion prompts, group activities, and interactive projects that can be completed in classrooms.

Contact CASS GARDINER [cgardiner@tfny.org], Coordinator, Programs & Engagement, for a reservation form and more details.
GENDER IDENTITY AND SPORTS

FALL 2019 SCREENING SERIES
Selections from the TFI/ESPN Short Documentary Program and the TFI IF/Then Short Documentary Program

ABOUT GENDER IDENTITY AND SPORTS
Sports can define and transform how we think about ourselves and our place in the world. The shorts in this series GENDER, IDENTITY, AND SPORTS take a look at the challenges and celebrations of four exemplary individuals involved in sports in which they are underrepresented – or from which they are excluded – because of their gender. From sumo wrestling in Japan to boxing in the Lower Brule Sioux Reservation, from the politics of being a transgender athlete to the healing aspects of equine therapy, these stories examine the way these champions have faced obstacles and defined themselves.
Shaionna, a young Lakota woman, creates a girls’ boxing team to combat the youth suicide epidemic threatening the Lower Brule Sioux Reservation. With the odds stacked against her, Shaionna must confront her own demons as she fights to bring hope and healing to her community.

**FILMMAKERS**

**Jessie Adler** is a documentary filmmaker and cinematographer based in Brooklyn, NY. In 2014 she began working as a Human Rights Storyteller for EarthRights International, collaborating with indigenous communities in the Mekong and Amazon regions to advocate for human and environmental rights. Her dedication to using video for advocacy and empowerment lead her to the School of Visual Arts’ Social Documentary Film program, where she received an MFA in May 2018. “The Boxers of Brule” is her directorial documentary feature debut.

**Shiala Grey-Sky King** is a Lakota painter with a passion for philosophy and a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. Born and raised in South Dakota, Shiala was exposed to both the culture and the dysfunction of crumbling Sioux reservations; a strange and beautiful mix of song, dance, eagle feathers and decay. She grew up holding a camera, on the shoulders of journalist parents. Her introduction to human rights and media began at age eight when her parents debuted their newspaper, “The Native Voice.” Today Shiala fights for Indigenous rights through projects ranging from traditional Navajo weaving to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, working to expose the plight of her people through film, art, writing, graphic design, and community outreach campaigns.
LITTLE MISS SUMO

DOCUMENTARY SHORT
GENRE: IDENTITY AND SPORTS FILM SERIES
IN-SCHOOL SCREENING

DIRECTED BY MATT KAY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY CHI THAI
PRODUCED BY ANDREW CARVER, DIDI HAND
FILMMAKER AVAILABLE FOR Q&A
RUNNING TIME: 19 MINUTES

LITTLE MISS SUMO is about 20 year old student Hiyori who has been sumo wrestling since she was 7. Women are banned from competing professionally, and Hiyori will be forced to retire from amateur sumo at the age of 21. Hiyori embarks on a remarkable journey, confronting obstacles both inside and outside the ring, in an attempt to help change Japan’s national sport forever.

FILMMAKER

Matt Kay is an emerging British documentary filmmaker. He co-founded Walks of Life Films in 2012, concentrating on producing socially-conscious documentaries. In the past five years he’s directed and shot a variety of projects for broadcast, festivals and online, whether it be in Egypt during the Arab Spring or a Brazilian favela during the World Cup.
MACK WRESTLES

DOCUMENTARY SHORT
GENDER IDENTITY AND SPORTS FILM SERIES
IN-SCHOOL SCREENING

CO-DIRECTED BY TAYLOR HESS AND ERIN SANGER
ASSOCIATE PRODUCED BY KATIE BARNES
FILMMAKERS AVAILABLE FOR Q&A
RUNNING TIME: 26 MINUTES

MACK WRESTLES is a short documentary film following Mack Beggs, a transgender wrestler who broke records and changed history by winning the Texas state title two years in a row. With high school ending and college on the horizon, the sports champion, national activist, and high school hero must grapple with what comes next.

FILMMAKERS

Erin Sanger is a filmmaker from Denver, Colorado whose films often explore stories of healing. Her directorial work has screened at over fifty film festivals internationally, including SXSW and Tribeca, and has been featured on National Geographic, The Atlantic, PBS, Topic, and Hulu. She is currently directing her first feature length documentary, which received NYU’s Richard Vague Production Fund Award for 2017. She is a graduate of NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts.

Taylor Hess is a filmmaker, journalist, and contributing editor for Filmmaker Magazine. She recently associate produced a pilot for CNN Films, hosted by Janet Mock, and previously worked as a researcher for Alex Gibney’s Jigsaw Productions on a documentary series for ESPN Films. She produced The Morning After, a short film that premiered at the 2018 Cleveland International Film Festival. Taylor is a graduate of New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.
ON THE BIT

DOCUMENTARY SHORT
GENDER IDENTITY AND SPORTS FILM SERIES
IN-SCHOOL SCREENING

DIRECTED BY ASHLEY BRANDON
PRODUCED BY NEVO SHINAAR
FILMMAKERS AVAILABLE FOR Q&A
RUNNING TIME: 14 MINUTES

ON THE BIT follows Jenny, an Iraq-war veteran plagued by severe anxiety and PTSD. After exhausting all medical and therapeutic efforts to alleviate the daily nightmares and tremors that torment her, Jenny attempts one last means of healing—working with horses that are just as damaged as she is. Not only is Jenny tasked to “gentle” and heal a wild American Mustang suffering from the trauma of its capture by the U.S. government, she must also lead a team of fellow veterans into the spotlight of a high-stakes rodeo performance.

FILMMAKERS

Born and raised in rural Ohio’s Great Black Swamp region, Ashley Brandon is a documentary filmmaker with interest in telling the stories of small-town America, for small-town America. A recent graduate of Northwestern University’s Documentary Media MFA program, her films have screened at various festivals such as Slamdance, Cleveland International, Austin Film Festival, and the American Documentary Film Festival. She currently teaches film production at Quinnipiac University.

Nevo Shinaar was born and raised in northern Israel. He holds a BA in Film and Television from Tel Aviv University and an MFA in Documentary Media from Northwestern University. Nevo worked and lived in Nepal for two years under the auspices of Tevel B’tzdeek, an international NGO working with rural communities. As part of his work, Nevo led a variety of projects to empower communities through the use of media tools including videography, radio and storytelling. Nevo’s main area of interest is fostering a deeper understanding of the communication process, both on the interpersonal and the societal levels.
Tribeca Film Institute partners with storytellers and joins them in breaking barriers to access, exposure, and sustainability in the media landscape. Each year, we identify a diverse group of exceptional filmmakers and media artists and provide them with funding and resources to fully realize their stories and connect with audiences. Our education programs empower students through hands-on training and exposure to socially relevant films, offering young people the media skills necessary to be creative and productive global citizens. We are a year-round nonprofit arts organization founded by Robert De Niro, Jane Rosenthal, and Craig Hatkoff in the wake of September 11, 2001.