

**MONTCLAIR
FILM**

Bringing Cinema Magic Back to The Bellevue

MONTCLAIR FILM'S CAMPAIGN
TO REOPEN THE BELLEVUE THEATRE





Montclair Film Continues to Grow with the Reopening of The Bellevue Theatre

From our beginning as the Montclair Film Festival in 2012, we have worked tirelessly to build and sustain vital cultural experiences in our community. This vision culminated first in the opening of Cinema505 and our Film Education Center in 2017, and then in the renovation and reopening of The Clairidge in 2021. Continuing to build on our vision, we are thrilled to reopen The Bellevue Theatre in

Upper Montclair, a beloved cultural institution in the community.

After years of silence, the projectors will run once again. A beloved landmark nestled in the heart of Upper Montclair, The Bellevue has long been more than just a movie theater...it's where generations gathered for first dates, family outings, and late night screenings.

Once the theater is reopened, The

Bellevue will operate as a full-time three screen cinema, featuring a focus on current releases and in-demand films. Montclair Film will continue to bring the best in art house, independent, documentary, classics, and foreign language films to The Clairidge. Both theaters will feature conversations and educational programs with partners, non-profits, and other organizations throughout the region.



Opening as a silent film theater on May 13, 1922 and designed in the Tudor Revival style by architect J.H. Phillips, the Bellevue quickly became a destination in the Upper Montclair business district.

Our community has been clear in sharing their desire to see The Bellevue Theatre thriving again, and we are counting on that passion and enthusiasm to help us re-establish The Bellevue as a destination for new memories and experiences. Without an audience, there is no cinema, and we look forward to this new opportunity to expand upon our mission to transform our community through the power of film.

- Evelyn McGee Colbert, President

As a small business owner, I'm thrilled that Montclair Film is bringing the Bellevue Theatre back to life. This is about community and creating a vibrant neighborhood hub. The Bellevue will be a place for cultural, enriching and joyful experiences that bring people together.

- Wendy Lacey, Cornerstone Montclair

Building Culture + Community Through Cinema

Montclair Film is a non-profit organization that believes film can be a transformative, cultural force in the community; a place where people come together to have a collective experience, to explore diverse perspectives, and to immerse themselves in a new world. We are relentlessly committed to preserving spaces that build a sense of community, inspire future filmmakers, showcase storytellers, and engage audiences.

The addition of The Bellevue Theatre provides multiple benefits to the community, and will:

- ★ Add an anchor business and entertainment to Upper Montclair while helping to support local businesses and restaurants
- ★ Enhance the walkability of a vibrant town center with an independent movie theater
- ★ Provide a space for filmmakers and storytellers to showcase their work
- ★ Expand our educational outreach to more school groups and students through our Film Field Trips and Impact Series
- ★ Bring the tradition of The Montclair Film Festival back to Upper Montclair
- ★ Revive a historic venue to create new memories for a future generation

COMMUNITY DRIVEN IMPACT



Projected impact on the local economy



40,000-45,000 anticipated attendance



\$650,000 in annual ticket sales



\$228,000 in concession sales



Preserves historic building



Increased educational opportunities for local students

MONTCLAIR FILM'S EVOLUTION

MFF was founded to fill a cultural void after a few key arts groups left town or dissolved

Inaugural six day Montclair Film Festival

MFF grows to 10 day event

Investors Bank donates 505 Bloomfield Ave. to become our year-round headquarters

Montclair Film renovates and reopens The Clairidge

The Bellevue Theatre finally reopens with MFF25

2010

2012

2015

2017

2021

2025

It Takes a Great Deal of Community Support to Sustain an Independent Cinema

Montclair Film can bring the same success to Upper Montclair and The Bellevue Theatre as we did with The Clairidge. As a non-profit organization, we are uniquely positioned to bring The Bellevue Theatre back to life, but to ensure its long-term success the theater will require ongoing community engagement. We are launching a fundraising campaign to invite individual, sponsor, and community support for its reopening and continued operation.

We can only do it with your help. Here's how YOU can make a difference:

DONATE

Make a gift to The Bellevue Campaign.

JOIN

Montclair Film Members enjoy year-round benefits.

VISIT

Come see movies! Make Montclair Film Cinemas your theaters of choice.

SPREAD THE WORD

Bring a friend. Get others involved with Montclair Film.

Reopening the doors of this beloved historic theater is more than just lighting up the marquee again. It's reviving the glow of cherished memories and inviting a new generation to create their own. Within these walls, countless stories have unfolded — both on screen and in the lives of those who came here for first dates, family outings, or Saturday matinees.

As we reclaim this space, we celebrate not only its past but the promise of new moments, laughter, wonder, and shared experience. This is not just a reopening. It's a revival of magic, community, and the joy of cinema...past, present, and future.

**STEP INSIDE. RELIVE THE MAGIC.
AND GET READY TO CREATE NEW MEMORIES.**



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MONTCLAIR FILM

Transforming lives and communities through the power of film and filmmaking.

MontclairFilm.org



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