

FilmMatters at TJFF Presents

Don't miss the chance to bring your students to the following **free** films during the week of **April 19th-22nd**. Give your students the opportunity to listen to inspirational guest speakers and meet with film directors. For more information visit www.tjff.com



Off and Running

United States, 78 minutes.
Recommended for Grades 9-12

Avery is an African-American teenager who lives with her adoptive white, Jewish, lesbian parents who have also adopted two boys, one Korean and one of mixed white and African-American parentage. Despite the love and support she receives from both of her mothers, Avery is curious to know more about her biological family. Her decision to contact her birth mother sparks a complicated exploration of race and identity, leaving Avery feeling displaced and alienated from her friends and family. Lacking the Hollywood sentimentality of *Blind Side*, a film dealing with a similar theme, *Off and*

Running is a unique North American coming-of-age story that highlights the complexities of interracial adoption.

Guest speaker invited.

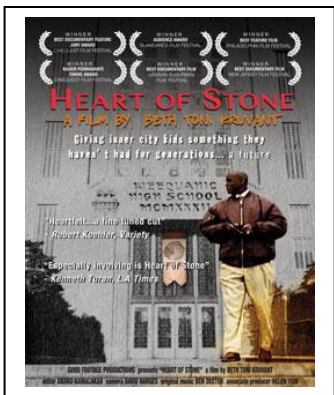
Date: **Monday April 19
10 a.m.**

Bloor Cinema (Corner of Bloor and Bathurst)

For bookings email Susan Starkman at filmmatters@tjff.ca or call 416-324-9121

N.B. Film deals with issue of teen pregnancy and abortion.

**First Screening SOLD OUT
Second Screening Added**



Heart of Stone

United States, 84 minutes.
Recommended for Grades 9-12

The issue of gang-related violence is one that is becoming all-too familiar in Toronto schools. *Heart of Stone* examines how one principal, Ron Stone, dealt with the issue on his own turf. When he became principal of Weequahic High School (WHS) in 2000, it was one of the most violent schools in the United States. Populated by largely by rival gangs, the Bloods and the Crips, students had to pass through metal detectors each day and Principal Stone patrolled the halls in a bulletproof vest. Determined to restore WHS to its former position as one of the leading schools of the country, Stone resolved to work with gang members, creating a non-violence zone where grievances were solved

through conflict-resolution sessions. Stone also enlisted the help of former WHS alumni, mostly older, white Jewish males and young African-Americans to raise scholarship funds and encourage students to pursue their education. *Heart of Stone* is an inspirational film that demonstrates how disparate groups can join forces to give their old communities something that they have not had for generations: a future.

Director Beth Toni Kruvant will be in attendance to discuss the film after the screening.

Date: **Tuesday April 20
10 a.m.** **1st Screening
SOLD OUT**

Friday, April 23rd at 10 a.m.
Bloor Cinema (Corner of Bloor and Bathurst)

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The People Vs. Leo Frank

United States, 82 minutes
Recommended for Grades 9-12

The events leading up to the 1913 lynching of Leo Frank, a white Jewish man wrongfully accused of murdering a young girl who worked in his factory are faithfully recreated in this fascinating documentary. Dramatic sequences created verbatim from transcripts, documents and letters combine to make the film both a first-rate murder mystery and a thought-provoking look at racial and religious prejudice in the early 20th Century. Ben Loeterman's film

offers a wealth of rare archival images and new interviews with historians, politicians and the descendants of the participants, infusing these nearly century-old events with a special resonance for today.

Director Ben Loeterman will be in attendance to discuss the film after the screening.

Date: **Wednesday, April 21
10 a.m.**
Bloor Cinema (Corner of Bloor and Bathurst)

For bookings email Susan Starkman at filmmatters@tjff.ca or call 416-324-9121



Making the Crooked Straight

U.S.A., 30 Minutes.
Recommended for Grades 9-12

Dr Rick Hodes is an American doctor who has spent the last 20 years tirelessly working to heal the sick in Ethiopia. Driven by his belief that "he who saves one life saves the entire world", Dr. Hodes arranges for patients to receive complex, life-saving surgeries, often paying for them out of his own pocket. He has personally fostered no less than 17 children, providing them with a home and an education. *Making the Crooked Straight* explores this inspirational man's work in Ethiopia, his highly original family life, and the spirituality that has guided his choices and sacrifices.

Students will have the chance to speak to Dr. Hodes in person after the screening.

Dates: **Thursday April 22
10 a.m.**
Bloor Cinema (Corner of Bloor and Bathurst)

For bookings email Susan Starkman at filmmatters@tjff.ca or call 414-324-9121

N.B. Potentially disturbing images of patients with tuberculosis of the spine.

For more information about the Festival, visit our website at www.tjff.com

