

CINEMA CLASSROOM AT THE AVALON

In 2013 the historic nonprofit Avalon Theatre launched *Cinema Classroom at the Avalon* in consultation with a number of local educators, who provided guidance about the structure and content of the program. This highly regarded educational offering has grown over the years and has now served more than 18,000 students who come from public, charter, and private schools from every ward of Washington, DC.

A free program for 6th-12th graders, *Cinema Classroom at the Avalon* engages students in critical issues through screenings and expert-guided discussions. Carefully curated films that focus on pressing human rights and social justice issues are shown in the Avalon's historic theater and are hosted by subject-matter experts who guide students through engaging post-film discussions. Each film program includes introductions that promote visual literacy and film techniques, special guest experts, curriculum guides linked to DCPS standards, and free transportation with early registration. Curriculum guides linked to DCPS standards are sent to teachers in advance of each screening. Since its beginning, public and private funding has allowed for bus transportation to be provided at no cost.

Cinema Classroom at the Avalon and student film education remain central to the Avalon's mission as a nonprofit film center.

**REGISTER ONLINE:
THEAVALON.ORG/CINEMACLASSROOM**

Cinema Classroom at the Avalon is generously supported by:



SPRING 2026
*Cinema Classroom
at the Avalon*



 *Cinema Classroom
at the Avalon*
**AVALON
THEATRE**

5612 CONNECTICUT AVE NW
WASHINGTON DC 20015

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SPRING 2026 FILMS



SOUNDTRACK FOR A REVOLUTION

FEBRUARY 2, 2026 10AM

This film tells the story of the American civil rights movement through its powerful music—the freedom songs protesters sang on picket lines, in mass meetings, in paddy wagons, and in jail cells. Freedom songs evolved from slave chants, from the labor movement, and especially from the Black church. The music enabled Black Americans to sing words they could not say, and it was crucial in helping the protesters as they faced down brutal aggression with dignity and non-violence. The film features contemporary performances of the freedom songs by notable artists, riveting archival footage and interviews with civil rights foot soldiers and leaders.

Documentary Running Time: 82 min

DOLORES

MARCH 2, 2026 10AM

DOLORES Huerta is among the most important, yet least known, activists in American history. An equal partner in co-founding the first farm workers unions with Cesar Chavez, her enormous contributions have gone largely unrecognized. Dolores tirelessly led the fight for racial and labor justice alongside Chavez, becoming one of the most defiant feminists of the twentieth century—and she continues the fight to this day, in her late 80s.

Documentary Running Time: 98 min

INOCENTE

APRIL 27, 2026 10AM

A 2013 Oscar Winner, *INOCENTE* is an intensely personal documentary about a young artist's determination never to surrender to the bleakness of her surroundings. At 15, Inocente refuses to let her dream of becoming an artist be caged by her life as an undocumented immigrant forced to live homeless for the last nine years.

Documentary Running Time: 40 min

AIN'T NO BACK TO A MERRY-GO-ROUND

APRIL 28, 2026 10AM

Five Black students rode a segregated carousel in 1960, igniting one of the earliest organized interracial civil rights protest in US history. *AIN'T NO BACK TO A MERRY-GO-ROUND* is the untold story of the Jews they marched with, Nazis they provoked, Congressmen they inspired, and Civil Rights leaders they became.

Documentary Running Time: 89 min

THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE WATER

MAY 11, 2026 10AM

THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE WATER is a disturbing and, frankly, terrifying portrait of ecological and social disasters in director Elliot Page's native Nova Scotia. Based on Ingrid Waldron's incendiary study, the film follows Page as he travels to rural areas of the province that are plagued by toxic fallout from industrial development. Together with collaborator Ian Daniel, Elliot discovers that these catastrophes have been precisely placed, all in remote, low-income — and very often Indigenous or Black — communities.

Documentary Running Time: 71 min

TEACHER PRAISE:

"The materials were rich and easy to adapt to our needs. My students talked about the film and Dr. Smith for days. I am so grateful to the Avalon Theatre for helping reinvigorate my 8th graders."

— Hardy Middle School (Soundtrack for a Revolution)

REGISTER TODAY!

Registration is required for all programs. For more information and to sign up for email updates visit:

THEAVALON.ORG/CINEMACLASSROOM

For questions contact Rebecca Dupas, Ph.D.: rdupas@theavalon.org

Programs begin at 10:00am and run approximately 2 1/2 hours.

- Space is limited—advanced registration is required.
- Our FREE, in-theater programming welcomes 6th through 12th grade students.
- Register early to take advantage of our limited budget for free transportation.
- We offer expanded curriculum linked to DCPS standards in advance of each screening.
- Each film program includes a short introduction to film literacy and both pre-and post-screening workshops.
- As scheduling allows, each screening is followed by an expert-led discussion.
- Healthy snacks are provided.