bright lights film series

EMERSON COLLEGE 1880

Department of Visual and Media Arts

Fall 2016 Calendar

Tuesday, September 13

Swiss Army Man POC COM LGBTQ EC

Directed by Daniel Scheinert and Daniel Kwan, drama/comedy, 97 minutes, USA, 2016

Being stranded on a deserted island leaves young Hank (Paul Dano) bored, lonely, and without hope. As a rope hangs around his neck, Hank prepares to end it all, until he suddenly spots a man (Daniel Radcliffe) lying by the shore. Unfortunately, he is dead and quite flatulent. Using the gassy body to his advantage, Hank miraculously makes it back to the mainland. However, he now finds himself lost in the wilderness and dragging the talking corpse named Manny along for the adventure. Discussion with filmmakers and alumni Daniel Scheinert '09 and Daniel Kwan '10 to follow.

Thursday, September 15

The Lobster F I

Directed by Yorgos Lanthimos, drama, 119 minutes, Greece/UK, 2015

After his wife leaves him, David (Colin Farrell) is sent to a hotel for single adults and urged to find a new significant other within 45 days—if he fails, he will be transformed into an animal of his choosing. David eventually meets a runaway from the hotel (Rachel Weisz), and the two begin a secret romance. Discussion led by VMA Associate Professor Harlan Bosmajian and Senior Distinguished Director-in-Residence Regge Life to follow.

Tuesday, September 20

Chiraq POC F SJ

Directed by Spike Lee, drama, 127 minutes, USA, 2015

A modern-day adaptation of the ancient Greek play *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes, set against the backdrop of gang violence in Chicago. The girlfriend (Teyonah Parris) of a Chicago gang leader (Nick Cannon) persuades other frustrated women to abstain from sex until their men agree to end the senseless cycle of violence. Panel discussion led by Institute for Liberal Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies Assistant Professor Cara Moyer-Duncan to follow.

Thursday, September 22

The Trust EC

Directed by Benjamin Brewer and Alex Brewer, drama, 92 minutes, USA, 2016

Waters and Stone are two nobody police officers who work in the evidence room of the Las Vegas Police Department. When Stone discovers an unusually high bail receipt in connection to a drug bust, the two friends set in motion a plan to find the source of the money. Discussion with director Ben Brewer '10 to follow.

Tuesday, September 27

BOSCPUG Monthly Meetup

The Boston Creative Pro User Group (BOSCPUG) is a story-driven, globally connected community of ready-to-collaborate digital filmmakers and broadcast professionals focusing on the craft of digital storytelling and related tools for digital cinema and distribution. BOSCPUG regularly brings top industry filmmakers and creatives to Boston to share and discuss their latest work and their workflows.

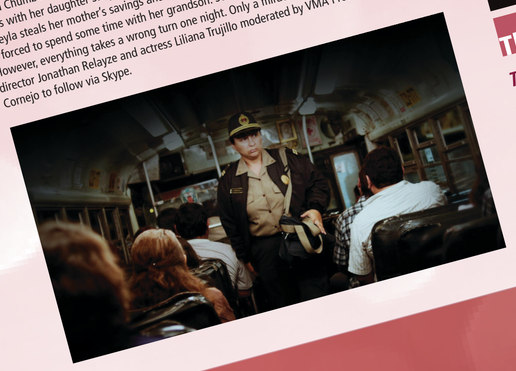
Thursday, September 29

Rosa Chumbe POC F I

Co-presented with the Boston Latino Film Festival

Directed by Jonathan Relayze, drama, 75 minutes, Peru, 2015

Rosa Chumbe is a mature police officer with both a gambling and a drinking problem. She lives with her daughter Sheyla, who has a baby. One day, after a big fight between them, Sheyla steals her mother's savings and storms out of the house, leaving her baby behind. Rosa is forced to spend some time with her grandson. Something changes inside her heart. However, everything takes a wrong turn one night. Only a miracle can save her. Discussion with director Jonathan Relayze and actress Liliana Trujillo moderated by VMA Professor Cristina Kotz Cornejo to follow via Skype.



Tuesday, October 4

Tale of Tales F I

Directed by Matteo Garrone, fantasy, 133 minutes, Italy/ France/UK, 2016

From the bitter quest of the Queen of Longtrellis, to two mysterious sisters who provoke the passion of a king, to the King of Highhills obsessed with a giant Flea, these tales are inspired by the fairytales by Giambattista Basile. Discussion with VMA Assistant Professor Sarah Zaidan to follow.

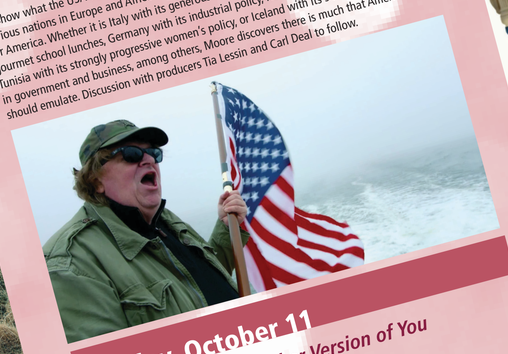
Thursday, October 6

Where to Invade Next SJ I

Co-presented with the UMass Boston Film Series

Directed by Michael Moore, documentary, USA, 120 minutes, 2016

To show what the USA can learn from rest of the world, director Michael Moore playfully visits various nations in Europe and Africa as a one-man "invader" to take their ideas and practices for America. Whether it is Italy with its generous vacation time allotments, France with its gourmet school lunches, Germany with its industrial policy, Norway with its prison system, Tunisia with its strongly progressive women's policy, or Iceland with its strong female presence in government and business, among others, Moore discovers there is much that America should emulate. Discussion with producers Tia Lessin and Carl Deal to follow.

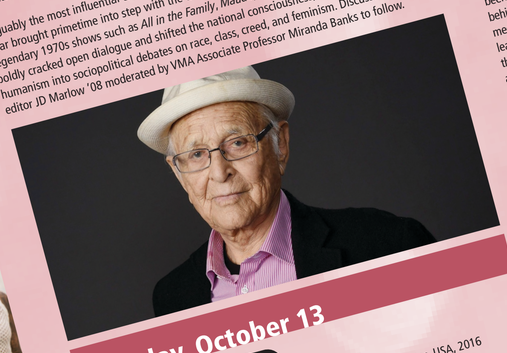


Tuesday, October 11

Norman Lear: Just Another Version of You W SJ POC EC

Directed by Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady, documentary, 91 minutes, USA, 2016

Arguably the most influential creator, writer, and producer in the history of television, Norman Lear brought primetime into step with the times. Using comedy and indelible characters, his legendary 1970s shows such as *All in the Family*, *Maude*, *Good Times*, and *The Jeffersons* boldly cracked open dialogue and shifted the national consciousness, injecting enlightened humanism into sociopolitical debates on race, class, creed, and feminism. Discussion with editor JD Marlow '08 moderated by VMA Associate Professor Miranda Banks to follow.

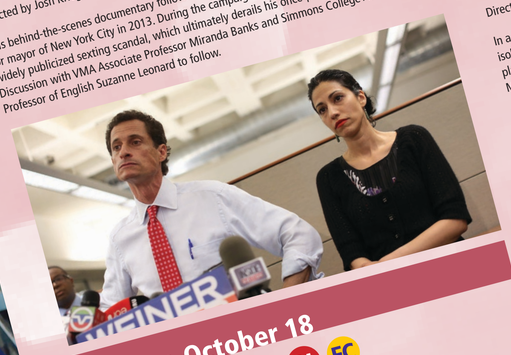


Thursday, October 13

Weiner W SJ POC

Directed by Josh Kriegman and Elyse Steinberg, documentary, 96 minutes, USA, 2016

This behind-the-scenes documentary follows former congressman Anthony Weiner as he runs for mayor of New York City in 2013. During the campaign, he becomes embroiled in a second widely publicized sexting scandal, which ultimately derails his once-promising political career. Discussion with VMA Associate Professor Miranda Banks and Simmons College Associate Professor of English Suzanne Leonard to follow.



Tuesday, October 18

Good Luck Soup POC SJ EC

Co-presented with the Boston Asian American Film Festival

Directed by Matthew Hashiguchi, documentary, 70 minutes, USA, 2016

After years of rejecting his Japanese heritage, filmmaker Matthew Hashiguchi sets out on a humorous yet insightful journey to discover if his joyful grandmother and other family members also struggled with their Japanese American identities, just as he did while growing up in a predominantly white neighborhood in the Midwest. Discussion with filmmaker Matthew Hashiguchi, MFA '11, to follow.

Tuesday, October 25

The Occupation of the American Mind POC SJ I W

Co-presented with the Boston Palestine Film Festival

Directed by Loretta Alper and Jeremy Earp, documentary, 82 minutes USA, 2016

Israel's ongoing military occupation of Palestinian territory and repeated invasions of the Gaza Strip have triggered a fierce backlash against Israeli policies virtually everywhere in the world—except the United States. *The Occupation of the American Mind* takes an eye-opening look at this critical exception, zeroing in on pro-Israel public relations efforts within the United States. Narrated by Roger Waters and featuring leading observers of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and U.S. media culture, the film explores how the Israeli government, the U.S. government, and the pro-Israel lobby have joined forces, often with very different motives, to shape American media coverage of the conflict in Israel's favor. From the U.S.-based public relations campaigns that emerged in the 1980s to today, the film provides a sweeping analysis of Israel's decades-long battle for the hearts, minds, and tax dollars of the American people in the face of widening international condemnation of its increasingly right-wing policies. Discussion with filmmakers to follow.

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Tuesday, November 1

Trapped W POC SJ

Directed by Dawn Porter, documentary, 90 minutes, USA, 2016

From 2011 to 2013, hundreds of regulations were passed restricting access to abortion in America. Reproductive rights advocates refer to these as "TRAP" laws, or Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers. While these laws have been enacted in 11 states, Southern clinics in particular have been hit hardest and are now in a fight for survival. *Trapped* interweaves the personal stories behind these regulatory battles; from the physician who crisscrosses the country ensuring that medical services are available, to the strong women and men who run the clinics, to the lawyers leading the legal charge to eliminate these laws, to the women they are all determined to help. In this feature-length character-driven film, our main characters fight alongside a dedicated cadre of attorneys to preserve abortion rights in a country living with the mistaken belief that Roe v. Wade still protects a woman's right to choose. Discussion with director Dawn Porter to follow.

Thursday, November 3

Best and Most Beautiful Things D SJ LGBTQ EC

Co-presented with the UMass Boston Film Series

Directed by Garrett Zevgetis, documentary, 90 minutes, USA, 2016

In a celebration of outcasts, a precocious young blind woman vanishes into quirky obsessions and isolation. With humor and bold curiosity, she chases love and freedom in the most unexpected of places: a provocative fringe community. Discussion with director and alumnus Garrett Zevgetis, MA '05, and subjects Michelle and Julie Smith to follow.

Tuesday, November 8

Real Boy LGBTQ W SJ

Co-presented with EAGLE and the Office of Student Life as part of Trans Awareness Week

Directed by Shaleece Haas, documentary, 82 minutes, USA, 2016

Real Boy is the coming-of-age story of Bennett Wallace, a transgender teenager on a journey to find his voice—as a musician, a friend, a son, and a man. As he navigates the ups and downs of young adulthood, Bennett works to gain the love and support of his mother, who has deep misgivings about her child's transition. Along the way, he forges a powerful friendship with his idol, Joe Stevens, a celebrated transgender musician with his own demons to fight. Discussion with director Shaleece Haas and subject Bennett Wallace to follow.

Thursday, November 10

Silversonic Annual Music Video Showcase EC

Silversonic is an annual showcase of music videos made by current Emerson students and alumni. It is a celebration of the combination of music and image as a unique art form worthy of exhibition in a cinema environment. There will be a reception following the screening with an opportunity for discussion with musicians and filmmakers.

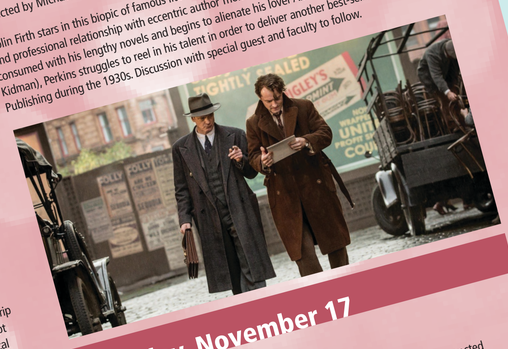
Tuesday, November 15

Genius

Co-presented with the Writing, Literature and Publishing Department

Directed by Michael Grandage, drama, 104 minutes, UK/USA, 2016

Colin Firth stars in this biopic of famous literary editor Max Perkins, which centers on his personal and professional relationship with eccentric author Thomas Wolfe (Jude Law). As Wolfe becomes consumed with his lengthy novels and begins to alienate his lover Aline Bernstein (Nicole Kidman), Perkins struggles to reel in his talent in order to deliver another best-seller for Scribner Publishing during the 1930s. Discussion with special guest and faculty to follow.



Thursday, November 17

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Tuesday, November 29

Touched with Fire F D

Directed by Paul Dalio, drama, 106 minutes, USA, 2015

Touched with Fire stars Katie Holmes and Luke Kirby as two poets with bipolar disorder whose art is fueled by their emotional extremes. When they meet in a treatment facility, their chemistry is instant and intense, driving each other's mania to new heights. They pursue their passion that breaks outside the bounds of sanity, swinging them from fantastical highs to tormented lows until they ultimately must choose between sanity and love. Panel discussion led by VMA Senior Distinguished Director-in-Residence Regge Life to follow.

Thursday, December 1

Green Room F

Directed by Jeremy Saulnier, thriller, 95 minutes, USA, 2015

Down-on-their-luck punk rockers The Ain't Rights are finishing up a long and unsuccessful tour and are about to call it quits when they get an unexpected booking at an isolated, run-down club deep in the backwoods of Oregon. What seems merely to be a third-rate gig escalates into something much more sinister when they witness an act of violence backstage that they weren't meant to see. Now trapped backstage, they must face off against the club's depraved owner, Darcy Banker (Patrick Stewart), a man who will do anything to protect the secrets of his nefarious enterprise. But while Darcy and his henchmen think the band will be easy to get rid of, The Ain't Rights prove themselves much more cunning and capable than anyone expected, turning the tables on their unsuspecting captors and setting the stage for the ultimate life-or-death showdown. Discussion led by VMA Associate Professor Jean Stawarz to follow.

Tuesday, December 6

Do Not Resist SJ POC EC

Directed by Craig Atkinson, documentary, 70 minutes, USA, 2016

Do Not Resist is an urgent and powerful exploration of the rapid militarization of the police in the United States. Opening with shocking on-the-scene footage in Ferguson, Missouri, the film then broadens its scope to present scenes from across the country—a conference presentation where the value of high-end weapons technologies is presented to potential police buyers, a community that has just received its very own military-grade tank, and a SWAT team arriving at a home to execute a warrant. The cumulative effect of these vignettes paints a startling picture of the direction our local law enforcement is headed. Discussion with director and alumnus Craig Atkinson, MA '08, to follow.

Thursday, December 8

The Dying of the Light EC

Directed by Peter Flynn, documentary, 95 minutes, USA, 2015

Largely unchanged for more than a century, the projection of photochemical film faces an uncertain future in the digital age. The practice of handing and projecting film is in danger of being lost, and the role of film projectionist is nearing extinction. *The Dying of the Light* explores the history and craft of motion picture projectionists. By turns humorous and melancholic, their candid reflections on life in the booth reveal a world that has largely gone unnoticed and is now at an end. The result is a loving tribute to the art and romance of the movies—and to the unseen people who brought the light to our screens. Discussion with director and VMA Senior Scholar-in-Residence Peter Flynn to follow.

Key

- F — Feminist (Bath Film Festival rating)
- W — Directed by women
- POC — Directed by or featuring people of color
- EC — Emerson College community
- COM — Comedy
- D — Dealing with disability issues
- I — International cinema
- LGBTQ — Dealing with LGBTQ issues
- SJ — Social justice cinema

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 pm during the semester

All screenings are free and open to the public.

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