



EMERSON COLLEGE



# bright lights series

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All screenings are free  
and open to the public  
and start at 7:00 pm.

559 Washington Street  
Boston, MA

Spring 2015  
Calendar



## Out of Print

### Thursday, January 29

#### Out of Print

Julia Marchese, 86 minutes, USA, 2014

*Clips from The Dying of the Light (Peter Flynn) and The Orson Welles Complex (Garen Daly) will be shown and a panel discussion with all three directors on the future of exhibition will follow*

*Out of Print* is a documentary that explores the importance of revival cinema and 35mm exhibition seen through the lens of the patrons of the New Beverly Cinema, a unique and independent revival cinema in Los Angeles.

### Tuesday, February 3

#### Schooling the World

Carol Black, 66 minutes, USA, 2010

*Discussion with VMA professor Claire Andrade-Watkins will follow*



## Schooling the World

Beautifully shot on location in the Buddhist culture of Ladakh in the northern Indian Himalayas, the film weaves the voices of Ladakhi people through a conversation between four carefully chosen original thinkers. The film examines the hidden assumption of cultural superiority behind education aid projects, which overtly aim to help children “escape” to a “better life”—despite mounting evidence of the environmental, social, and mental health costs of our own modern consumer lifestyles, from epidemic rates of childhood depression and substance abuse to pollution and climate change.



## Boyhood

### Thursday, February 5

#### Boyhood

Richard Linklater, 165 minutes, USA, 2014

The joys and pitfalls of growing up are seen through the eyes of a child named Mason (Ellar Coltrane); his parents (Patricia Arquette, Ethan

Hawke); and his sister (Lorelei Linklater). Vignettes, filmed with the same cast over the course of 12 years, capture family meals, road trips, birthday parties, graduations, and other important milestones.

### Tuesday, February 10

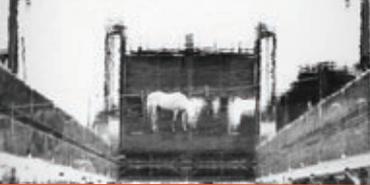
#### Room 237

Rodney Ascher, 102 minutes, USA, 2012

Many movies lend themselves to dramatic interpretations, but none as rich and far ranging as Stanley Kubrick’s *The Shining*. In LA filmmaker Rodney Ascher’s *Room 237*, we hear from people who have developed far-reaching theories and believe they have decoded the hidden symbols and messages buried in the late director’s film. Carefully examining *The Shining* inside out, and forward and backward, *Room 237* is equal parts captivating, provocative, and pure pleasure. It gives voice to the fans and scholars who espouse these theories, reworking the film to match their ideas and intercutting it with layers of dreamlike imagery to illustrate their streams of consciousness.



## Room 237



## Possible Distances

Sometimes outrageous, always engaging, the words of the interviewees are given full force by Ascher's compelling vision.

## Thursday, February 12

### Possible Distances

*A program of recent motion picture excursions by Rob Todd*

This selection of VMA professor Robert Todd's work in 16mm film will include views of local paradises: *Roadside Attractions*: On a single city block, a quiet observer of life finds the mystic playground within the shadows; *Short*: Dramatic windings to the surprising glory of summer; *May I*: A dance for the month of Maying: saying, displaying, straying, playing; and *Slow Rise*: A day rises; followed by *Over Water*: A labyrinthine journey that unites and connects scattered pieces of an archaic architecture of water-related infrastructure in the Northeast, including piers, bridges, and canal locks.

## Tuesday, February 17

### The Year We Thought About Love

Ellen Brodsky, 68 minutes, USA, 2014

*Discussion with Ellen Brodsky and True Colors troupe members will follow*

What happens when LGBTQ youth of color band together and dare to be "out" on stage to reveal their lives and their loves? The cast of True Colors OUT Youth Theater transforms its struggles into performance



### The Year We Thought About Love

for social change. With wit, candor, and attitude, our cast of characters captivates audiences surprised to hear such stories in school settings. *The Year We Thought About Love* introduces a transgender teenager kicked out of her home, a devout Christian challenging his church's homophobia, and a girl who dresses in masculine clothing even as she models dresses on the runway.



## BOSCPUG

## Thursday, February 19

### BOSCPUG

Join the Boston Creative Pro User Group (BOSCPUG) for another conversation on the process of filmmaking! BOSCPUG is a story-driven, globally connected network connecting filmmakers and media professionals featuring top industry creatives in conversation on their craft. BOSCPUG is a professional creative outlet to pitch ideas for episodic content creation and to discover talent, crew, and distribution for your projects. For an updated schedule, visit <http://boscpug.org/next-meeting/>.

## Tuesday, February 24

### Dar He: The Lynching of Emmett Till

Rob Underhill, 70 minutes, USA, 2012

*Discussion with actor Mike*



## Dar He

### *Wiley will follow*

Days after stepping off the train from Chicago, 14-year-old Emmett Till goes missing in Money, Mississippi. Later, the boy's mutilated body is found in a river. William Bradford Huie of *Look* magazine interviews the people of Money to get at the root of what happened. The two men acquitted for the boy's murder, Roy Bryant Jr. and J.W. Milam, agree to sit down to discuss the trial. Not a word had been uttered outside a courtroom by them or their kin, until now...

*Dar He: The Lynching of Emmett Till* is the true story crafted from the public record: a transfixing, true dramatization of the historic interviews and events surrounding the murder that became a lightning rod for moral outrage and pivotal in inspiring a whole generation of young people to commit to social change in the 1950s.

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**Thursday,  
February 26**

### **New England Graduate Media Symposium**

100 minutes

For the second year, the symposium is themed "Gender, Technology, Media: Hypothetical Schematic" and will showcase projects



### **Media Symposium**

and scholarship that explore the issues related to the interaction between technology and gender in contemporary media arts practices. This theme raises questions regarding the cultural and political representation of the human body, memories, and dreams through technology; the constantly changing gender theories that allow artists to build and destroy identity parameters according to different cultural contexts; and the multiple possibilities and limitations generated by technology developments in the media arts world.

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**Tuesday,  
March 3**

### **Joystick Warriors**

*A Media Education  
Foundation Production*

Roger Sorkin, 56 minutes,  
USA, 2013

*Panel discussion on gaming  
will follow*

There's been widespread speculation about the relationship between violent video games and violence in the real world for years.



### **Joystick Warriors**

*Joystick Warriors* provides the clearest account yet of the latest research on this issue.

Drawing on the insights of media scholars, military analysts, combat veterans, and gamers themselves, the film trains its sights on the wildly popular genre of first-person shooter games, exploring how the immersive experience they offer links up with the larger stories we tell ourselves as a culture about violence, militarism, guns, and manhood. Along the way, it examines the game industry's longstanding working relationship with the U.S. military and the American gun industry, and offers a riveting examination of the games themselves: showing how they work to sanitize, glamorize, and normalize violence while cultivating dangerously regressive attitudes and ideas about masculinity and militarism.

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**Thursday,  
March 5**

### **Balagan Films Presents**

In this contentious time for cinema, the Balagan film series carves a niche for the offbeat within Boston's rich cultural scene, for 14 years running. Screenings take place on a roughly monthly basis at the Brattle Theatre in Cambridge and various local



## **Who Is Vermin Supreme?**

venues, including the Bright Family Screening Room, through a partnership with the MFA Collaborative.

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## **Tuesday, March 17**

### ***Who Is Vermin Supreme? An Outsider Odyssey***

Steve Onderick, 122 minutes, USA, 2014  
*Discussion with Vermin Supreme and director Steve Onderick will follow*  
In the wake of Occupy Wall Street's impacts on American culture, *Who Is Vermin Supreme?* chronicles perennial satirical presidential candidate Vermin Supreme's eclectic 2012 campaign and provides a startling glimpse into some of the strangest and most inspiring elements of America's oft-ignored counterculture movements. With Jimmy McMillan of the Rent Is Too Damn High Party and manic creative singer-songwriter Rob Potylo frequently at his side, Supreme makes use of unorthodox tactics and the power of comedy, poetry, and music to mount a one-of-a-kind surrealist

presidential campaign. Confronting police brutality with wit and whimsicality at Chicago's NATO Summit protests, Supreme moves on to follow the steps of the American electoral process across the country, cleverly revealing its hypocrisies and interacting with many of its premier players along the way.

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## **Tuesday, March 24**

### **Orphan Morphin: Creative Plundering of the Archive with Craig Baldwin**

San Francisco filmmaker, curator, and archivist Craig Baldwin will present a feature-length program of both old and new work, consummating in an expanded cinema performance.



### **Orphan Morphin**

Baldwin will introduce sizeable excerpts from more than three titles in his filmography, in order to generate, in an "Artist Talk" mode, an argument about the possible uses of archival footage. The arc will proceed from collage to collage-essay to collage-narrative, demonstrated by sections from his early, middle, and current filmmaking periods.



**Rocks in My Pockets**

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**Thursday,  
March 26**

**Rocks in My Pockets**

Signe Baumann, 88 minutes, USA/Latvia, 2014

*Discussion with director Signe Baumann will follow*

In the new animated gem *Rocks in My Pockets*, Latvian-born artist and filmmaker Signe Baumann tells five fantastical tales based on the courageous women in her family and their battles with madness. With boundless imagination and a twisted sense of humor, she has created daring stories of art, romance, marriage, nature, business, and Eastern European upheaval—all in the fight for her

own sanity. Employing a unique, beautifully textured combination of papier-mâché stop-motion and classic hand-drawn animation (with inspiration from Jan Svankmajer and Bill Plympton), Baumann has produced a poignant and often hilarious tale of mystery, mental health, redemption, and survival.

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**Tuesday,  
March 31**

**Is the Man Who Is Tall Happy? An Animated Conversation with Noam Chomsky**

Michel Gondry, 88 minutes, France, 2013

*Discussion with VMA faculty who worked on the film will follow*

From Michel Gondry, the innovative director of *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* and *The Science of Sleep*, comes this unique animated documentary on the life of controversial MIT professor, philosopher, linguist, anti-war activist, and political firebrand Noam Chomsky. Through complex, lively conversations with Chomsky and brilliant illustrations by Gondry himself, the film reveals the life and work of the father of modern linguistics while also exploring his theories on the emergence of language. The

result is not only a dazzling, vital portrait of one of the foremost thinkers of modern times, but also a beautifully animated work of art.

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**Thursday,  
April 2**

**It's All True Documentary Showcase with Peter Davis**

A showcase of student documentary shorts by current undergraduate and graduate students in the Visual and Media Arts Department. Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker Peter Davis will be in attendance (a screening of *Hearts and Minds* will take place on Wednesday, April 1). There will be a reception in the BFSR lobby following the screening. Peter Davis was born in Los Angeles, California, to screenwriters Frank Davis and Tess Slesinger. Davis is a producer and director, known for *Hearts and Minds*, *The Selling of the Pentagon*, and *Jack*. Davis has also



**Is the Man Who Is Tall Happy?**



**Hearts and Minds**



## Pride

written three nonfiction books: *Hometown, Where Is Nicaragua?* and *If You Came This Way*. He has reported for *The Nation* magazine, for which he covered the U.S. War in Iraq. He has also written for *Esquire*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *New York Woman*, *The Boston Globe*, and *The Los Angeles Times*.

## Tuesday, April 7

### Pride

*Co-sponsored by the Boston LGBT Film Festival*  
Matthew Warchus, 120 minutes, UK, 2014  
*Pride* is inspired by an extraordinary true story. It's the summer of 1984; Margaret Thatcher is in power; and the National Union of Mineworkers is on strike, prompting a London-based group of gay and lesbian activists to raise money to support the strikers' families. Initially rebuffed by the union, the group identifies a tiny mining village in Wales and sets off to make their donation in person. As

the strike drags on, the two groups discover that standing together makes for the strongest union of all.

## Thursday, April 9

### Imitation Game

*Co-sponsored by the Boston LGBT Film Festival*  
Morten Tyldum, 114 minutes, USA, 2014  
Genius British logician and cryptologist Alan Turing (Benedict Cumberbatch)



### Imitation Game

helps crack Germany's Enigma Code during World War II but is later prosecuted by his government for illegal homosexual acts.

## Tuesday, April 14

### Frank

Lenny Abrahamson, 95 minutes, USA, 2014  
An offbeat comedy about a young wannabe musician, Jon (Domhnall Gleeson), who finds himself out of his depth when he joins an avant-garde pop band



### Frank

led by the mysterious and enigmatic Frank (Michael Fassbender), a musical genius who hides himself inside a large fake head, and his terrifying bandmate Clara (Maggie Gyllenhaal).  
Written by Jon Ronson (*The Men Who Stare at Goats*) and Peter Straughan (*Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, *The Men Who Stare at Goats*), *Frank* is based on the memoir by Jon Ronson. It is a fictional story loosely inspired by Frank Sidebottom, the persona of cult musician and comedy legend Chris Sievey, as well as other outsider musicians like Daniel Johnston and Captain Beefheart.



### Citizenfour

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## Thursday, April 16

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### *Citizenfour*

Laura Poitras, 114 minutes, Germany, 2014

*Citizenfour* is a real-life thriller unfolding by the minute, giving audiences unprecedented access to filmmaker Laura Poitras and journalist Glenn Greenwald's encounters with Edward Snowden in Hong Kong, as he hands over classified documents providing evidence of mass indiscriminate and illegal invasions of privacy by the National Security Agency (NSA). The film places you in the room with Poitras, Greenwald, and Snowden as they attempt to manage the media storm raging outside, forced to make quick decisions that will impact their lives and all of those around them.



***Stumped***

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## Tuesday, April 21

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### *Stumped*

Robin Berghaus, 10 minutes, USA, 2014

*Comedy set by Will Lautzenheiser and Q&A w/ Will and director Robin Berghaus will follow* *Stumped* is a documentary about the survival and physical rehabilitation of a filmmaker who suddenly finds himself a quadruple amputee. It highlights the trials and triumphs of adapting to a world he never could have imagined, including his first stand-up comedy performance.

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## Thursday, April 23

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The Bright Lights screening and talk series is sponsored by the Department of Visual and Media Arts at Emerson College. The mission of the series is to provide engaging visual media-related events to the Emerson College community as well as the wider Boston community. These events range from screening of student, faculty, and alumni work to the work of local, national, and international artists as well as demonstrations, lectures, discussions, and presentations by industry professionals. Bright Lights seeks to create an environment where visual media is not only viewed and appreciated but also where a dialogue is fostered and a community of media makers, academics, and aficionados are engaged and supported. Screenings take place every Tuesday and Thursday when the College is in session and are free and open to the public.

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