

Emerson  
COLLEGE

Department of Visual  
and Media Arts



bright  
lights  
film series

Fall 2017 Calendar

Web: [emerson.edu/brightlights](http://emerson.edu/brightlights)



/BrightLightsEmerson



@BrightLightFilm



BrightLightsEmerson

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

Paramount Center  
559 Washington Street  
Boston, MA





*Get Out*

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**Tuesday,  
September 19**

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**Get Out**

Directed by Jordan Peele, horror/suspense, 104 minutes, USA, 2017

It's time for a young African American to meet with his white girlfriend's parents for a weekend in their secluded estate in the woods, but before long, the friendly and polite ambience will give way to a nightmare. Discussion led by Assistant Professor Erika Williams to follow.

**POC** **F**



*Risk*

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**Thursday,  
September 21**

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**Risk**

Directed by Laura Poitras, documentary, 92 minutes, USA, 2017

Laura Poitras, Academy Award winning director of *CITIZENFOUR*, returns with her most personal and intimate film to date. Filmed over

six years, *Risk* is a complex and volatile character study that collides with a high stakes election year and its controversial aftermath. Cornered in a tiny building for half a decade, Julian Assange is undeterred even as the legal jeopardy he faces threatens to undermine the organization he leads and fracture the movement he inspired. In a new world order where a single keystroke can alter history, *Risk* is a portrait of power, betrayal, truth, and sacrifice. Discussion led by Assistant Professor Russell Newman to follow.

**W** **SJ** **I**

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**Tuesday,  
September 26**

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**Wander, Wonder,  
Wilderness**

Sponsored by the Boston Literary District

Directed by Paul Turano, documentary, 58 minutes, USA, 2015

*Wander, Wonder, Wilderness* is a documentary project that explores the urban wilds and parks of Greater Boston. This hourlong essay film chronicles



**Wander,  
Wonder, Wilderness**



*Chavela*

the filmmaker's engagement with green spaces in an urban environment and explores the complex notions that they reveal about human ecology. Discussion with director and Assistant Professor Paul Turano to follow.

**EC**

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**Thursday,  
September 28**

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**Chavela**

Presented as part of the Boston Latino International Film Festival and sponsored by Wicked Queer

Directed by Catherine Gund and Daresha Kyi, documentary, 90 minutes, USA, 2017

Through its lyrical structure, *Chavela* will take viewers on an evocative, thought-provoking journey through the iconoclastic life of game-changing artist Chavela Vargas. Centered around never-before-seen interview footage of Chavela shot 20 years before her death in 2012, and guided by the stories in Chavela's songs and the myths and tales others have told about her—as well as those she spread about herself—the film weaves an arresting portrait of a woman who dared to dress, speak, sing, and dream her unique

life into being. Discussion with co-director Daresha Kyi to follow via Skype.

**POC** **LGBTQ** **W** **I**

## Tuesday, October 3

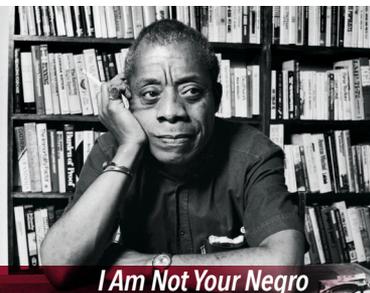
### *I Am Not Your Negro*

Sponsored by Writing, Literature and Publishing & Wicked Queer

Directed by Raoul Peck, documentary, 93 minutes, USA, 2017

In 1979, James Baldwin wrote a letter to his literary agent describing his next project, *Remember This House*. The book was to be a revolutionary, personal account of the lives and assassinations of three of his close friends: Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King Jr. At the time of Baldwin's death in 1987, he left behind only 30 completed pages of this manuscript. Filmmaker Raoul Peck envisions the book James Baldwin never finished. Panel discussion led by Associate Professor Kimberly McLarin to follow.

**POC** **SJ** **LGBTQ**



*I Am Not Your Negro*



### *Whose Streets?*

## Thursday, October 5

### *Whose Streets?*

Sponsored by EBONI and the offices of Intercultural Student Affairs and Diversity and Inclusion

Directed by Sabaah Folayan, documentary, 90 minutes, USA, 2017

Told by the activists and leaders who live and breathe this movement for justice, *Whose Streets?* is an unflinching look at the Ferguson uprising. When unarmed teenager Michael Brown is killed by police and left lying in the street for hours, it marks a breaking point for the residents of St. Louis, Missouri. Grief, long-standing racial tensions, and renewed anger bring residents together to hold vigil and protest this latest tragedy. Empowered parents, artists, and teachers from around the country come together as freedom fighters. As the national guard descends on Ferguson with military grade weaponry, these young community members become the torchbearers of a new resistance. Discussion with director Sabaah Folayan to follow.

**POC** **W** **SJ**

## Key

**F** Feminist (Bath Film Festival rating)

**W** Directed by women

**POC** Directed by or featuring people of color

**EC** Emerson College community

**D** Dealing with disability issues

**I** International cinema

**LGBTQ** Dealing with LGBTQ issues

**SJ** Social Justice cinema

**COM** Comedy

## About the "F-Rating"

The F-rating was founded by Holly Tarquini at Bath Film Festival 2014, where she wanted to highlight films that feature prominent women both behind the camera and in front of it. Every film that ticks "yes" to the one of the following questions receives the F-rating of approval:

(1) Does it have a female director?  
(2) Is it written by a woman?  
(3) Is/are there complex female characters on screen who exist in their own right (not simply there to support to the male lead)?  
The F stands for *feminist*. Feminism is:

"The belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities." We believe that feminism benefits everyone.  
[bathfilmfestival.org.uk/f-rated](http://bathfilmfestival.org.uk/f-rated)



## *Kedi*

### **Tuesday, October 10**

#### *Kedi*

Directed by Ceyda Torun, documentary, 80 minutes, Turkey, 2016

Hundreds of thousands of cats have roamed the metropolis of Istanbul freely for thousands of years, wandering in and out of people's lives, impacting them in ways only an animal who lives between the worlds of the wild and the tamed can. Cats and their kittens bring joy and purpose to those they choose, giving people an opportunity to reflect on life and their place in it. In Istanbul, cats are the mirrors to ourselves. Discussion with director Ceyda Torun to follow via Skype. **W I POC**

### **Thursday, October 12**

#### **The Black Maria Film Festival**

Various directors, animation/experimental/documentary, 101 minutes, USA/Netherlands/Poland, 2016

Black Maria is an international juried film competition. It has



#### **The Black Maria Film Festival**

embraced its mission for 35 years by focusing on short films including those that shine a light on issues and struggles within contemporary society. The touring programs always include provocative works. The festival advances and exhibits the work of diverse filmmakers from across the U.S. and around the world. These artists often represent an underserved constituency who might not otherwise have the opportunity for live public exhibition nationwide or abroad. The festival will be screening a curated selection of animation, documentary, and experimental shorts. A discussion led by Professor Rob Todd with a few of the directors, including Assistant Professor Paul Turano, to follow.

**W F I POC EC**



#### **Band Aid**

### **Tuesday, October 17**

#### *Band Aid*

Sponsored by the Independent Film Festival of Boston and the Office of Alumni Relations

Directed by Zoe Lister-Jones, comedy, 91 minutes, USA, 2017

Anna and Ben can't stop fighting. Advised by their therapist to try and work through their grief unconventionally, they are

reminded of their shared love of music. In a last-ditch effort to save their marriage, they decide to turn all of their fights into songs, and with the help of their neighbor, Dave, they start a band. Discussion with alumni producers Natalia Anderson and Kristen Murtha to follow via Skype.

**W F EC COM**



#### **Colossal**

### **Thursday, October 19**

#### *Colossal*

Directed by Nacho Viglondo, drama/comedy, 89 minutes, USA/Spain, 2016

Gloria is an out-of-work party girl forced to leave her life in New York City and move back home. When reports surface that a giant creature is destroying Seoul, she gradually comes to the realization that she is somehow connected to this phenomenon. Discussion led by Assistant Professor Sarah Zaidan to follow.

**F I COM**



#### **Rasheed**

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## Tuesday, October 24

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### Rasheed

Presented as part of the Boston Palestine Film Festival

Directed by Samia Badih, documentary, 74 minutes, USA/Lebanon, UAE, 2017

*Rasheed* documents the life of Badih's late uncle, Rasheed Broum, who was killed at the age of 29 in an airstrike in the city of Sidon during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982—three years before she was born. More than 30 years after the tragedy, Badih goes on a quest to find out more about her uncle's story of life and death, as it is told by the friends and family who survived him and knew him best, mainly his sister Rasha and his best friend Ghassan. At the heart of the film is the story of Rasheed's sister, Rasha, who has not coped well with her brother's loss. *Rasheed* captures one of the many war stories from the southern city of Sidon, Lebanon, through Badih's own personal journey. Discussion with director Samia Badih to follow via Skype.

W POC SJ I

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## Thursday, October 26

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### *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*

Sponsored by the President's Office, Academic Affairs, Office of Sustainability, Spirit of Emerson, Earth Emerson, Environmental Studies, and Green Gala



### *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*

Directed by Bonni Cohen and Jon Shenk, documentary, 98 minutes, USA, 2017

A sequel to *An Inconvenient Truth*, the follow-up documentary addresses the progress made to tackle the problem of climate change and Al Gore's global efforts to persuade governmental leaders to invest in renewable energy, culminating in the landmark signing of 2016's Paris Climate Agreement. Live stream Q&A with Al Gore to follow.

W SJ



### *Prevenge*

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## Tuesday, October 31

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### *Prevenge*

Sponsored by the Boston Underground Film Festival

Directed by Alice Lowe, drama/horror, 88 minutes, UK, 2016

A pitch black, wryly British comedy from the mind of Alice

Lowe, *Prevenge* follows Ruth, a pregnant woman on a killing spree that's as funny as it is vicious. It's her misanthropic unborn baby dictating Ruth's actions, holding society responsible for the absence of a father. The child speaks to Ruth from the womb, coaching her to lure and ultimately kill her unsuspecting victims. Struggling with her conscience, loneliness, and a strange strain of prepartum madness, Ruth must ultimately choose between redemption and destruction at the moment of motherhood. Discussion led by Boston Underground Film Festival artistic director Kevin Monahan to follow.

W F I



### *The Love Witch*

## Thursday, November 2

### *The Love Witch*

Sponsored by the Boston Underground Film Festival

Directed by Anna Biller, comedy/horror, 120 minutes, USA, 2016

Elaine, a beautiful young witch, is determined to find a man to love her. In her gothic Victorian apartment, she makes spells and potions and then picks up men and seduces them. However, her spells work too well, leaving her with a string of hapless victims. When she finally meets the man of her dreams, her desperation to be loved will drive her to the brink of insanity and murder. With a visual style that pays tribute to Technicolor thrillers of the '60s, *The Love Witch* explores female fantasy and the repercussions of pathological narcissism. Discussion with director Anna Biller to follow via Skype.

W F

## Tuesday, November 7

### *The Witness*

Sponsored by Student Accessibility Services and the Office of the General Counsel



Directed by James D Solomon, documentary, 89 minutes, USA, 2015

Kitty Genovese became synonymous with apathy after news that she was stabbed to death on a New York City street while 38 witnesses did nothing. Forty years later, her brother decides to find the truth. He uncovers a lie that transformed his life, condemned a city, and defined an era. Discussion with subject Bill Genovese to follow.

SJ D LGBTQ

## Thursday, November 9

### *Edgar Allan Poe: Buried Alive*

Sponsored by the Independent Film Festival of Boston and Writing, Literature and Publishing

Directed by Eric Stange, documentary, 84 minutes, USA, 2016

After his death, writer Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849) became a global icon of modern literature and a pop culture brand. An orphan in search of family, love, and literary fame, Poe struggled with alcoholism and was also a product of early 19th century American urban life:

depressed from the era's culture of death due to the high mortality rate and the struggles of living in poverty. Poe famously died under mysterious circumstances and his cause of death remains unknown. Discussion with director Eric Stange to follow.



## Tuesday, November 14

### *The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson*

Part of Trans Awareness Week

Sponsored by Wicked Queer, the Mass Trans Political Coalition, Hispanic Black Gay Coalition, and the Office of Intercultural Student Affairs

Directed by David France, documentary, 105 minutes, USA, 2017

David France directed this documentary look at the life of Marsha P. Johnson, a notable activist for trans rights in New York City who was found dead in 1992. France enlists Johnson's former friends and activists to reconstruct her life of political advocacy and try to piece together the events that led to her death. Discussion with producer L.A. Teodisio to follow.

POC LGBTQ SJ



**Thursday,  
November 16**

**Silversonic**

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 talk back with musicians and filmmakers.

**EC POC W**



**Tuesday,  
November 28**

**Motherland**

Sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations

Directed by Ramona Diaz, documentary, 94 minutes, USA/Philippines, 2017

Taking us into the heart of the planet's busiest maternity hospital, the viewer is dropped like an unseen outsider into the hospital's stream of activity. At first, the people are strangers. As the film continues, it's absorbingly intimate, rendering the women at the heart of the story increasingly familiar. Discussion with alumna director Ramona Diaz to follow.

**W POC I EC**

**Thursday,  
November 30**

**Weird Healing: The Animation of Opertura**

Directed by Aya Yamasaki and Jason Brown, animation, 70 minutes, USA, 2017

Opertura is the collaborative artist unit formed by Aya Yamasaki and Jason Brown. They create hand-drawn animation, illustration, comics, installation, and more, drawing inspiration from the natural and magical world, the humorous and tragic, and folk storytelling traditions.



**Weird Healing: The Animation of Opertura**

Their work has screened and been presented domestically and abroad. Discussion with directors Aya Yamasaki and Jason Brown to follow.

**POC W**

**Tuesday, December 5**

**Stumped**

Sponsored by the Independent Film Festival of Boston, Wicked Queer, ReelAbilities, and Student Accessibility Services

Directed by Robin Berghaus, documentary, 72 minutes, USA, 2017

When filmmaker Will Lautzenheiser's limbs are amputated, his life is derailed and he turns to





**Tom of Finland**

stand-up comedy as therapy. Meanwhile, a world-famous medical team is performing transplants that restore bodies to unprecedented levels. Despite grave risks, Will agrees to undergo an experimental double-arm transplant in the hope of reclaiming his independence. Discussion with director Robin Berghaus and subject Will Lautzenheiser to follow.

**W D LGBTQ**

**Thursday, December 7**

**Tom of Finland**

Sponsored by Wicked Queer

Directed by Dome Karukoski, drama, 115 minutes, Finland, 2017

Touko Laaksonen, a decorated officer, returns home after



**The Beguiled**

a harrowing and heroic experience serving his country in World War II, but life in Finland during peacetime proves equally distressing. He finds peace-time Helsinki rampant with persecution of the homosexual and men around him even being pressured to marry women and have children. Touko finds refuge in his liberating art, specializing in homoerotic drawings of muscular men, free of inhibitions. His work made famous by his signature "Tom of Finland" became the emblem of a generation of men and fanned the flames of a gay revolution. Discussion led by faculty to follow.

**LGBTQ I**

**Tuesday, December 12**

**The Beguiled**

Directed by Sofia Coppola, drama, 93 minutes, USA, 2017

Corporal John McBurney is an injured Union soldier who finds himself on the run as a deserter during the Civil War. He seeks refuge at an all-female Southern boarding school where the teachers and students seem more than willing to help. Soon, sexual tensions lead to dangerous rivalries as the women tend to his wounded leg while offering him comfort and companionship. Discussion led by Associate Professor Miranda Banks to follow.

**W F**



**bright lights film series**

The Bright Lights Film Series is sponsored by the Department of Visual and Media Arts at Emerson College. The mission of the series is to create community through cinema and welcomes both Emerson faculty, students, and staff as well as the general public. Bright Lights seeks to create an environment where cinema is not only viewed and appreciated but where a dialogue is fostered and a community of media makers, academics, and aficionados are engaged and supported. The series is committed to screening at least 50 percent of films directed by women and crafting a diverse program including filmmakers of color, queer cinema, and films dealing with disability.

Screenings take place every Tuesday and Thursday evening during the semester with the exception of occasions when the College is closed (such as holidays, spring break, inclement weather). Sessions are always free and open to the public. This series is curated and managed by the director of programming, Anna Feder.

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