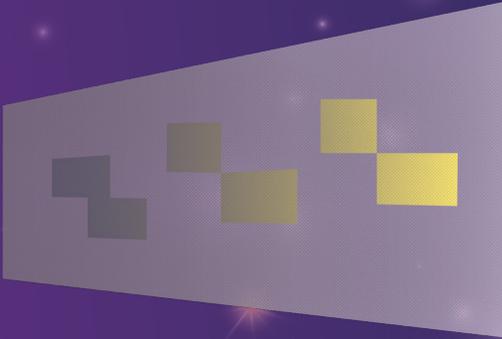


Department of Visual and Media Arts

Fall 2022 Program



BRIGHT LIGHTS CINEMA SERIES

Web: emerson.edu/brightlights

 /BrightLightsEmerson

 @BrightLightFilm

 BrightLightsEmerson



Every Thursday at 7:00 pm
during the semester

All screenings are free
and open to the public.

Key

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



A note on accessibility: All Bright Lights films will include closed captioning, All trailers and conversations will have open captions, which will appear for all viewers. For more information on accessibility in the Bright, visit <https://websites.emerson.edu/brightlights/accessibility>.

The Bright Lights Film Series implemented an advisory in Fall 2019 to notify our community about potentially disturbing content. This information will be made available for those who seek it out at websites.emerson.edu/brightlights/content-advisory.

How to access screenings

Tickets are free and available on a first come basis only at the Paramount Center box office (559 Washington Street) starting at noon on the day of show. Keep an eye on our social media to see if a film is likely to “sell out.” Individual tickets are not available to reserve on line or in advance of the screening day. Any Emerson classes or community organizations attending as a group may reach out to brightlightsemerson@gmail.com to reserve seats.

COVID protocols

All patrons, including Emerson Community, must provide either proof that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or proof of a recent negative COVID test to be admitted into any Bright Lights screening. A Shared Code of Conduct between ArtsEmerson (hosts of the Bright Lights Cinema Series) and patrons can be found at artsemerson.org. Guidelines which include clear language regarding vaccination and testing requirements and a requirement to stay home if you aren’t feeling well can be found on their website as well.

Masks are mandatory. Any and all patrons must wear a mask covering their nose and mouth at all times. KN95s and well-fitting 3-ply surgical masks are recommended. If a patron arrives without a mask, one will be provided by Guest Experience or Box Office staff. Eating and drinking is not permitted in the cinema at this time.

For more information, visit <https://artsemerson.org/>.



Thursday, September 22nd

Everything Everywhere, All at Once

POC F LGBTQ D EC

Co-presented with the Boston Asian American Film Festival, the Boston Underground Film Festival, Wicked Queer and the Office of Alumni Relations

Directed by Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, drama/comedy, English, Mandarin and Cantonese with English subtitles, US, 149 minutes, 2022

When an interdimensional rupture unravels reality, an unlikely hero must channel her newfound powers to fight bizarre and bewildering dangers from the multiverse as the fate of the world hangs in the balance. Discussion with alumni cast and crew following the screening.



Thursday, September 29th

Fly So Far

POC W SJ I

Co-presented as part of Cinefest Latino with the Boston Women's Film Festival, GlobeDocs, and the Roxbury International Film Festival

Directed by Celina Escher, documentary, Spanish with English subtitles, El Salvador, 88 minutes, 2021

After serving ten years behind bars for her miscarriage, considered by her government to be an act of aggravated murder, Teodora Vásquez becomes a spokesperson for the other 16 Salvadoran women behind bars for the same "crime" in this story of sorority, resilience, and solidarity. Panel discussion on abortion access at home and abroad following the screening.



Thursday, October 6th

See You Then

POC W F LGBTQ EC

Co-presented with Wicked Queer, the Boston Women's Film Festival, the Boston Asian American Film Festival and the Office of Alumni Relations

Directed by Mari Walker, drama, English, US, 74 minutes, 2021

A decade after abruptly breaking up with Naomi, Kris invites her to dinner to catch up on their complicated lives, relationships, and Kris' transition. Over a night of intimate and vulnerable conversations, a shocking truth is revealed. Discussion with director Mari Walker ('08) following the screening.



Thursday, October 13th

Subject

POC W SJ

Co-presented with the Boston Women's Film Festival and GlobeDocs

Directed by Camilla Hall and Jennifer Tiexera, documentary, English, US, 97 minutes, 2022

Subject focuses on the ethics and responsibility inherent in documentary filmmaking. It examines well-known documentaries of the past decade and reveals the impact their commercial success has had on the lives of the onscreen subjects. Discussion with director Jennifer Tiexera and subject Ahmed Hassan from *The Square* following the screening.



Thursday, October 20th

Salma's Home

POC W F I EC

Co-presented as part of the Boston Palestine Film Festival with the Boston Women's Film Festival and the Roxbury International Film Festival

Directed by Hanadi Elyan, drama/comedy, Arabic with English subtitles, Jordan, 95 minutes, 2022

Three Arab women living in modern day Jordan must put their differences aside and work together in order to survive. Tangled in a family drama after Bakri dies, his two wives and his adopted daughter navigate his inheritance, finding out that the only way forward is to try and make peace with each other. Discussion with filmmaker and Emerson professor Hanadi Elyan following the screening.



Thursday, October 27th

Free Chol Soo Lee

POC W SJ

Co-presented as part of the Boston Asian American Film Festival and with the Roxbury International Film Festival

Directed by Julie Ha and Eugene Yi, documentary, English and Korean with English subtitles, US, 83 minutes, 2021

In 1970s San Francisco, 20-year-old Korean immigrant Chol Soo Lee is racially profiled and convicted of a Chinatown gang murder. After

spending years fighting to survive, investigative journalist K.W. Lee takes a special interest in his case, igniting an unprecedented social justice movement. Panel discussion on the role and benefits of community based journalists following the screening.



Thursday, November 3rd

God's Country

POC F EC

Co-presented with the Roxbury International Film Festival, the Independent Film Festival Boston and the Office of Alumni Relations

Directed by Julian Higgins, drama, English, US, 103 minutes, 2022

Based on a short story by acclaimed author James Lee Burke, *God's Country* is a character-driven thriller set in the snowy wilderness of the American West. Sandra Guidry is a Black professor living and working in a rural college town. She's also grieving her recently-deceased mother, for whom she'd served as primary caretaker. On the day of the burial, Sandra discovers a mysterious red truck parked in her driveway. She soon learns it belongs to a pair of local hunters seeking to enter the forest behind her house. Sandra turns them away politely but firmly—her experience tells her these are not the sort of men to welcome freely into her world. But they won't take no for an answer, and soon Sandra finds herself drawn into an escalating battle of wills that puts her most deeply-held values to the test. Conversation with director and affiliated faculty Julian Higgins ('08) to follow.



Thursday, November 10th

Potato Dreams of America

F LGBTQ

Co-presented with Wicked Queer and the Boston Underground Film Festival

Directed by Wes Hurley, drama/ comedy, English, US, 97 minutes, 2021

Struggling to survive in the USSR during the turbulent years of Perestroika, Lena and her gay son, Potato, escape into the fantasy world of pirated American movies, but soon the movies are not enough and Elena decides to become a mail-order bride and discover America for herself. Soon after Lena marries a much older and very eccentric John, the mother and son find that they're in for a lot of surprises. Closely based on the writer-director Wes Hurley's childhood, *Potato Dreams of America* is one of those stories that prove that real life is often much stranger than fiction. Discussion with director Wes Hurley and producer Mischa Jakupcak to follow.



Thursday, November 17th

Trans Awareness Week: Mama Bears

POC W SJ LGBTQ

Co-presented with Wicked Queer, Globe Docs and the Roxbury International Film Festival
Directed by Dareshai Kyi, documentary, English, US, 90 minutes, 2021

Mama Bears explores the many ways in which the lives of conservative, Christian mothers are impacted and utterly transformed when they decide to affirm and advocate on behalf of their LGBTQ children. As members of a private Facebook group—which they call the “mama bears” because of the fierceness with which its members fight for their offspring’s rights—they offer one another support and understanding in the struggle to overcome the teachings of their evangelical churches. Panel discussion on support and advocacy for queer youth to follow.

The cinema will be dark Thursday, November 24th in observance of Thanksgiving and the Indigenous led National Day of Mourning



Thursday, December 1st

Neptune Frost

POC W F I SJ

Co-presented with the Boston Underground Film Festival, the Boston SciFi Film Festival and the Roxbury International Film Festival

Directed by Saul Williams and Anisia Uzeyman, SciFi/Fantasy, English, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Swahili, French with English subtitles, Rwanda, 105 minutes, 2021

A group of escaped coltan miners forms an anti-colonialist computer hacker collective in the hilltops of Burundi. They soon attempt a takeover of the authoritarian regime that’s exploiting the region’s natural resources—and its people. Discussion led by Emerson professor Wendy Walters following the screening.



Thursday, December 8th

Long Live My Happy Head

LGBTQ SJ I

Co-presented with Wicked Queer and GlobeDocs

Directed by Will Hewitt and Austen McCowan, documentary, English, UK, 90 minutes, 2022

What would you do if you were told you had a dramatically life-shortening illness when you were 32 years old? Start making comic books about it of course! Well, that's what Gordon did anyway. Gordon is a Scottish comic book artist with a big bushy beard, very expressive eyebrows—oh, and an inoperable, incurable brain tumor. By making autobiographical comics about his experience, he is able to communicate his thoughts and reactions to cancer in a medium and a language that is disarming, accessible and inviting. Discussion with directors Will Hewitt and Austen McCowan to follow.



Thursday, December 15th

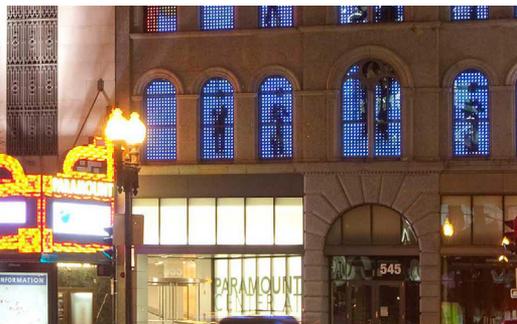
Fire of Love

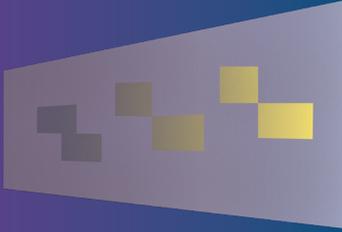
W I EN

Co-presented with GlobeDocs, The Boston Women's Film Festival, the Independent Film Festival Boston and the French Cultural Center

Directed by Sara Dosa, documentary, English and French with English subtitles, Canada/US, 98 minutes, 2022

Katia and Maurice Krafft loved two things—each other and volcanoes. For two decades, the daring French volcanologist couple roamed the planet, chasing eruptions and documenting their discoveries. Ultimately, they lost their lives in a 1991 volcanic explosion, leaving a legacy that forever enriched our knowledge of the natural world. Director Sara Dosa and the filmmaking team fashion a lyrical celebration of the intrepid scientists' spirit of adventure, drawing from the Kraffts' spectacular archive. *Fire of Love* tells a story of primordial creation and destruction, following two bold explorers as they venture into the unknown, all for the sake of love. Discussion with director Sara Dosa to follow.





BRIGHT LIGHTS CINEMA SERIES

The Bright Lights Cinema 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 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, and seating is on a first-come basis. This series is curated and managed by the head of film exhibition and festival programs, Anna Feder.

Contact: Anna Feder
Head of Film Exhibition and Festival Programs
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617-824-3805



Visual and Media Arts

