



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 2016
Calendar



The Final Girls

Thursday, January 28

The Final Girls

Directed by Todd Strauss-Schulson, narrative (horror/comedy), 91 minutes, USA, 2015

Max, recently orphaned, goes to see a screening of a B-horror movie that her mother made 20 years earlier. When Max and her friends find themselves in the world of the film itself, they must apply their knowledge of horror tropes to survive. Discussion with director and alumnus Todd Strauss-Schulson '03 to follow.

EC COM

Tuesday, February 2

American Beatboxer

Directed by Manauvaskar Kublall, documentary, 88 minutes, USA, 2013

Contestants of all races from all over the United States competed. Now it's down to the eight finalists!

This documentary honors the evolution of beatboxing juxtaposed against the final day of competition to crown the first American beatboxing champion. This film documents one of the most neglected genres of hip-hop culture and places it in its rightful place in hip-hop history as well as an American art form. Discussion with producer Rich McKeown and beatboxer Gene Shinozaki to follow. **POC**



American Beatboxer

**Thursday,
February 4**

Truth

Directed by James Vanderbilt, narrative (drama), 125 minutes, USA, 2015

Truth is a newsroom drama detailing the 2004 CBS *60 Minutes* report investigating then-President George W. Bush's military service and the subsequent firestorm of criticism that cost anchor Dan Rather and producer Mary Mapes their careers. Discussion led by faculty to follow. **F SJ**



Truth

Tuesday, February 9

The Wolfpack

Co-sponsored by the UMass Boston Film Series

Directed by Crystal Moselle, documentary, 90 minutes, USA, 2015

The Wolfpack is a coming-of-age story following the six Angulo brothers who have spent their entire lives locked away from society in an apartment on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. All they know of the outside world is gleaned from the films they watch obsessively and re-create meticulously, using elaborate homemade props and costumes. For years, this



The Wolfpack

has served as a productive way to stave off loneliness—but when one of the brothers escapes, everything changes. Discussion led by members of the Angulo family to follow.

W POC



The Diary of a Teenage Girl

**Thursday,
February 11**

The Diary of a Teenage Girl

Directed by Marielle Heller, narrative (drama), 102 minutes, USA, 2014

Like most teenage girls, Minnie Goetze is longing for love, acceptance, and a sense of purpose in the world. Minnie begins a complex love affair with her mother's

boyfriend, "the handsomest man in the world," Monroe. What follows is a sharp, funny, and provocative account of one girl's sexual and artistic awakening, without judgment. Discussion with producer Anne Carey to follow. **F W**

**Tuesday,
February 16**

Drunk, Stoned, Brilliant Dead

Directed by Douglas Tirola, documentary, 98 minutes, USA, 2015

Drunk, Stoned, Brilliant Dead tells the story of three Harvard graduates who created the *National Lampoon*. Featuring rare and

Key

- F** Feminist (Bath Film Festival rating)
- W** Films directed by women
- POC** Films directed by or featuring people of color
- SJ** Social justice film
- LGBT** Queer themed
- EC** Emerson College community
- 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

Drunk, Stoned, Brilliant Dead



never-before-seen footage, this movie chronicles the *National Lampoon* from its subversive and electrifying beginnings, to rebirth as an unlikely Hollywood heavyweight, and beyond. Told through fresh, candid interviews with its key staff and illustrated with hundreds of outrageous images from the magazine itself, the film gives fans of the *Lampoon* a unique inside look at what made the magazine tick. Discussion led by faculty to follow. **COM**

Thursday, February 18

BOSCPUG Presents: 5-25-77

Directed by Patrick Read Johnson, narrative (drama), 118 minutes, USA, 2015

Alienated, sci-fi obsessed teen filmmaker Pat Johnson must overcome his fear of leaving behind everything he knows and loves to chase his dream. Despite a head full of film knowledge and

an imagination exploding with impossible cinematic dreams, Pat is doubtful that anyone from his hometown of Wadsworth, Illinois (pop. 750) could ever make a mark in Hollywood. As he approaches high school graduation, he grows more and more resigned to a life of factory work. Disheartened by her son's dejection, Pat's mom cold calls the editor of *American Cinematographer* magazine in a desperate attempt to open a door of career possibilities. Discussion with director Patrick Read Johnson to follow.

Tuesday, February 23

Auf Das Leben (To Life!)

Directed by Uwe Janson, narrative (drama), 90 minutes, Germany, 2014

Auf Das Leben, which translates into English as "to life!" and into Hebrew as "L'Chaim!," the celebrated Jewish toast, is



The Look of Silence

the unashamedly *Harold and Maude*-like story of two very unlikely individuals: the aging cabaret singer Ruth and the seriously ill young Jonas, who, despite their great age difference and their entirely opposite lifetime experiences, form an intense bond and give each other a reason and purpose to live. Discussion with writer and VMA faculty Stephen Glantz to follow. **F EC**

Thursday, February 25

The Look of Silence

Co-sponsored by the Independent Film Festival of Boston

Directed by Joshua Oppenheimer, documentary, 103 minutes, Denmark/Finland/Indonesia/Norway/UK, 2014

Through Oppenheimer's footage of perpetrators of the 1965 Indonesian genocide, a family of survivors discovers how their son was murdered, as well as the identities of the killers. The documentary focuses on the youngest son, an optometrist

Auf Das Leben (To Life!)



named Adi, who decides to break the suffocating spell of submission and terror by doing something unimaginable in a society where the murderers remain in power: he confronts the men who killed his brother and, while testing their eyesight, asks them to accept responsibility for their actions. This unprecedented film initiates and bears witness to the collapse of 50 years of silence. Discussion led by faculty to follow. **POC SJ**

Tuesday, March 1

The Amazing Nina Simone

Directed by Jeff L. Lieberman, documentary, 110 minutes, USA, 2015

Nina Simone was both loved and feared throughout the 1960s for her outspoken vision of Black Freedom. Today, Nina is more popular 11 years after her death than ever before. President Barack



Room

Obama listed “Sinnerman” in his top 5 favorite songs, and whether re-mixed, re-sampled or in its pure form, Nina’s music continues to empower people around the world with its unrelenting appeal for justice. *The Amazing Nina Simone* reveals the real Nina Simone through more than 50 intimate and exclusive interviews with those who best knew the artistry and intentions of one of America’s true musical geniuses. Discussion with director Jeff Lieberman to follow. **POC SJ**

[The Bright will be closed March 3–10 for spring break.](#)

Tuesday, March 15

Room

Co-sponsored by the Independent Film Festival of Boston

Directed by Lenny Abrahamson, narrative (drama), 117 minutes, Canada/Ireland, 2015

Room tells the extraordinary story of Jack, a spirited 5-year-old who is looked after by his loving and devoted Ma. Like any good mother, Ma dedicates herself to keeping Jack happy and safe, nurturing him with warmth and love and doing typical things like playing games and telling stories. Their life, however, is anything but typical: they are trapped—confined to a windowless, 10-by-10-foot space, which Ma has euphemistically named “Room.” But as Jack’s curiosity about their situation grows and Ma’s resilience reaches its breaking point, they enact a risky plan to escape, ultimately bringing them face to face

The Amazing Nina Simone



with what may turn out to be the scariest thing yet: the real world. Discussion led by faculty to follow. **F**



Tangerine

Thursday, March 17

Tangerine

Co-sponsored by EBONI, EAGLE, and the Office of Student Life

Directed by Sean S. Baker, narrative (comedy/drama), 88 minutes, USA, 2015

It's Christmas Eve in Tinseltown and Sin-Dee is back on the block. Upon hearing that her pimp boyfriend hasn't been faithful during the 28 days she was locked up, the sex worker and her best friend, Alexandra, embark on a mission to get to the bottom of the scandalous rumor. Their rip-roaring odyssey leads them through various subcultures of Los Angeles. Discussion with actress Mya Taylor to follow.

POC F LGBT COM

Tuesday, March 22

Rebel

Directed by Maria Agui Carter, documentary, 75 minutes, USA, 2013

Rebel is the story of a woman, a myth, and the politics of national memory. Shrouded in mystery and long the subject of debate, the amazing story of Loretta Velazquez is one of the Civil War's most gripping forgotten narratives. While the U.S. military may have recently lifted the ban on women in combat, Loretta Janeta Velazquez, a Cuban immigrant from New Orleans, was fighting in battle 150 years ago—one of an estimated 1,000 women who secretly served as soldiers during the American Civil War. Who was she? Why did she fight? And what made her so dangerous that she has been virtually erased from history? Discussion with director and VMA producer-in-residence Maria Agui Carter to follow.

W SJ POC EC

Rebel



An Open Secret

Thursday, March 24

An Open Secret

Directed by Amy J. Berg, documentary, 99 minutes, USA, 2015

An Open Secret is about five child actors whose lives were turned upside down by multiple predators and convicted sex offenders. The film looks at the lives of these children betrayed and abandoned by a system that essentially funnels them toward sexual predators without any oversight or regard for their safety. It documents not only these young people's experiences, but also how some have emerged stronger for their speaking out. It begs the question of why children working in entertainment aren't afforded the same protections they are afforded at school and argues for more effective treatment and stronger penalties for child sex offenders. Panel discussion including producer Matt Valentinas to follow.

W SJ

Tuesday, March 29

Cheatin'

Directed by Bill Plympton,
narrative (animation), 76
minutes, USA, 2013

In a fateful bumper car collision, Jake and Ella meet and become the most loving couple in the long history of romance. But when a scheming "other" woman drives a wedge of jealousy into their perfect courtship, insecurity and hatred spell out an untimely fate. With only the help of a disgraced magician and his forbidden "soul machine," Ella takes the form of Jake's numerous lovers, desperately fighting through the malfunction and deceit as they try to reclaim their destiny. Discussion with director Bill Plympton to follow. [COM](#)



Cheatin'

Thursday, March 31

Forbidden Room

Directed by Guy Maddin,
co-directed by Evan Johnson,
narrative (drama, comedy,



Forbidden Room

mystery), 130 minutes, USA,
2015

A never-before-seen woodsman mysteriously appears aboard a submarine that's been trapped deep underwater for months with an unstable cargo. As the terrified crew members make their way through the corridors of the doomed vessel, they find themselves on a voyage into the origins of their darkest fears as they wend their way toward progressive ideas on life and love. Discussion with director Guy Maddin to follow. [COM](#)

Tuesday, April 5

Carol

Screening as part of the
Boston LGBT Film Festival

Directed by Todd Haynes,
narrative (drama), 118
minutes, USA, 2015

In an adaptation of Patricia
Highsmith's seminal novel
The Price of Salt, *Carol*

follows two women from
very different backgrounds
who find themselves in
an unexpected love affair
in 1950s New York. As
conventional norms of
the time challenge their
undeniable attraction, an
honest story emerges to
reveal the resilience of the
heart in the face of change.

A young woman in her 20s,
Therese Belivet (Rooney
Mara) is a clerk working in
a Manhattan department
store and dreaming of a
more fulfilling life when she
meets Carol (Cate Blanchett),
an alluring woman trapped
in a loveless, convenient
marriage. As an immediate
connection sparks between

Carol





bright
lights
series

The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution

them, the innocence of their first encounter dims and their connection deepens.



Thursday, April 7

The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution

Co-sponsored by the
Independent Film Festival of
Boston

Part of the It's All True
Documentary Showcase

Directed by Stanley Nelson,
documentary, 115 minutes,
USA, 2015

Change was coming to
America and the fault lines
could no longer be ignored—
cities were burning, Vietnam
was exploding, and disputes
raged over equality and civil
rights. A new revolutionary
culture was emerging and

it sought to drastically
transform the system. The
Black Panther Party for
Self-Defense would, for a
short time, put itself at the
vanguard of that change.

Master documentarian
Stanley Nelson goes straight
to the source, weaving
rare archival footage with
the voices of the people
who were there: police, FBI
informants, journalists, white
supporters and detractors,
Black Panthers who remained
loyal to the party, and those
who left it. Featuring Kathleen
Cleaver, Elaine Brown, Emory
Douglas, Jamal Joseph, and
many others, *The Black
Panthers: Vanguard of the
Revolution* is an essential
history and a vibrant chronicle
of this pivotal movement that
birthed a new revolutionary
culture in America. Discussion
with director Stanley Nelson
to follow. **POC SJ**

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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