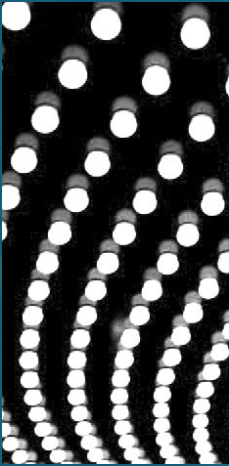


Department of Visual and Media Arts

# Spring 2022 Calendar



## bright lights film series

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

 /BrightLightsEmerson

 @BrightLightFilm

 BrightLightsEmerson



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
- 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 for the deaf and hard of hearing. All trailers and conversations will have open captions, which will appear for all viewers. For more information on accessibility in the Bright, visit [artsemerson.org/visit/accessibility/](https://artsemerson.org/visit/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](https://websites.emerson.edu/brightlights/content-advisory).



**Thursday, January 27**

### *Fanny: The Right to Rock*

**POC** **LGBTQ** **W** **D**

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

Directed by Bobbi Jo Krals, documentary, English, US, 96 minutes, 2021

Sometime in the 1960s, in sunny Sacramento, two Filipina American sisters got together with other teenage girls to play music. Little did they know that their garage band would evolve into the legendary rock group Fanny, the first all-women band to release an LP with a major record label. Despite releasing five critically acclaimed albums over five years, touring with famed bands from Slade to Chicago, and amassing a dedicated fan base of music legends including David Bowie, Fanny's groundbreaking impact in music was written out of history... until bandmates reunite 50 years later with a new rock record deal. Fighting early barriers of race, gender, and sexuality in the music industry, and now ageism, the incredible women of Fanny are ready to claim their hallowed place in the halls of rock 'n' roll fame. Discussion with Fanny co-founder and lead guitarist June Millington to follow. **CC**



**Thursday, February 3**

### *Lamb*

**F** **I**

Co-presented with the Boston Underground Film Festival

Directed by Valdimar Jóhannsson, horror/drama, Icelandic with English subtitles, Iceland, 106 minutes, 2021

In rural Iceland, a childless couple discover a strange and unnatural newborn in their sheep barn. They decide to raise her as their own, but sinister forces are determined to return the creature to the wilderness that birthed her. Discussion led by Emerson College professor Sarah Zaidan to follow. **CC**



**Thursday, February 10**

### *The Wolf of Snow Hollow*

**D** **EC**

Co-presented with the Boston Underground Film Festival and the Emerson College Office of Alumni Relations

Directed by Jim Cummings, drama/comedy, English, US, 83 minutes, 2020

Terror grips a small mountain town as bodies are discovered after each full moon. Losing sleep, raising a teenage daughter, and caring for his ailing father, Officer Marshall struggles to remind himself there's no such thing as werewolves. Discussion with actor, writer, and director Jim Cummings '09 and producer Ben Wiessner '08 to follow. [CC](#)



**Thursday, February 17**

## Bulletproof

**SJ**

Co-presented with the DocYard

**Directed by Todd Chandler, documentary, English, US, 84 minutes, 2020**

*Bulletproof* explores the complexities of violence in schools by looking at the strategies employed to prevent it. The film observes the longstanding rituals that take place in and around American schools: homecoming parades, basketball practice, morning announcements, and math class. Unfolding alongside these scenes are a collection of newer traditions: lockdown drills, teacher firearms training, metal detector screenings, and school safety trade shows. *Bulletproof* asks what these rituals reflect back at us, looking beyond immediate causes and responses to mass shootings in a cinematic meditation on the array of forces that shape the culture of violence

in the United States. Discussion with director Todd Chandler to follow. [CC](#)



**Thursday, February 24**

## Spencer

**F I D**

Co-presented with the Independent Film Festival Boston

**Directed by Pablo Larraín, drama, English, UK/Germany/Chile, 117 minutes, 2021**

The marriage between Princess Diana and Prince Charles has long since grown cold. Though rumors of affairs and a divorce abound, peace is ordained for the Christmas festivities at the Queen's estate. There's eating and drinking, shooting and hunting. Diana knows the game, but this year, things will be profoundly different. Discussion with documentarian Annie Berman to follow. [CC](#)



**Thursday, March 3**

## The Faithful

**W I**

Co-presented by the Boston Women's Film Festival, Boston Jewish Film, and the DocYard

**Directed by Annie Berman, documentary, English and Italian with English subtitles, US, 90 minutes, 2021**

A Pope John Paul II lollipop. An Elvis Presley shower curtain. A Princess Diana teacup. These are just some of the countless pieces of memorabilia that these pop culture icons' most devoted fans collect and cherish—but why? *The Faithful's* director, Annie Berman, explores the deep veneration and legacies of the Pope, the Princess, and the King. Over the course of 20 years, Berman profiles these figures' biggest fans and makes numerous pilgrimages to Vatican City, Graceland, and Kensington Palace. As the years go by, the film itself becomes increasingly entwined with Berman's daily life and identity, much like how these officially licensed knick-knacks define the fans she filmed. Discussion with director Annie Berman to follow. [CC](#)



**Thursday, March 17**

## Tahara

**W F LGBTQ POC**

Co-presented with Wicked Queer, the Boston Underground Film Festival, the Roxbury International Film Festival, and Boston Jewish Film

**Directed by Olivia Peace, drama, English and Hebrew, US, 78 minutes, 2020**

Carrie Lowstein and Hannah Rosen have been inseparable for as long as they can remember. When their former Hebrew school classmate, Samantha Goldstein, commits suicide, the two girls go to her funeral as well as the "Teen Talk-back" session designed to be an opportunity for them to understand grief through their faith. But, after an innocent kissing exercise turns Carrie's world inside out, the best friends find themselves distracted by the teenage complications of lust, social status, and wavering faith. Discussion with faculty to follow.

**CC**



**Thursday, March 24**

## ***Inhabitants: An Indigenous Perspective***

**POC SJ W**

Co-presented with the Roxbury International Film Festival and the *Living on Earth* Podcast

**Directed by Costa Boutsikaris and Anna Palmer, documentary, English, US, 76 minutes, 2021**

*Inhabitants* follows five Native American Tribes across deserts, coastlines, forests, and prairies as they restore their traditional land management practices. For millennia, Native Americans

successfully stewarded and shaped their landscapes, but centuries of colonization have disrupted their ability to maintain traditional land management practices. From deserts, coastlines, forests, mountains, and prairies, Native communities are restoring their ancient relationships with the land. As the climate crisis escalates, these time-tested practices of North America's original inhabitants are becoming increasingly essential in a rapidly changing world. Discussion led by Emerson College professor Adam Spry to follow. **CC**



**Thursday, March 31**

## ***C'mon C'mon***

**D**

Co-presented with the Independent Film Festival Boston

**Directed by Mike Mills, drama, English, US, 109 minutes, 2021**

Johnny is an emotionally stunted and soft spoken radio journalist who travels the country interviewing a variety of kids about their thoughts concerning their world and their future. Then Johnny's saddled with caring for his young nephew Jesse. Jesse brings a new perspective and, as they travel from state to state, effectively turns the emotional tables on Johnny. Discussion led by faculty to follow. **CC**



**Thursday, April 7**

## ***Golden Arm***

**W F POC**

Co-presented with the Boston Women's Film Festival and Emerson College Comedic Arts

**Directed by Maureen Bharoocha, comedy, English, US, 90 minutes, 2020**

When her best friend, Danny, ropes her into taking her spot at the Women's Arm-Wrestling Championship, Melanie, who is a baker, must trade whisks for barbells to compete against the reigning champ for a chance at the grand prize. Discussion with director Maureen Bharoocha to follow. **CC**



**Thursday, April 14**

## ***Rebel Dykes***

**LGBTQ SJ W I**

Co-presented as part of Wicked Queer with the Boston Underground Film Festival and the Boston Women's Film Festival

**Directed by Harri Shanahan, documentary, English, UK, 79 minutes, 2021**

The story of a community of women in 1980s post-punk London who met doing art, music, politics, and sex, and how they went on to change their world by becoming artists, performers, musicians, and activists. Discussion with historian Rachel Corbman and film scholar Rox Samer to follow. 




**Thursday, April 21**

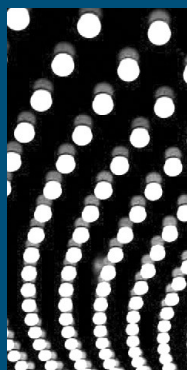
## *Flee*



Co-presented with the Roxbury International Film Festival and Wicked Queer

**Directed by Jonas Poher Rasmussen, documentary/animation, English and Danish with English subtitles, Denmark, 90 minutes, 2021**

*Flee* tells the story of Amin Nawabi as he grapples with a painful secret he has kept hidden for 20 years, one that threatens to derail the life he has built for himself and his soon-to-be husband. Recounted mostly through animation to director Jonas Poher Rasmussen, he tells for the first time the story of his extraordinary journey as a child refugee from Afghanistan. Discussion led by Emerson College professor Yasser Munif to follow. 



# 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 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.

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