

SERIES WN27-A:365: Nothing Ever Dies: The Films of David Lynch

**Mondays at 10:00 am
January 11 to March 22, 2027**

Virtually via Online Zoom Webinar



Lecturer Bio:

Adam Nayman is a critic, lecturer and author based in Toronto. He teaches courses at the Cinema Studies Institute at U of T and has written books on the Coen brothers, David Fincher and Paul Thomas Anderson, as well as a critical monograph on Paul Verhoeven's *Showgirls*. He is a regular contributor to *The Ringer*, *The Toronto Star*, *Sight and Sound*, *Reverse Shot* and the *New Republic* and has written on film for *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Walrus*, and other publications.

Course Overview:

When David Lynch died in 2025, his passing was greeted with a collective outpouring of sorrow and admiration. As America's leading pop surrealist, Lynch pushed collective ideas about the relationship between art and entertainment (and other dichotomies like good and evil and sincerity and sadism) as far as any filmmaker of his generation; movies like *Blue Velvet* and *Mulholland Drive* (and the groundbreaking NBC series *Twin Peaks*) rewired viewers' spectatorial circuitry in real time. There are a lot of stories about David Lynch, and the one I'd like to tell has to do with what it means to be an artist -- for somebody to set his own terms and then work on them, fearlessly and joyfully, with a set of remarkable collaborators and increasingly beyond the purview of the industry. This course charts Lynch's remarkable career on a film-by-film basis, beginning with his emergence out of the avant-garde in the 1970s, through his unlikely canonization via *Twin Peaks* and critical drubbing circa *Wild at Heart*, culminating in a series of late feature masterpieces and the extraordinary, valedictory Showtime series *The Return*.

Weekly Outline:

Week 1 - Jan. 11: The Man from Another Place: Who is David Lynch?

Week 2 - Jan. 18: In Heaven: *Eraserhead*

Week 3 - Jan. 25: Creature Features: *The Elephant Man* and *Dune*

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Week 4 - Feb. 1: It's a Strange World: *Blue Velvet* and *Twin Peaks* Season 1 & 2

Week 5 - Feb. 8: Two Thumbs Down: *Wild at Heart*, *Lost Highway*

NO CLASS February 15 - Family Day and Reading Week

Week 6 - Feb. 22: Changing Lanes: *The Straight Story*

Week 7 - Mar. 1: Over the Rainbow: *Mulholland Drive*

Week 8 - Mar. 8: Maps to the Stars: *Inland Empire*

Week 9 - Mar. 15: "What Year is It?": *Twin Peaks: The Return*

Week 10 -Mar 22: Lynch and His Legacy