

UPDATE 5/1/26

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UNIVERSITY  
FILM&VIDEO  
ASSOCIATION

**2026 ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE**

**AUGSBURG  
UNIVERSITY®**

**Board Meetings  
July 27, 2026**

**Conference  
July 28 - 31, 2026**

## MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026

### UFVF BOARD MEETING

Lunch Break 12:15-1:30

### UFVA BOARD MEETING

Evening Programs (Mon)

### GRAD FELLOWS MEET AND GREET

## TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026

All Morning 8:30-1:00 (Tue)

### REGISTRATION

Session 1 08:30-10:15 (Tue)

#### SCREENING 1A (Rm A)

"Passage" (Narrative 84m) Andrew Twibell, Missouri State University *The infamous alleged documentary, an apocalyptic American travelogue, presented in its entirety.*

#### SCREENING 1C (Rm C)

"Gestural Distillations" (Documentary 15m WIP) Dawn Schot Klotzbach, University of Minnesota *In reaction to online music consumption, composer Mike Olson makes his audience listen only once.*

"Fire Hydrant Curb Stomp" (Documentary 15m WIP) Jonathan Olshefski, Rowan University *A former model engages in a creative practice as she recovers from a traumatic bicycle accident.*

"Left Behind" (Documentary 39m WIP) Sam Smartt, Calvin University *An Afghan refugee family separated during the Kabul evacuation fights to reunite with their son.*

#### SCREENING 1D (Rm D)

"Maxwell's Movie Night" (Documentary 11m) Alexis Duran, Southwestern College *A film professor hosts virtual movie nights but silence forces him to rethink connection.*

Abbey Hoekzema, Georgia Southern University, Respondent

"My Perfect Frenemy" (Documentary 21m) Dustin Schwindt and Da Hyun Nam,, University of Utah *Exploring with her camera, a filmmaker finds value in ordinary days and honest vulnerability.*

Alexis Duran, Southwestern College, Respondent

"The Making of Taylor Square" (Documentary 26m) Abbey Hoekzema, Georgia Southern University *A Gullah Geechee storyteller leads a diverse coalition to rename Savannah GA's Calhoun Square.*

Dustin Schwindt, University of Utah, Respondent

#### PANEL 1E (Rm E) Decolonizing Black Identity: Frameworks for Resistance

"The (Ir)real Song of the South: Sounds of Reconstruction in Julie Dash's Speculative Worlds" Whit Mower, Cal State University Los Angeles (Moderator)

"A Gathering of Old Men (1987): An Homage to Black Collective Action" Cynthia Baron, Bowling Green State University

"Beyond Wakanda: Afrofuturism as a Tool for Authentic Storytelling" Chriss Williams, William Paterson University

"Slam's Ending Revisited" Andrew Bateman, University of Colorado Denver

#### PANEL 1F (Rm F) "Beyond Borders: Fostering International Collaboration in Film Education Through CILECT and CNA"

Heather Addison, University of Nevada Las Vegas (Moderator)

Suzanne Regan, Cal State University Los Angeles

Pavel Jech, Chapman University

Teresa Dowell-Vest, Prairie View A&M University

Aaron Schuelke, Cal State University Fresno

#### SCRIPTWRITING 1H (Rm H)

"Fourth of July Goodbye" (Pilot 44p WIP) Samantha Noland, American University *As she spends a holiday weekend with her crush, Sophie learns that he's not all that she hoped for.*

"Opossum Story" (Short 21p) Brian Oakes, Kean University *Listen to your mother.*

#### WORKSHOP 1L (Rm L) "Lost in Translation - Why Can't We Hear The Dialogue in Contemporary Film And Television Production?"

Thomas Bjelic, University of Nevada Las Vegas

#### WORKSHOP 1M (Rm M) "Thespiagraphic Cinema: Reimagining Student Film Sets"

Ang Gardner, Independent

May Hiatt,

Morning Break 10:15-10:30

## Session 2 10:30-12:15 (Tue)

### SCREENING 2A (Rm A)

"In Fading Light (working title)" (Narrative 104m WIP) Andy Watts, Ithaca College *In a future where all emotions are repressed, a young woman explores the past in an AI simulation.*  
Vincent Singleton, Loyola University Chicago, Respondent

### SCREENING 2B (Rm B)

"Imagine" (Narrative 7m) Christopher Cutri, Brigham Young University *Proximity to something new can open up a whole world of imagination.*  
Shayna Connelly, DePaul University, Respondent  
"Baying in the Night" (Narrative 8m) Alessandra Bautze, Georgia State University *A Southern woman and her son's friend deal with the isolating grief of suicide loss.*  
Christopher Cutri, Brigham Young University, Respondent  
"Requiem" (Narrative 12.5m) Paul Petschek, Cal State University Northridge *A woman reunites with her dying mother, finding her authentic self through shared memories and loss.*  
Alessandra Bautze, Georgia State University, Respondent  
"The Tensile Strength of Air" (Narrative 16m) Shayna Connelly, DePaul University *After witnessing a traumatic event, Lauren asserts herself differently in the world.*  
Paul Petschek, Cal State University Northridge, Respondent

### SCREENING 2D (Rm D)

"Final Press" (Documentary 11m) John Haley, University of Alabama *The final run of press is completed at The Minnesota Star Tribune's Heritage printing center.*  
Betsy Kalin, University of Central Florida, Respondent  
"My More Beautiful Ghost" (Documentary 19m) Kristine Weatherston, Temple University *An intimate short auto-documentary about living a new life with chronic illness and disability.*  
John Haley, University of Alabama, Respondent  
"Lesbians in Boystown" (Documentary 26m) Betsy Kalin, University of Central Florida *Revealing the forgotten history of queer women in West Hollywood, the first "gay" city in the US.*  
Kristine Weatherston, Temple University, Respondent

### PANEL 2E (Rm E) Representing Asia: Tropes and Transformations

"Cinematic Imaginations of Macao's Casino Culture: Casino-scape Tropes in Netflix's *Ballad of a Small Player* (2025) and Other Non-Native Cinemas" Michael Unger, Sogang University (Moderator)  
"Uttar Pradesh on a UAE Backlot: Vikram Vedha & the Economically Downtrodden, Culturally Fraught Institution of Bollywood Remakes of South Indian Films" Taylor Tuntland, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
"Female Led Social-issue Comedy by a New Breed of Female Directors: Indian Cinema's New Femme Fatales" Roma Sur, Emerson College  
"Nostalgia for Death: World War I Aerial Combat in Vietnam Era Cinema" Ryan Copping, Grand Valley State University

### PANEL 2F (Rm F) "AI in the Classroom: From All In to Opting Out"

"Opting Out is an Option" Kyle Henry, Northwestern University (Moderator)  
"Building AI Practices Together: A Student-Collaborative Approach in Media Production" Samuel Smartt, Calvin University  
"AI Competencies and a University-wide approach" Bobby Chastain, Purdue University

### PANEL 2G (Rm G) "Virtual Production Is Authentic Real-Time Collaboration"

"Writing for Virtual Production" Madeline Warren, Chapman University (Moderator)  
"Incorporating Location Filmmaking into Virtual Production" Dan Leonard, Chapman University  
"The Role of the Virtual Art Department" Richard Holland, Chapman University  
"Sustaining and Growing Virtual Production" James Brust, Chapman University  
Michael Kowalski, Chapman University

### SCRIPTWRITING 2H (Rm H)

"Soles in Church" (Feature 135p) Ryan Walker, Elizabeth City State University *A devout second-grader preps for first Communion while his single mother fights to make ends meet.*  
Max Burnett, Utah Valley University, Respondent  
Scott Boswell, San Francisco State University, Respondent  
"Joan & Me" (Feature 125p) Max Burnett, Utah Valley University *Thrown together in the maelstrom of war, a doomed romance grows between Joan of Arc and her page.*  
Ryan Walker, Elizabeth City State University, Respondent  
Scott Boswell, San Francisco State University, Respondent  
"Bloodroot" (Feature 122p) Scott Boswell, San Francisco State University *A young vampire discovers the harsh reality of mortals.*  
Ryan Walker, Elizabeth City State University, Respondent

Max Burnett, Utah Valley University, *Respondent*

**WORKSHOP 2K (Rm K)** “On Air - Empowering Student Voices through independent Broadcasting”

Rachel Pearl, Cal State University Los Angeles

**WORKSHOP 2M (Rm M)** “Designing Faculty-Led Filmmaking Travel Programs with Effective Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration”

Shaina Holmes, Syracuse University

Jonathan Waters, Vanderbilt University

David Tames, Northeastern University

**Lunch Break 12:15-1:30**

**CAUCUS MEETINGS**

**All Afternoon 1:00-5:15 (Tue)**

**NEW MEDIA EXHIBITS**

**VENDOR EXHIBITS**

**Session 3 1:30-3:15 (Tue)**

**SCREENING 3A (Rm A)**

“Survivor Soldier Sinner Savior” (Narrative 103m) Vincent Singleton, Loyola University Chicago *Trauma resurfaces when a veteran-turned-high school counselor tries to help an at-risk youth.*

Andy Watts, Ithaca College, *Respondent*

**SCREENING 3B (Rm B)**

“Idle Little Hands” (Narrative 8.5m) Stacy Barton, Augustana College *On her 60th anniversary, Grandma remembers meeting Grandpa when she was a child laborer.*

Rani Deighe Crowe, Ball State University, *Respondent*

“Shirley” (Narrative 9m) Mariah Kramer, Vanderbilt University and Brandi Berry, Lane College *A portrait of a mother’s quiet strength as she faces mortality and the imprint her absence leaves.*

Stacy Barton, Augustana College, *Respondent*

“Fresh Inc” (Narrative 10m) Jon Barr, Eastern New Mexico University *A middle-aged blue collar laborer struggles to fit in at an office full of hipster millennials.*

Mariah Kramer, Vanderbilt University, *Respondent*

“Safety State” (Narrative 16m) Rani Deighe Crowe, Ball State University *In the dystopian near future, two queer couples form an unlikely friendship as they flee the midwest*

Jon Barr, Eastern New Mexico University, *Respondent*

**SCREENING 3C (Rm C)**

“Rochdale Urban Gardeners” (Documentary 21m WIP) Kahlil Garner, Queensborough Community College *Rochdale Urban Gardeners brings viewers along each season in a South Jamaica community garden.*

“We Persist” (Documentary 30m WIP) Dara Padwo-Audick and Brigid Maher, American University *Three extraordinary women of color defy the odds and fight for change in the face of adversity.*

**SCREENING 3D (Rm D)**

“For Us, By Us: The Rural Justice Summit” (Documentary 13m) Samuel Contreras, Cal State University Fresno *Farmers and advocates unite to grow equitable food systems in California’s Central Valley.*

Vivian Kleiman, Independent, *Respondent*

“The road to eternity” (Documentary 15m) Shahrzad Dadgar, Colorado State University Pueblo *Two college students take on a project creating a documentary about the making of their Prof’s film.*

Samuel Contreras, Cal State University Fresno, *Respondent*

“A Grain of Truth” (Documentary 26m) Vivian Kleiman, Independent *I pull back the curtain on a childhood legend that helped shape my perception of the world.*

Shahrzad Dadgar, Colorado State University Pueblo, *Respondent*

**PANEL 3E (Rm E) Style and Substance in Global Cinemas**

“The Ballad of the Naco: Corridos and Male Fashion in Popular Mexican Cinema” Adán Ávalos, Cal State University Fresno (Moderator)

“Dersu Uzala by Kurosawa: The Last Man” Dana Weidman, Dutchess Community College

“Pierre Braunberger and the Auteur Theory’s Erasure of the Producer” Evan Lieberman, Cleveland State University

**PANEL 3F (Rm F) “Case Study – Revising Chapman’s Three-Year MFA Programs to Two”**

Nana Greenwald, Chapman University (Moderator)

**PANEL 3G (Rm G) “Reimagining Accessibility in Arts Education”**  
Heather Addison, University of Nevada Las Vegas (Moderator)  
Roudi Boroumand, University of Nevada Las Vegas  
Andi Isaacs, University of Nevada Las Vegas

**SCRIPTWRITING 3H (Rm H)**

“End of Sycamore” (Feature 115p) Pavel Jech, Chapman University *A grieving professor befriends a pot dealer who may be plotting his death.*

Nicholas Smith, State University of New York Fredonia, *Respondent*

Sen-I Yu, Ithaca College, *Respondent*

“Bookworms” (Feature 114p) Nicholas Smith, State University of New York Fredonia *Gangsters use a bookstore as front but end up falling in love with literature.*

Pavel Jech, Chapman University, *Respondent*

Sen-I Yu, Ithaca College, *Respondent*

“American Wife” (Feature 111p) Sen-I Yu, Ithaca College *Two immigrant marriages. Mia judges her aunt’s choice—then learns from it after her own fails.*

Pavel Jech, Chapman University, *Respondent*

Nicholas Smith, State University of New York Fredonia, *Respondent*

**WORKSHOP 3K (Rm K) “Animation Editing Workflow”**

Philip Malamuth, University of Southern California

**WORKSHOP 3L (Rm L) “Lessons in Ungrading”**

Nathan Gjerstad, Capital University

**WORKSHOP 3N (Rm N) “The Power of Motivated Camera Movement: A Working Process for Directors”**

Dalila Droege, Cal State University Los Angeles

Jay Keitel, California Institute of the Arts

**Afternoon Break 3:15-3:30**

**Session 4 3:30-5:15 (Tue)**

**PLENARY SESSION** Welcome and Keynote

Molly O'Brien, Head of Documentary, NBC News Studios

“Only Girl in the Orchestra” 2024 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Film

**Evening Programs (Tue)**

**OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2026**

**All Morning 8:30-1:00 (Wed)**

**NEW MEDIA EXHIBITS**

**VENDOR EXHIBITS**

**Session 5 08:30-10:15 (Wed)**

**SCREENING 5A (Rm A)**

“Fancy Dance” (Narrative 90m) Deidre Backs, University of Kansas *Following her sister’s disappearance, an aunt kidnaps her niece and sets out for the state powwow.*

Brandon Colvin, University of Alabama, *Respondent*

**SCREENING 5B (Rm B)**

“Hormones for Breakfast” (Narrative 10m) Jami Ramberan and Srikanth Nandigama, Howard University *In the midst of IVF treatment, a happy couple’s morning ritual triggers an emotional rollercoaster.*

James Joyce, Cleveland State University, *Respondent*

“Vamos, Gustavo” (Narrative 12m) Harold Batista, University of Pennsylvania *Left alone with young Sofia, Gustavo must protect the only home and family he’s ever known in the US.*

Jami Ramberan, Howard University, *Respondent*

“Beauty Night” (Narrative 12m) Dalila Droege, Cal State University Los Angeles and Jay Keitel, California Institute of The Arts *After Mia gets her period, her Mother shows her how to beautify herself into a woman.*

Harold Batista, University of Pennsylvania, *Respondent*

“Safe | Word” (Narrative 9m WIP) James Joyce, Cleveland State University *Telling your daughter that you love her means very little; opening up to her means everything.*

Dalila Droege, Cal State University Los Angeles, *Respondent*

### SCREENING 5D (Rm D)

“The Day Is Not Lost” (Documentary 15m) Kay Hannahan, Winona State University *A cold January day becomes a meditation on tradition and transformation in the mountains of Bulgaria.*

Alex Rafi, Saint Louis University, *Respondent*

“Eileen Harris Norton: ‘They Have Value’” (Documentary 16m) Rachel Pearl, Cal State University Los Angeles *An intimate conversation between Art + Practice co-founders Eileen Harris Norton and Mark Bradford.*

Kay Hannahan, Winona State University, *Respondent*

“distillations” (Documentary 24m) Alex Rafi, Saint Louis University *Years after the death of his maternal grandmother, a filmmaker meditates on living with grief.*

Rachel Pearl, Cal State University Los Angeles, *Respondent*

### PANEL 5E (Rm E) “The Making of Feature Documentary Red Storm Rising: The Struggle for the American Communist Party”

“Making the past come alive” Henry Finch, Loyola Marymount University (Moderator)

Glenn Gebhard, Loyola Marymount University

Tim Snyder, Loyola Marymount University

### PANEL 5F (Rm F) “Teaching Documentary History to Generation Z”

“Situating the Netflix and Ai Produced Documentary in Film History” Joseph Brown, University of Denver (Moderator)

“Teaching the Story of Documentary” Betsy McLane, Independent Scholar

“A Scalable Protocol for Teaching Documentary History to Gen Z: ESM + Two Mini-Reflections as Formative Assessment” Dan Beard, Baylor University

“But is it a Documentary? Categorizing Student Work in the Age of YouTube” Ben Scholle, Lindenwood University

### PANEL 5G (Rm G) “Faculty Fellows Showcase”

Suzanne Regan, Cal State University Los Angeles (Moderator)

### SCRIPTWRITING 5H (Rm H)

“Hijrah Girls” (Feature 110p) Alessandra Bautze, Georgia State University *Four years after leaving London to join the Islamic State, a young woman returns home.*

Rani Crowe, Ball State University, *Respondent*

Emily Reese, Santa Clara University, *Respondent*

“The Problem with Jenny” (Feature 106p) Rani Crowe, Ball State University *A nine year old girl develops breasts that are “inappropriate” for third grade.*

Alessandra Bautze, Georgia State University, *Respondent*

Emily Reese, Santa Clara University, *Respondent*

“Aguas Blancas” (Feature 100p) Emily Reese, Santa Clara University *Angelica Lopez Garcia gets recruited to play basketball for a division one university.*

Alessandra Bautze, Georgia State University, *Respondent*

Rani Crowe, Ball State University, *Respondent*

### NEW MEDIA 5J (Rm J) Response and Discussion

“From Prompt to Prototype: AI-Assisted VR Interaction Design” Jennifer Zaylea, Temple University *Using generative AI tools to assist creators in rapidly coding a generic VR button overlay.*

### WORKSHOP 5L (Rm L) “Rethinking the ‘Intro Course’: Addressing Media Literacy, Authenticity, and Aesthetics in the Age of Deception”

Mary Dalton, Wake Forest University

Augusta Palmer, Wake Forest University

### WORKSHOP 5M (Rm M) “Introduction To Visual Storytelling Across The Disciplines”

Karen Offitzer, Stony Brook University

Kate Levitt, Stony Brook University

### Morning Break 10:15-10:30

### Session 6 10:30-12:15 (Wed)

#### SCREENING 6A (Rm A)

“Sisters of the Shattered Moon” (Narrative 89m) Michael Wellenreiter, Saint Joseph's University *A teenage girl discovers the corruption of her futuristic suburban idyll in the clouds.*

Deidre Backs, University of Kansas, *Respondent*

#### SCREENING 6B (Rm B)

“For Your Future Wife” (Narrative 13m) Dustin Abernathy, Randolph College and Kiersten Houser, Butler University *A man moves on to achieve all life's milestones, but his victim struggles, even years later...*

Nora Stone, University of North Alabama, *Respondent*

“Orange Vests & Cigarettes” (Narrative 13m) Kyle Ensrude, Augsburg University *A sheltered teen thrust into juvenile delinquency navigates his new identity.*

Dustin Abernathy, Randolph College, *Respondent*

“Benefits” (Narrative 12m) Kevin Obsatz, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point *A hapless father brings his one-year old to his first day of work at an office job.*

Kyle Ensrude, Augsburg University, *Respondent*

“Candle” (Narrative 12m) Nora Stone, University of North Alabama and Brandon Colvin, University of Alabama *An engaged couple who have lost their spark try to complete homework from their couples therapist.*

Kevin Obsatz, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, *Respondent*

#### SCREENING 6C (Rm C)

“Cricket Man” (Documentary 15m WIP) Dorothea Braemer, Buffalo State University *Documentary about a cricket-breeder and students who are creating branding campaigns about him.*

“A Paradise of Small Houses” (Documentary 18m WIP) Vanessa Uhlig, Louisiana State University *A look at evolving ideas of privacy and family through the lens of New Orleans shotgun homes.*

“A Place We Can Go” (Documentary 20m WIP) McKinley Argyle, University of North Texas *In the heart of North Texas, community based “DIY” venues carve space for all to feel at home.*

#### SCREENING 6D (Rm D)

“The Word Is Out: The Story of NLGJA” (Documentary 17m WIP) Senta Scarborough, East Tennessee State University *This documentary chronicles the founding of the first LGBTQ+ journalist association in the early 90s.*

Randy Caspersen, Northern Illinois University, *Respondent*

“Eileen / Jane” (Documentary 20m WIP) Randy Caspersen, Northern Illinois University *A filmmaker’s effort to capture his grandmother’s memory becomes a meditation on his mother’s life.*

Senta Scarborough, East Tennessee State University, *Respondent*

#### PANEL 6F (Rm F) “Crossing Borders, Building Futures: Global Networks in Film Education”

Karla Berry, Southern Illinois University Carbondale (Moderator)

Trésor Senga, Mashariki Arts Academy (Rwanda)

Clemence Shenge, Mashariki Arts Academy (Rwanda)

Barry Braverman,

#### PANEL 6G (Rm G) “Faculty Fellows Roundtable”

Mercedes Chavez, Cal State University Los Angeles (Moderator)

#### SCRIPTWRITING 6H (Rm H)

“Come Out, Come Out” (Feature 99p) Jerell Rosales, Utah Valley University *When his son comes back from conversion therapy demonically possessed, a father confronts his faith.*

Gregory Bray, State University of New York New Paltz, *Respondent*

Tim Ritter, University of Central Florida, *Respondent*

“Foul Feast” (Feature 95p) Gregory Bray, State University of New York New Paltz *When strangers accept a Thanksgiving invitation, they didn’t plan on ritual sacrifice for dessert.*

Jerell Rosales, Utah Valley University, *Respondent*

Tim Ritter, University of Central Florida, *Respondent*

“Accidents” (Feature 92p) Tim Ritter, University of Central Florida *A victim of a horrible car crash must escape his coma before his family can pull the plug.*

Jerell Rosales, Utah Valley University, *Respondent*

Gregory Bray, State University of New York New Paltz, *Respondent*

#### NEW MEDIA 6J (Rm J) Response and Discussion

“Monument (Hybrid-animated short)” Brad Lewter, Ithaca College *A stranded astronaut builds a monument to survive - and to leave proof he was ever alive.*

“Twinning Metropolis” William Allen, Florida Southern College *Digital twins mirror urban life, blurring identity and resilience in a cinematic cityscape.*

#### WORKSHOP 6K (Rm K) “Fair Use in Nonfiction and Scripted Films in the World of AI”

Diane Carson, St. Louis Community College

Robert Johnson, Framingham State University

Michael Donaldson, Donaldson Callif Perez LLP

#### WORKSHOP 6M (Rm M) “Development to Delivery: The Pedagogy of Project Based Integration and the Business of Hollywood into the Film School Model”

Andi Isaacs, University of Nevada Las Vegas

**Lunch Break 12:15-1:30**

#### CAUCUS MEETINGS

**All Afternoon 1:00-5:15 (Wed)**

NEW MEDIA EXHIBITS

VENDOR EXHIBITS

BASKETBALL GAME

**Session 7 1:30-3:15 (Wed)**

**SCREENING 7A (Rm A)**

“The World Drops Dead” (Narrative 86m) Brandon Colvin, University of Alabama *Claire struggles to cope as the shock of her father’s death ripples through her Quaker community.*  
Michael Wellenreiter, Saint Joseph’s University, Respondent

**SCREENING 7B (Rm B)**

“La Bruja” (Narrative 15m WIP) Ryan Copping, Grand Valley State University *Two women, one alive, one immortal, have an unexpected encounter.*

Dennis Hohne, Quinnipiac University, Respondent

“Squeegee Boy” (Narrative 15m) Chung-Wei Huang, University of Maryland Baltimore County *A trans teenager yearns to become part of a tight-knit group of squeegee boys in Baltimore city.*

Ryan Copping, Grand Valley State University, Respondent

“Stranger to the Yoke” (Narrative 14m) Tonya Holloway, University of Texas Arlington *Slaves on a Texas plantation discover the newly purchased “slave” is a young white girl.*

Chung-Wei Huang, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Respondent

“Iterum” (Narrative 13m) Dennis Hohne, Quinnipiac University *A lone wanderer in an alien forest unknowingly reenacts an endless cycle of self-destruction.*

Tonya Holloway, University of Texas Arlington, Respondent

**SCREENING 7C (Rm C)**

“Cogito, ergo sum” (Documentary 6m) Ahmed Tahsin Shams, Indiana University Bloomington *Ceramicist Malcolm Smith revives erased Black comic Li’l Tuffy to reclaim his racist origin.*

Christopher Mahi, East Tennessee State University, Respondent

“Communities in Schools: A Portrait” (Documentary 16m) Christopher Mahi, East Tennessee State University *A young man overcomes the odds with the help of a supportive community.*

Ahmed Tahsin Shams, Indiana University Bloomington, Respondent

**SCREENING 7D (Rm D)**

“Softly Digital” (Music Video 5m) Julie Goldstein, Grand Valley State University *This work exposes the absurdity of trusting machines to dream, or worse, to mean.*

Marci Mazzarotto, Georgian Court University, Respondent

“BioSphere” (Music Video 4m) Jennifer Poland and Viktoria Marinova, Ohio University *The band Kiss Me Deadly plays in an abandoned observatory as Mother Nature reclaims the building.*

Julie Goldstein, Grand Valley State University, Respondent

“Brönte” (Music Video 4m) Marci Mazzarotto, Georgian Court University *A young woman conjures a lover, only to be maddened by the manifestation of her desire.*

Jennifer Poland, Ohio University, Respondent

**PANEL 7E (Rm E) “Bringing Truth to Power: Independent Media”**

Jenny Hanson, Augsburg University (Moderator)

**PANEL 7F (Rm F) “Embodied Critique: Teaching Creative Nonfiction as Live Performance”**

Sarah Hanssen, Bronx Community College (Moderator)

Katya Gorker, Chestnut Hill College

Deon Kay, University of West Georgia

**PANEL 7G (Rm G) “Discussion on the Future of Higher Education in the United States”**

David Thomas, Ohio University (Co-chair)

Suzanne Regan, Cal State University Los Angeles (Co-chair)

Mercedes Chavez, Cal State University Los Angeles

Dalila Droege, Cal State University Los Angeles

Jay Keitel, California Institute of the Arts

Melinda Levin, University of North Texas

**SCRIPTWRITING 7H (Rm H)**

“124 M.P.H.” (Feature 91p) Salvatore Cardoni, Cleveland State University *Two strangers trapped in a runaway autonomous car must stop it before it flies off a cliff.*

Zardosht Afshari, Middle Georgia State University, Respondent

Dean Cummings, Georgia Southern University, Respondent

“She is My Mom” (Feature 70p) Zardosht Afshari, Middle Georgia State University *A teenage girl must accompany her addicted mother on a dangerous urban journey to find drugs.*

Salvatore Cardoni, Cleveland State University, *Respondent*  
Dean Cummings, Georgia Southern University, *Respondent*

“The Last Semester” (Feature 101p) Dean Cummings and John Goshorn, Georgia Southern University *A professor’s life unravels when a stalking student pushes the prof thru gauntlets of moral choices.*

Salvatore Cardoni, Cleveland State University, *Respondent*  
Zardosht Afshari, Middle Georgia State University, *Respondent*

#### NEW MEDIA 7J (Rm J) Response and Discussion

“Gumball” Martin Jarmick, Cal State University Northridge *Visual storytelling, generative AI, and recreational sports.*  
Adam Schwartz, Towson University, *Respondent*

“/DX” Adam Schwartz, Towson University *A VR installation transforming the cutting-room floor of film sound into an interactive soundscape.*

Martin Jarmick, Cal State University Northridge, *Respondent*

#### WORKSHOP 7K (Rm K) “iPhone Cinematography: Tips, Tricks, Equipment, and Philosophies”

John Klein, Elmhurst University

#### WORKSHOP 7L (Rm L) “Teaching Filmmaking for Social Justice Amid Ambivalence and Risk”

Colleen Kelly Poplin, Bridgewater State University

#### WORKSHOP 7M (Rm M) “Collaborating With Students: A Role-Playing Game!”

Camron Amin, University of Michigan Dearborn

Jen Proctor, University of Michigan Dearborn

#### Afternoon Break 3:15-3:30

### Session 8 3:30-5:15 (Wed)

#### SCREENING 8A (Rm A)

“The Last One In” (Narrative 2m) Samantha Noland, Independent *A poolside hang turns into a prank.*

“Happy Anniversary” (Narrative 7m) Munjal Yagnik, Rochester Institute of Technology *A couple’s rideshare turns tense when the driver fixates on Chris’s immigrant identity.*

“The Wrongest Yard” (Narrative 13m) Nicholas Smith, State University of New York Fredonia *A meticulous HOA president navigates her colorless world until a new set of neighbors moves in.*

“Little Nemo” (Narrative 35m WIP) Lorene Wales, Liberty University *Based on the book Series by Windsor McCay, this SFX short follows Nemo’s quest to Slumberland.*

#### SCREENING 8B (Rm B)

“A Classroom Without Walls” (Documentary 14m) Becky Lake, American University *Can the Outdoor Lab, a natural classroom for Arlington County students, survive looming budget cuts?*

“Outliers and Outlaws” (Documentary 65m) Courtney Hermann, Portland State University *From the 1960s-90s, hundreds of women migrated to Eugene, Oregon to build a lesbian Mecca.*

#### SCREENING 8C (Rm C)

“The Climate Change Volumes: Fall” (Documentary 5m) Hugo Sindelar, Montana State University *The Climate Change Volumes: Fall ponders fall’s delay as summers extend and keep winter at bay.*

G. Chesler, George Mason University, *Respondent*

“Connection | Isolation” (Documentary 67m) G. Chesler, George Mason University *A hybrid documentary, made by an all trans and queer crew, on trans lives and community in COVID-19.*

Hugo Sindelar, Montana State University, *Respondent*

#### SCREENING 8D (Rm D)

“Carole Fielding Awards Presentation” Casey Hayward, Bentley University

#### PANEL 8E (Rm E) “Recentering Cinematic Power: Pedagogy, and Creative Collaboration”

“Global Cinema in Practice: Cultural Hegemony and Collaborative Filmmaking” Robert Steel, DePaul University  
(Moderator)

“Fugitivity, Expansion, and Navigating Emotional Truth: I feel bigger than what you say” Camille DeBose, Loyola University New Orleans

“Reclaiming Hypersexuality” Reina Higashitani, Arizona State University

“Process, Care, and Community within Documentary’s “Crisis of Faith”” John Haley, University of Alabama

#### PANEL 8F (Rm F) “Teaching Artificial Intelligence Across the Film Production Pipeline”

“Tilly Norwood and the Film Student’s Dilemma: From Collaboration to Generation” Adam Paul, University of Nevada Las Vegas (Moderator)

“The Algorithm and the Writers’ Room: Teaching Screenwriting with AI” Cigdem Slankard, Cleveland State University

“Integrating Generative AI Into Media Classes: Ethics and Future-Readiness” Melanie La Rosa, Pace University

**PANEL 8G (Rm G) "Experiential Learning on Set: Teaching Film Through Professional Practice"**

Steve Kniss, Western Carolina University (Moderator)

John Klein, Elmhurst University

Emily Ray Reese, Santa Clara University

**SCRIPTWRITING 8H (Rm H)**

"Existence" (Pilot 60p) Chrissy Guest, Ithaca College *To save the man she loves, an assassin travels back in time altering their known existence.*

Kyle Bergersen, University of Oklahoma, Respondent

Sara Ross, Sacred Heart University, Respondent

"Bloody Business" (Pilot 58p) Kyle Bergersen, University of Oklahoma *Crime scene cleaners who try to help survivors deal with grief.*

Chrissy Guest, Ithaca College, Respondent

Sara Ross, Sacred Heart University, Respondent

"The Fog is Coming" (Short 8p) Sara Ross and Ross Higgins, Sacred Heart University *A P.A. and her film crew visit an old lighthouse looking for a ghost called 'The Sailor's Harlot'.*

Chrissy Guest, Ithaca College, Respondent

Kyle Bergersen, University of Oklahoma, Respondent

**WORKSHOP 8K (Rm K) "GenJam: Building Community Around Generative AI"**

Milton Santiago, Syracuse University

**WORKSHOP 8L (Rm L) "Truthful Acting, Imaginary Worlds: Helping Students Become 'Actors' Directors"**

Tim Ritter, University of Central Florida

**WORKSHOP 8N (Rm N) "Film Matters: Using Celluloid in Teaching"**

Susanne Schwibs, Indiana University

Bear Brown, Indiana University

**Evening Programs (Wed)**

**NEW MEDIA CELEBRATION**

**THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026**

**All Morning 8:30-1:00 (Thu)**

**NEW MEDIA EXHIBITS**

**VENDOR EXHIBITS**

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Session 9 08:30-10:15 (Thu)**

**SCREENING 9A (Rm A)**

"Nightmare Therapy" (Narrative 5m) Zion Murphy, Howard University *In the wake of a tragedy, an emerging artist must confront the haunting allure of fame.*

Ahmed Tahsin Shams, Indiana University Bloomington, Respondent

"Arshinagar (English: Reflection)" (Narrative 55m) Ahmed Tahsin Shams, Indiana University Bloomington *Humpy and Dumpty are in search of "Godot," expecting to save the world, but their waiting never ends!*

Zion Murphy, Howard University, Respondent

**SCREENING 9B (Rm B)**

"Woodpecker" (Narrative 15m) Tanju Ozdemir, Emory University *A young Kurdish asylum seeker confronts identity and sexuality in the US Turkish diaspora.*

Kyusik Gam, University of Central Arkansas, Respondent

"Neighbors" (Narrative 15m WIP) Kyusik Gam, University of Central Arkansas *Two neighbors from opposing political worlds discover an unexpected moment of human connection.*

Tanju Ozdemir, Emory University, Respondent

**SCREENING 9C (Rm C)**

"The Palace" (Documentary 86m) Jay Keitel, California Institute of the Arts *A personal portrait of Sudzal, a town located in the Yucatán Peninsula.*

Amy Adrion, Rochester Institute of Technology, Respondent

**SCREENING 9D (Rm D)**

"City/State" (Experimental 5m WIP) Julie Buck, Quinnipiac University *After a Midtown Manhattan encounter, a woman returns to the crowd, unsure if it should be named.*

Heather Coker Hawkins, University of Tennessee, Respondent

“Selena Have I Loved” (Experimental 8m WIP) Thomas Castillo, Bowling Green State University *Notes on the music video for the 1994 hit song “Bidi Bidi Bom Bom” by Selena.*

Julie Buck, Quinnipiac University, *Respondent*

“Flow” (Experimental 8m WIP) Casey Hayward, Bentley University *The movement and texture of water in an age when it is excessively consumed.*

Thomas Castillo, Bowling Green State University, *Respondent*

“From Me to You for Us” (Experimental 13m WIP) Heather Coker Hawkins, University of Tennessee *This dance film uses poetry and digital aesthetics to reimagine technology and human connection.*

Casey Hayward, Bentley University, *Respondent*

#### PANEL 9E (Rm E) “Adaptations of Horror and History”

“Outside Our Gates: A Case Study of Jane Gaines and Oscar Micheaux’s Within Our Gates (1920)” Elaine Roth, Indiana University South Bend (Moderator)

“Society’s Monsters: the Damnable and the Forgivable in Frankenstein (1931) and (2025)” Brooke Kertai, Indiana University South Bend

“Monstrous Femininity in *The Haunting of Hill House*” Izabella Gardner, Indiana University South Bend

“Outside Our Gates: A Case Study of Jane Gaines and Oscar Micheaux’s Within Our Gates (1920)” Sahara Mackey, Indiana University South Bend

#### PANEL 9F (Rm F) Post-Production Perspectives: Rhythm, Attention, and Sound

“Teaching Rhythm to Editors: An Experiment with the Dalcroze Method” Dinesh Sabu, Marquette University (Moderator)

“Shaping and Holding Attention in a Fractured World: Embodiment and Coherence in Teaching, Editing, and Film” Paul Petschek, Cal State University Northridge

“What Am I Hearing?: AI Techniques and Ethics in Audio Post-Production” Adam Schwartz, Towson University

“Ambience in Sound Design: The Superpower of Invisibility” Jen Poland, Ohio University

#### PANEL 9G (Rm G) “Regional Filmmaking in Practice: Building Cultural Infrastructure through ‘The Game Camera’”

Emily Railsback, University of Central Arkansas (Moderator)

#### SCRIPTWRITING 9H (Rm H)

“Taking the Wild Side” (Pilot 50p) Rebekah Jorgensen, Int’l Union for Conservation of Nature *An international team of wildlife experts risks the odds on all levels to combat wildlife smugglers.*

Stephanie Kornick, University of Colorado Denver, *Respondent*

Dianne Bellino, Fashion Institute of Technology, *Respondent*

“Pruning Roses” (Pilot 35p) Stephanie Kornick, University of Colorado Denver *An offbeat caretaker saves her failing senior home—at the cost of herself.*

Rebekah Jorgensen, Int’l Union for Conservation of Nature, *Respondent*

Dianne Bellino, Fashion Institute of Technology, *Respondent*

“Birdbrained” (Short 19p) Dianne Bellino, Fashion Institute of Technology *A 50-year-old supermarket manager launches a dating profile and embarks on a chaotic date in Queens.*

Rebekah Jorgensen, Int’l Union for Conservation of Nature, *Respondent*

Stephanie Kornick, University of Colorado Denver, *Respondent*

#### NEW MEDIA 9J (Rm J) Response and Discussion

“No-Nonsense Filmmaking” Mischa Livingstone and Jessica Livingstone, Loyola Marymount University *An OER (Open Educational Resource) introductory textbook designed to inspire all students.*

Scott Schimmel, University of Hawai’i Mānoa, *Respondent*

“Shadows in a City That Once Was” Scott Schimmel, University of Hawai’i Mānoa *A VR journey into Florence Italy’s shadows, exposing the clash of history and modern consumerism.*

Mischa Livingstone, Loyola Marymount University, *Respondent*

#### WORKSHOP 9L (Rm L) “Pedagogy for the Post-Truth Era”

Tonya Holloway, University of Texas Arlington

#### WORKSHOP 9M (Rm M) “Collaboration and Leadership for Creatives”

Jeffrey Bays, Routledge / Missouri Valley College

**Morning Break 10:15-10:30**

### Session 10 10:30-12:15 (Thu)

#### SCREENING 10B (Rm B)

“Settling St. Malo” (Documentary 26m) Virgile Beddok, University of Louisiana Lafayette *Follow poet Randy Gonzales along Louisiana’s coast as he discovers his family’s forgotten past.*

“Red Storm Rising: The Struggle for the American Communist Party” (Documentary 48m) Glenn Gabhard and Roy Finch, Loyola Marymount University *The rise and ruin of the American Communist Party: dissent and democracy in the United States.*

### SCREENING 10C (Rm C)

"Miles to Roam" (Documentary 90m WIP) Amy Adrion, Rochester Institute of Technology *On a sprawling Colorado cattle ranch, Caitlyn and her mom Vicki fight to live the life they love.*

Jay Keitel, California Institute of the Arts, Respondent

### SCREENING 10D (Rm D)

"That Bolex Thing" (Experimental 3.5m) Paul Echeverria, Wayne State University *That Bolex Thing highlights a fleeting occurrence of visual abstraction.*

Susan Reid, Georgia State University, Respondent

"The Call" (Experimental 5m) Ly Bolia, Georgia State University *Thin, a forensic photographer, struggles with the death of girl friend.*

Paul Echeverria, Wayne State University, Respondent

"Bicycle Face" (Experimental 7m) Susan Reid and Ly Bolia, Georgia State University *When the men sworn to protect cross the line, one woman must fight for her freedom and autonomy.*

Jonathan Rattner, Vanderbilt University, Respondent

"Northward" (Experimental 22m) Jonathan Rattner, Vanderbilt University *Poetic journey to Soalbard, where light, time, and climate change quietly unfold.*

Ly Bolia, Georgia State University, Respondent

### PANEL 10E (Rm E) "Science Fiction and Fantasy Adaptations"

"When I Think of Home": Representations of Fantasy in The Wizard of Oz and The Wiz" Elaine Roth, Indiana University South Bend (Moderator)

"The Origins of The Legend of Vox Machina" Olive Moser, Indiana University South Bend

"Experiencing the Cosmos: Cinematic Awe and Scientific Discovery from Cosmos to Contact" Jessica Kado, Indiana University South Bend

"You Can't Take My Past, You Can't Take My History": Defying Borders and Music as a Mode of Resistance in The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" Jessie Jimenez, Indiana University South Bend

Lillian Magers-Pershing, Indiana University South Bend

### PANEL 10F (Rm F) From the Foundations of Dramaturgy to Effective Feedback: Navigating the Future of Screenwriting

"Truth in Dramaturgy in the Era of Fake News" Pavel Jech, Chapman University (Moderator)

"Maybe I Don't Want Your Notes: The Trials and Tribulations of Feedback in Screenwriting Coursework" Andrew Millians, Lindenwood University

"Create or Destroy?: Teaching Foundational Screenwriting Thru Simone" Marc May, Towson University

### PANEL 10G (Rm G) "It's the End of the Filmmaking World As We Know It (do we feel fine?)"

"What Does Gen Z Want from Film School?" Jeff Stern, Bentley University (Moderator)

"Art vs. Algorithm" Amy Geller, Boston University

"The Creative Process and Artificial Intelligence" Elizabeth LeDoux, Bentley University

"Do Course Names matter? Faced with declining enrollments, does "Documentary Production" need re-branding in the age of "content creators"?" Kevin McCarthy, Fitchburg State University

### SCRIPTWRITING 10H (Rm H)

"Students and Teachers with Dogs" (Short 5p) Gabriel Paletz, Prague Film School *Walking their dogs brings former students and their teacher together again--and apart.*

Daniel Breithaupt, University of The Bahamas, Respondent

Joseph Kraemer, Towson University, Respondent

"Cicada Sarcophagus" (Short 14p) Daniel Breithaupt, University of The Bahamas *Allen and Julie Williams struggle to maintain their relationship while navigating past trauma.*

Gabriel Paletz, Prague Film School, Respondent

Joseph Kraemer, Towson University, Respondent

"Shy Bladder: A Love Story" (Short 17p) Joseph Kraemer, Towson University *A young man plans a marriage proposal, but first he must overcome his fear of public urination.*

Gabriel Paletz, Prague Film School, Respondent

Daniel Breithaupt, University of The Bahamas, Respondent

### NEW MEDIA 10J (Rm J) Response and Discussion

"Lychgate" Malia Bruker, Indiana University *A 360° dance film reimagining the journey of The Chosen One in the iconic ballet The Rite of Spring.*

Robert Spahr, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Respondent

"Cruft: Elegy to the American Republic" Robert Spahr, Southern Illinois University Carbondale *The Internet is remixed by automated computer code producing digital collage I call Cruft.*

Malia Bruker, Indiana University, Respondent

### WORKSHOP 10K (Rm K) "The Augmented Film Producer of the Future: Yamdu's New AI-Enhanced Script Breakdown, Scheduling & Budgeting - With You and Your Students at the Helm"

Florian Reimann, Yamdu

**WORKSHOP** 10M (Rm M) “Creating Semester-Long Community Engaged Media Project Courses”  
Betsy Kalin, University of Central Florida  
Rosemary Nyaole-Kowuor, Daystar University  
Melanie La Rosa, Pace University

**Lunch Break 12:15-1:30**

**CAUCUS MEETINGS**

**All Afternoon 1:00-5:15 (Thu)**

**NEW MEDIA EXHIBITS**

**VENDOR EXHIBITS**

**Session 11 1:30-3:15 (Thu)**

**SCREENING** 11A (Rm A)

“Admissions” (Narrative 18m) Kelly Davis, Appalachian State University *A meeting between a professor and a prospective student becomes a game of cat and mouse.*

Jerell Rosales, Utah Valley University, *Respondent*

“It Takes Courage” (Narrative 18m) Joseph Kraemer and Marc May, Towson University *An educational docudrama about the campus sexual assault crisis and resources provided to survivors.*

Kelly Davis, Appalachian State University, *Respondent*

“Scrape” (Narrative 23m) Jerell Rosales, Utah Valley University *At a Utah college under anti-LGBTQ+ laws, the community questions visibility as their spaces vanish.*

Joseph Kraemer, Towson University, *Respondent*

**SCREENING** 11B (Rm B)

“Underground Sound” (Documentary 8m) Joseph Brown, University of Denver *A short documentary that focuses on the modular synthetic music scene in Denver.*

“The Other Side of the Mountain” (Documentary 17m) Philip Hopper, University of Northern Iowa *After mom died, I inherited seven metal boxes containing Kodachrome slides shot from 1954 to 1969.*

“Mind U: Mental Health in College Sports” (Documentary 38m) Glenn Østen Anderson, Catholic University of America *Four stories explore mental health issues and suicide prevention initiatives in US college sports.*

**SCREENING** 11C (Rm C)

“Djs, Dance and Dieties” (Documentary 8m WIP) Srikanth Nandigama and Montré Missouri, Howard University *Top Djs reveal dancefloors as sacred spaces where sound, spirit, and identity unite.*

Jonathon Quam, Midwestern State University, *Respondent*

“The Center” (Documentary 60m WIP) Jonathon Quam, Midwestern State University *A generational milestone reveals decades of Black organizing in Madison, WI —and the work ahead.*

Srikanth Nandigama, Howard University, *Respondent*

**PANEL** 11E (Rm E) Beyond the Margins: Interrogating Cult Cinema, Exploitation, and Prestige TV

“Jackie Brown (1997), Meta-fictions, and Exploiting Exploitation Cinemas” Scott L. Baugh, Texas Tech University  
(Moderator)

“Cult Counterfeit: A24 and the Epilogue of Cult Cinema” Ang Gardner, Independent

““This Show Was Made By Humans’: Collective Consciousness and the Fear of Artificial Intelligence in Vince Gilligan’s *Pluribus*” Katherine Balsley, Georgia Gwinnett College

**PANEL** 11F (Rm F) Pedagogical Horizons: Theorizing Contemporary Production and Viewing

“Critical Practices in Teaching Film Production: Faculty Experience” Nicole Koschmann, Binghamton University  
(Moderator)

“The Waning Attention Span: A strategy” Johannes Bockwoldt, State University of New York Geneseo

“Teaching Immersive Media Design with the Extended Reality Experience Design (XRXD) Methodology” David Tames, Northeastern University

“True North in Immersive Media: Authentic VR/360 Pedagogy for Limited-Resource Classrooms” Rebecca Ormond, Cal State University Chico and Scott Miller, San Jose State University

**PANEL** 11G (Rm G) “Select Topics in Post-Production Creative Practices”

“The Power of Contrast in sound and picture editing” Michael Kowalski, Chapman University (Moderator)

“Sound Unseen: The Two Films of The Zone of Interest” Roy Finch, Loyola Marymount University

“The Post-Orchestral World: Music, Simulation, and Contemporary Film Score” Dan Viafore, Loyola Marymount University

“Breaking the Ice by Breaking the Fourth Wall in Mainstream Documentary Films” Jacob Bricca, University of Arizona

**SCRIPTWRITING** 11H (Rm H)

“My Mother Was Angry At Me When She Died” (Short 9p) Shayna Connelly, DePaul University *An experimental documentary centered on a daughter’s conversation with her dying mother.*

Kyle Ensrude, Augsburg University, Respondent

Ben Frahm, Syracuse University: S.I. Newhouse, Respondent

“Camerados” (Short 16p) Kyle Ensrude, Augsburg University *A disreputable gunslinger is tasked with euthanizing a boy’s ailing dog.*

Shayna Connelly, DePaul University, Respondent

Ben Frahm, Syracuse University: S.I. Newhouse, Respondent

“Little Wing” (Short 17p) Ben Frahm, Syracuse University: S.I. Newhouse *A drone built to help is reprogrammed to destroy—and must fight back to save a hospital.*

Shayna Connelly, DePaul University, Respondent

Kyle Ensrude, Augsburg University, Respondent

#### NEW MEDIA 11J (Rm J) Response and Discussion

“SophiaxRobot\_Projection\_Face.v01” Sophia Wolfe, University of Southern California *Human–robot mimicry reveals blurred boundaries of consciousness.*

Kristen Marcinek, American University, Respondent

“Fleshwalk: An Experience” Kristen Marcinek, American University *A transformational and reflective first-person horror experience.*

Sophia Wolfe, University of Southern California, Respondent

#### WORKSHOP 11K (Rm K) “Teaching Creativity in the Age of AI”

Samantha Noland, Close Up Foundation

#### WORKSHOP 11L (Rm L) “Relative Truths: Making Films About Your Family”

Amy Gerber-Stroh, Hollins University

#### WORKSHOP 11N (Rm N) “What You and Your Students Need to Know About Film Festivals”

Barton Weiss, University of Texas Arlington (R)

**Afternoon Break 3:15-3:30**

### Session 12 3:30-5:15 (Thu)

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### Evening Programs (Thu)

CONFERENCE PHOTO AND ANNUAL PICNIC

## FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026

**All Morning 8:30-1:00 (Fri)**

NEW MEDIA EXHIBITS

VENDOR EXHIBITS

### Session 13 08:30-10:15 (Fri)

#### SCREENING 13A (Rm A)

“Go Down, Diller” (Narrative 23m) Andrew Bateman, University of Colorado Denver and Jessica McLaugh, San Diego State University *A single father seeks to protect his teenage daughter from a talking bear that works at a restaurant.*

Steve Kniss, Western Carolina University, Respondent

“Academia” (Narrative 42m) Steve Kniss, Western Carolina University *A bitter professor hatches increasingly absurd schemes to get himself fired.*

Andrew Bateman, University of Colorado Denver, Respondent

#### SCREENING 13B (Rm B)

“The Michael and Me” (Documentary 80m WIP) Mark Kerins, Southern Methodist University *Two friends take on a documentary project that ends up chronicling the end of their friendship.*

#### SCREENING 13C (Rm C)

“Tides” (Documentary 25m) Adam Sekuler, University of Michigan Dearborn *On Swan’s Island, lobstermen and kelp harvesters move by tides, revealing labor’s quiet slow rhythms.*

Rebekah Jorgensen, Int’l Union for Conservation of Nature, Respondent

“Safe Passage” (Documentary 47m) Rebekah Jorgensen, Int’l Union for Conservation of Nature *Multiple species facing extinction are surviving due to innovative, low-cost efforts of local people.*

Adam Sekuler, University of Michigan Dearborn, *Respondent*

**SCREENING 13D (Rm D)**

“After People: The Eclipse” (Experimental 5m) Evan Lieberman, Cleveland State University *After People: The Eclipse is an experimental sci-fi/horror film contemplating the end of the world.*

Jennifer Hardacker, Pacific University, *Respondent*

“Odessa ICE” (Experimental 8m) Mark von Schlemmer, University of Central Missouri *A juxtapositional tribute to those lost in authoritarian oppression, through the lens of Eisenstein.*

Evan Lieberman, Cleveland State University, *Respondent*

“Land of Enchantment” (Experimental 10m) Jack Cronin, Oakland Community College *A meditative short film that explores the quiet majesty of northern New Mexico.*

Mark von Schlemmer, University of Central Missouri, *Respondent*

“Sight/Seeing” (Experimental 13m) Jennifer Hardacker, Pacific University *A filmmaker confronts the limits of seeing—and learns to listen.*

Jack Cronin, Oakland Community College, *Respondent*

**PANEL 13E (Rm E) “Frederick Wiseman: The Legacy of Verite Filmmaking”**

Augusta Palmer, Wake Forest University (Moderator)

Barton Weiss, University of Texas Arlington (R)

Betsy McLane, Independent Scholar

**PANEL 13F (Rm F) Anchoring Authenticity in the Age of AI: Locations, Directing, and Production Design:**

“Conceiving and Capturing Authentic Locations” Gabriel Paletz, Prague Film School (Moderator)

“Teaching Directing: How to Find Yourself While Stealing from the Best” Maverick Moore, Baylor University

“You Can’t Generate Space: Teaching Production Design in an AI Image Culture” Noelle C. Thomas, DePaul University

**PANEL 13G (Rm G) Foregrounding Human-Centric Nodes: From Crowd-Funding to Conflict Resolution**

“Navigating Creativity and Conflict in Media Pedagogy” Christopher Lucas, Southern Oregon University (Moderator)

“Authenticity and Impact of First-Person Videos as Tools for Successful Crowdfunding Campaigns” Kristine Weatherston, Temple University

“The Post Production Diversity Initiative - A Workforce Development Case Study” Dorothea Braemer, Buffalo State University

“Framing the Vertical: Adapting Filmic Composition Pedagogy to Embrace the Now” Eileen White, Queensborough Community College

**SCRIPTWRITING 13H (Rm H)**

“The Burden of Shadows” (Short 8p) Tanju Ozdemir, Emory University *A reclusive border rancher hunts migrants, tragedy forcing him to face guilt and control and losses.*

Sharie Vance, Dallas College, *Respondent*

Susan Reid, Georgia State University, *Respondent*

“Time” (Short 8p) Sharie Vance, Dallas College *The thing about time - everyone thinks there’s always enough.*

Tanju Ozdemir, Emory University, *Respondent*

Susan Reid, Georgia State University, *Respondent*

“Down in the Dirt” (Short 10p) Susan Reid, Georgia State University *Unexpected breakthroughs and comedy ensue when a senior, a teen, and garden ward collide.*

Tanju Ozdemir, Emory University, *Respondent*

Sharie Vance, Dallas College, *Respondent*

**WORKSHOP 13L (Rm L) “Designing Documentary Assignments Around the UFVA 2026 Conference Themes”**

Danielle Beverly, University of Texas Arlington

Laura Kissel, University of South Carolina

**WORKSHOP 13M (Rm M) “Collaborative Curriculum Design Using a Production Focused Case Study”**

Chrissy Guest, Ithaca College

Florian Reimann, Yamdu

**Morning Break 10:15-10:30**

**Session 14 10:30-12:15 (Fri)**

**SCREENING 14A (Rm A)**

“Hag” (Narrative 23m) Jala Bennett, Howard University *A young queer woman battles with demons both real and emotional, while pregnant with her first child.*

Lucian Wood, Harvard University, *Respondent*

“Worthy” (Narrative 7m) Musawir Abrar, University of Connecticut *A self-loathing painter destroys her past and risks life in a daylong bid for greatness at all cost.*

Jala Bennett, Howard University, *Respondent*

"I See You" (Narrative 10m) Lucian Wood, Harvard University *In conversation with his ex-partner differing realities clash within the mind of a troubled young man.*  
Musawir Abrar, University of Connecticut, Respondent

#### SCREENING 14B (Rm B)

"Hippo" (Documentary 6m WIP) Dinesh Sabu, Marquette University *An experimental documentary work-in-progress juxtaposing three vignettes of plastic and simulation.*  
"Waterloo: A History of Place/The North End" (Documentary 56m WIP) Francesca Soans, University of Northern Iowa  
*When buildings disappear and archives are silent, the mind remembers.*

#### SCREENING 14C (Rm C)

"Preserving Our Legacy: The Story of Okemah's People and Community" (Documentary 35m) Carla Bishop, Arizona State University *An erased Black community comes together to tell its story and keep its legacy alive.*  
Matthew Jacobson, University of Kansas, Respondent  
"Trauma: The New Epidemic" (Documentary 35m) Matthew Jacobson, University of Kansas *Three doctors work together to take on the epidemic of orthopedic trauma in Ethiopia.*  
Carla Bishop, Arizona State University, Respondent

#### SCREENING 14D (Rm D)

"Medication" (Animation 1m) Katherine Balsley, Georgia Gwinnett College *Chaos ensues when an LLM goes off its meds.*  
Matthew Buzzell, Augusta University, Respondent  
"Gumball" (Experimental 3m) Martin Jarmick, Cal State University Northridge *Experimental AI movie about a quiet man playing recreational sports with undiscovered magic powers.*  
Katherine Balsley, Georgia Gwinnett College, Respondent  
"The Long, Long Distance" (Experimental 5m) Shahriar Shafiani, Howard University *An impression of seven years of forced separation from home and loved ones.*  
Martin Jarmick, Cal State University Northridge, Respondent  
"An Investigation into an Italian Memory" (Experimental 16m) Matthew Buzzell, Augusta University *An exploration of memory as recorded by natural elements and ancient spaces.*  
Shahriar Shafiani, Howard University, Respondent

#### PANEL 14E (Rm E) "The Entanglement of Memory and History in Recent Brazilian Film"

"Technical and Stylistic Stratagems That Enhance Historical/Memory Entanglements in Recent Brazilian Films" Diane Carson, St. Louis Community College (Moderator)  
"Silent History in Cinema: Traces of the Past and Social Critique in the Work of Kleber Mendonça Filho." Elaine Indrusiak, Federal University of Rio Grande du Sul  
"Screen Memories: The Entanglement of Memory and History in Recent Brazilian Film" Otávio Bueno, University of Miami and Tohoku University  
"The Architecture of Memory: A Narrative Filmmaker's Response to Modern Brazilian Cinema" Marc May, Towson University

#### PANEL 14F (Rm F) Expanding the Frame: Building Rigorous Discourses for the Enrichment of the Discipline

"Wide Open Learning: Student Participation in Film Festival Programming and Discourse" Billy Palumbo, Oklahoma City University (Moderator)  
"Generating Journal of Film and Video Forums and Media-Enhanced Articles" Cynthia Baron, Bowling Green State University and Michelle Glaros, Centenary College of Louisiana  
"Applying Academic Rigor to Creative Arts" James Joyce, Cleveland State University

#### PANEL 14G (Rm G) Nurturing the Cinematic Imagination: The Value of Ethics, Environment, and Community

"Tree-Zine Ecopedagogy: Process-Based Training of Ethical Attention as Praxis" Ahmed Tahsin Shams, Indiana University Bloomington (Moderator)  
"Place-based Cinema Practices in Northeast Tennessee" Shara Lange, East Tennessee State University  
"Building and Sustaining Film Community Through Social Video" Patrick Johnson, Wheaton College  
"Authenticity Before Algorithms: Bridging Classroom and Community in Social Media Storytelling" Viktoria Marinova, Ohio University

#### SCRIPTWRITING 14H (Rm H)

"Faith No More" (Feature 86p) Jessica Kado, Indiana University South Bend *An 80s journalist risks everything to expose abuse inside a powerful Midwestern cult church.*  
Roma Sur, Emerson College, Respondent  
Antonio Roche, American University, Respondent  
"There's Something About Her!" (Short 13p) Roma Sur and Journey Jennings, Emerson College *A candidate with invisible disability must tackle the real demons that come to life in an interview.*  
Jessica Kado, Indiana University South Bend, Respondent  
Antonio Roche, American University, Respondent  
"Melt" (Short 8p) Antonio Roche, American University *When his estranged cousin is flagged for deportation, a Latino ICE agent quietly tries to save him.*

Jessica Kado, Indiana University South Bend, *Respondent*  
Roma Sur, Emerson College, *Respondent*

**WORKSHOP 14K (Rm K)** “Designing a Semester-Long Student Produced Advanced Media Projects Course”  
Ruth Goldman, Buffalo State University  
Mary Baker, Fitchburg State University  
Kathy Bruner, Taylor University

**WORKSHOP 14M (Rm M)** “Let's Put on a Show:” How to Create an International Student Film Festival at Your University”  
Dan Frank, Endicott College

**WORKSHOP 14N (Rm N)** “From Reference Image to Performance: Teaching AI Workflows for Live Action and Animation”  
Sheldon Schiffer, California Independent  
Adam Paul, University Nevada Las Vegas

**Lunch Break 12:15-1:30**

**CAUCUS MEETINGS**

### **Session 15 1:30-3:15 (Fri)**

**SCREENING 15A (Rm A)**

“The Burden of Knowing” (Documentary 55m WIP) Shara Lange, East Tennessee State University *The 82-year old nun who broke into the “Fort Knox” of uranium and what she can teach us.*

**SCREENING 15B (Rm B)** Special screening

“Breaking Point: The War for Democracy in Ukraine” (Documentary 98m) Mark Jonathan Harris, 2026 George C Stoney Award winner *Transformed by a democratic revolution, Ukrainians give up their normal lives to fight a Russian invasion.*  
Mark Jonathan Harris with Augusta Palmer, Wake Forest University (Moderator)

**SCREENING 15C (Rm C)**

“Rolling Film, Rocking History, Al Maysles Captures the Beatles” (Documentary 10m) Barton Weiss, University of Texas Arlington (R) *Al Maysles talks about how he and his brother David filmed the Beatles when they invaded New York.*

Jennifer Proctor, University of Michigan Dearborn, *Respondent*

“Thanks, Babs!” (Documentary 15m) Rivkah Beth Medow and Jen Rainin, Frankly Speaking Films *Meet Babs, an optimistic octogenarian speed-racing through life, one five-year plan at a time.*

Barton Weiss, University of Texas Arlington (R), *Respondent*

“Best in Class: Blenda J. Wilson, Jon Onye Lockard, and the Portrait that Connected Them” (Documentary 28m) Jennifer Proctor and Marcos Carrillo, University of Michigan Dearborn *The University of Michigan's first Black woman chancellor and the artist who painted her portrait.*

Rivkah Beth Medow, Frankly Speaking Films, *Respondent*

**SCREENING 15D (Rm D)**

“Key” (Experimental 1m) Ahimsa Rahul Roy, Independent Artist/Scholar and Anne Ciecko, University of Massachusetts Amherst *A stop-motion exploration of iconography and chromatics.*

“One Best Way” (Experimental 3m) Caitlin Horsmon, University of Missouri Kansas City *Female workers emerge from an abstract field in this experimental cyanotype film.*

“Refrigerator Films” (Experimental 5m WIP) Nicole Koschmann, Binghamton University *Hand-processed, 16mm film investigates local activism, wild birds and the kindness of neighbors.*

“Read/Write” (Experimental 8m WIP) William Allen, Florida Southern College *Technology reshapes consciousness, dissolving selfhood in an age of total connectivity.*

“The Mirror You Cannot See” (Experimental 9m WIP) Claudia Krogmeier, University of Wisconsin Madison *A woman confronts the uncanny characters of her repressed desires.*

**PANEL 15E (Rm E)** Shifting Valences: “Pure” Cinema, Specificity, and Surveillance

“Spatial or Narratological Diegesis? Experiencing the Virtual Ether Through Depictions of Text Messaging on Screen” James Verdon, Swinburne University of Technology

“Comparing Realism, Death and Masculinity in Kiarostami's *Taste of Cherry* and Van Sant's *Gerry*” Claire Gavin, Cal State University Los Angeles (Moderator)

“Ecstasy of Corporeal Camera: Deleuzian Formulations in Marie Menken and Mohammad Reza Aslani's Avant-Garde Films” Sohrab Mirab, Indiana University Bloomington

“Beyond the Welcome: Surveillance Culture, Racialized Identity and Self-Representation in Documentary Practice” Khalid Bada, University of Northern Iowa

**PANEL 15F (Rm F)** Critical Discernments: New Strategies for Media Literacy and Creation

“Seeing Isn't Believing: AI and the Teaching of Media Aesthetics” Rosemary Nyaole-Kowuor, Daystar University (Moderator)

“Critical Media Literacy for a New Age of Social Impact Entertainment Education” Mary Schmitt, Quinnipiac University

“Authentic Intelligence: Prioritizing the Self in the Age of Democratized Media” Julie Goldstein, Grand Valley State University

**PANEL 15G (Rm G) The Limits of Convergence: AI and Cinematic Intersections**

“Inventions Without a Future: Notes on Cinema as Artificial Intelligence” Paul Echeverria, Wayne State University (Moderator)

“The Slop Stops Here: Legal and Aesthetic Limits of Generative AI in Narrative Film Creation” Frank Deese, Rochester Institute of Technology

“AI & Copyright: Telling the Truth, Legally” Lorene Wales, Liberty University

**SCRIPTWRITING 15H (Rm H)**

“Love on the Rocks” (Short 26p WIP) Shahrzad Dadgar, Colorado State University Pueblo and Giuseppe Michael Picipella *A new reality to show comes to a rural Colorado bar amidst local dissent.*

Marc Pitre, Loyola Marymount University, Respondent

“Independence” (Short 15p WIP) Marc Pitre, Loyola Marymount University *A Black woman goes to extreme measures to retrieve her family's previous property in the old west.*

Shahrzad Dadgar, Colorado State University Pueblo, Respondent

**WORKSHOP 15K (Rm K) “Create Powerful Films on a Tiny Budget”**

Elisa Herrmann, Sam Houston State University

Jacob Rosdail, University of Nebraska Kearney

**WORKSHOP 15L (Rm L) “Teaching Documentary Authorship in a Post-Truth Era with Directing the Documentary (8th Edition)”**

Courtney Hermann, Portland State University

Suree Towfighnia, Metro State University

**WORKSHOP 15M (Rm M) “Breaking Story, Building Resilience: Introducing Students to Creative Methods & Storytelling Techniques from the Breaking Bad Writers’ Room and Beyond”**

Kate Powers, Cal State University Northridge

**Afternoon Break 3:15-3:30**

**Session 16 3:30-5:15 (Fri)**

**SCREENING 16A (Rm A)**

“Arroyo Perdido” (Narrative 20m) Peter Lisignoli, University of New Mexico *A teenage boy and a Mexican woman find their way back to their families at a highway rest area.*

Sheldon Schiffer, California Independent, Respondent

“The Game Camera” (Narrative 20m) Emily Railsback, University of Central Arkansas *After installing a night-vision camera on her Kansas ranch, a widow questions her husband's death.*

Peter Lisignoli, University of New Mexico, Respondent

“The Collector's Memoir” (Narrative 18.5m) Sheldon Schiffer, California Independent and Adam Paul, University of Nevada Las Vegas *Strive to own everything you desire. Then beware, everything owns you.*

Sheldon Schiffer, California Independent, Respondent

**SCREENING 16C (Rm C)**

“Continuing Education” (Documentary 8m) Ben Scholle, Lindenwood University *Recent immigrants from around the world come together at the International Institute of St. Louis.*

Shelley Davis, Portland State University, Respondent

“Black Wall Street Athens” (Documentary 25m) Kingsley Lims Nyarko, Columbus College of Art & Design and Tee Ford-Ahmed, Ohio University *The incredible triumphs of black business owners in Athens Ohio late 1860s and early 1900s.*

Ben Scholle, Lindenwood University, Respondent

“My Saba and Savta” (Documentary 31m) Shelley Davis, Portland State University *Elderly couple returns to Brooklyn 40 years later, with granddaughter, to reclaim family legacy.*

Kingsley Lims Nyarko, Columbus College of Art & Design, Respondent

**SCREENING 16D (Rm D)**

“Voicemail” (Experimental 6m) Kiersten Houser, Butler University *This experimental doc short examines voicemails of the deceased.*

“The City/Great Brook in Four Seasons” (Experimental 8m WIP) Alex Bordino, Northern Essex Community College *Through the animation of still photographs, fragments of nature obfuscate history and temporality.*

“Ars Animalis for Troubled Times” (Experimental 4m) Anne Ciecko, University of Massachusetts Amherst *In bleakest times, observed fauna reveal climate change impacts but also artful resourcefulness.*

“Missing Person” (Experimental 20m WIP) Carl Lee, State University of New York Buffalo *A portrait of my mother and the ghost of her brother who went missing during the Korean War.*

**PANEL 16E (Rm E) Preserving Historical Experiences: Curation, Creation, and Authenticity**

“Speculative Film Historiography and Archival Fabulation in Ina Archer’s Lincoln Film Conspiracy” Hugo Ljungbäck, University of Chicago (Moderator)  
“We Are All Media Historians: Incorporating Historical Methods in Film and Media Classrooms” Zachary Sheldon, Baylor University  
“Teaching Histospheres: Film as a Historical Thought Experiment” John Trafton, Chapman University  
“Finding True North: Building an Archive Where None Existed — A Roadmap for Film & Television Departments Lessons from CTVA at CSUN” Christina Sibul, Cal State University Northridge and Tony Best, Cal State University San Bernardino

**PANEL 16G (Rm G) Generative AI and Nonfiction: Pitfalls and Possibilities**

“Seeing the Artificial: Audience Trust and Perceived Authenticity in Documentary Film Using Visible AI Imagery” Ali Akarcesme, Kutztown University (Moderator)  
“I’ve Created a Monster: Found Footage, Generative AI, and the Archive Effect” Jennifer Proctor, University of Michigan Dearborn

**WORKSHOP 16K (Rm K) “GenAI & Documentary Ethics: Creating, Testing, Debating - An Interactive Workshop”**

Lisa Leeman, University of Southern California

**WORKSHOP 16L (Rm L) “Crit Potluck: Shared Methods”**

Maria Gigante, Cleveland State University  
Anita Gabrosek, Cleveland State University

**WORKSHOP 16M (Rm B) “Master Class with Stoney Award Winner Mark Jonathan Harris”**

Mark Jonathan Harris with Augusta Palmer, Wake Forest University and Barton Weiss, University of Texas Arlington (R) (Moderators)

**Evening Programs (Fri)**

**ANNUAL BANQUET**

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