



## FILM STUDIES BULLETIN Fall 2015

### STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to our May and August 2015 Film Studies graduates: **Seth Chitwood, Nik Hanley, Leah Kelley, Holly Mello** (*cum laude*), and **Alex Watrous**. Congratulations are further extended to **Holly Mello**, our 2015 recipient of the Mark W. Estrin Film Studies Award for a graduating senior of truly exceptional merit!

Congratulations to **David Posman**, who was the 2015 recipient of the Tess Hoffmann Film Studies Scholarship, worth more than \$3000!

Congratulations to our Talent Award winners for the Spring 2015 cycle! **Alex Petrarca, Tom Palleschi, Dayle Decker**, and **Amanda Bussman** received a combined total of \$2,600 in scholarships. We had a lot of great submissions this time around, and selecting only a few winners was a very difficult process. Be on the lookout for our next call for entries around mid-December.

Last semester **Anastasia Lillpopp** worked on the set of the film *The Murder Pact* from Synthetic Cinema International. *The Murder Pact* premieres on Saturday, 12 September on Lifetime!

This past summer, **Marvin Brito, Ryan Gill, MacKenzie Langlais**, and **Tom Palleschi** enrolled in our first-ever offering of FILM 378 / "3-D Animation," taught by the gifted animator Dan Tacey.

Also this summer, **Holly Mello** completed an internship with Soren Sorensen, and **David Posman** worked with Christian de Rezendes. There are a number of great internship opportunities this semester, so be sure to be in touch with a faculty member if you're thinking that you might be interested in pursuing an internship.

Congratulations to **Maria Zapasnik**, who is now Vice President of Student Community Government!

The **Ocean State Film Society's** officers for this semester are **Dayle Decker** (President), **Tom Palleschi** (Vice President), **Amanda Bussman & Joe Sherry** (Co-Treasurers), and **Anastasia Lillpopp** (Secretary). We will be posting announcements about upcoming Film Society events via e-mail, the Film Studies website, and Twitter.

### EVENTS THIS SEMESTER

**Kathryn Kalinak** will present her paper "Re-Sounding Success: Musical Recycling in the Hollywood Studio System" in Horace Mann 193 during the free period on Wednesday, 16 September. This is the paper she will present as the keynote speaker at the "Music in Film and New Media" conference in Vilnius, Lithuania.

For the first time ever, the **Ocean State Film Society** will be hosting a Fall Film Festival at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, 18 September in Horace Man 193. The fall festival is due in part to the record number of submissions to last spring's Ocean State Film Festival. Good times!

On Thursday, 24 September at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom, the Film Studies Program is co-sponsoring a screening of *Daughter of the Dawn* (Norbert A. Myles, 1920), the first film made with an all-Native American cast and crew. The film had long been considered lost, and only in the last ten years was it rediscovered and restored. The screening is the featured event of the Sixth Annual New England Native American Culture Week.

### ALUMNI NEWS

**Holly Mello** ('15) had her film *Without a Sound* accepted to both Los Angeles CineFest and the 401 Film Festival! She worked on this film while a student in **Soren Sorensen's** FILM 374 / "Film Production: Narrative Form" course.

*Infinitely Polar Bear* (Maya Forbes, 2014) premiered in Rhode Island theaters over the summer. **Bridget McConaghy** ('13) was an intern on this film when it was shooting in Rhode Island.

**Tim Valton** ('13) is the Graduate Resident Director at the Rhode Island School of Design.

**Tara Maharjan** ('10) has left her job at The Internet Archive (archive.org) to join the Special Collections Department of Rutgers University. She is working as a processing archivist focusing specifically on the university's New Jersey collection.

Over the summer, **Andrew Stewart** ('09) completed his documentary *The Birth of Grammar*, an exploration of film language and racism on the centenary of D. W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation*. Andrew snagged an interview with the acclaimed linguist Noam Chomsky for this film!

**Christian de Rezendes** ('00) had his film *Raising Matty Christian* screen in France this summer as part of the Docs Corner of the 2015 Cannes Film Festival! The film is a profile of Matty Christian, who became an accomplished athlete despite having been born without full limbs or a tongue. Many of our students past and present have had great experiences interning with Christian. Christian also was recently awarded a Film & Video Fellowship Merit Award from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

### FACULTY NEWS

We are thrilled to welcome **Andrew Cate** back to his alma mater! Andrew was one of the founding officers of the Ocean State Film Society and graduated *magna cum laude*. He wrote his senior honors thesis – "New' Hollywood Narratives: An Analysis of *Boogie Nights* and *Magnolia*" – on the network narrative structure in two of Paul Thomas Anderson's films. Andrew joins our faculty as this year's instructor of the Screenwriting sequence (FILM 370-371), and we have plans for him to offer a course on Television Screenwriting this summer. Andrew completed his MFA in Screenwriting at Hollins University and previously taught at the Trebas Institute in Toronto. Among his many current projects are two in-development television programs, "The Qwiggle Club" and "Zombie Dad."

We say goodbye and wish the very best to **Michelle Kelley**, who successfully defended her dissertation "Visions of Equality: Film and Television in the Fight against Prejudice, 1945-1965" in the Cinema Studies Program at New York University and has accepted a postdoctorate position at Washington University in St. Louis.



**Soren Sorensen's** film *My Father's Vietnam* had its world premiere this August as an official selection of the Rhode Island International Film Festival, where it took home the Soldiers and Sacrifice Grand Prize!

The film has received strong praise from Jan Scruggs, Founder and President Emeritus of the Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Fund. In October, the film will screen at the 2015 Red Dirt International Film Festival in Stillwater, Oklahoma. In November, the film will screen at FilmFest52 in Bethel, Connecticut. Next year the film will screen across the pond at the UK International Veterans Film Festival. **Aran Lyster** ('15), **Holly Mello** ('15), and **Dayle Decker** each worked as post-production assistants on this wonderful film.

**Kathryn Kalinak** continues her world tour this semester with two more keynote addresses. In October, she will present "Re-Sounding Success: Musical Recycling in the Hollywood Studio System" at the conference "Music in Film and New Media" in Vilnius, Lithuania. (Look under 'Events This Semester' for details of an exclusive sneak preview!) In November, she will present "Hageman in Hollywood" at the Richard Hageman Festival in Leeuwarden, Netherlands.

In November, **Rosalind Sibielski** will present her paper "Reviving Cinderella: Revisionist Fairy Tales and Post-Feminist Interventions in Contemporary U.S. Popular Culture" at the Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association Conference in Philadelphia.

**Vincent Bohlinger** will present two papers in November: "'Thoroughly Russian': *Road to Life* in the U.S.A." at the Film & History Conference in Madison and "Vertov's Pioneer Girls" at the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Conference in Philadelphia. He recently had short essays on the films *Kin-Dza-Dza!* (1986), *Junk* (2006), and *12* (2007) published in the *Directory of World Cinema: Russia*, vol. 2. He also has a review of the Russian-language version of the Arthur Miller play *The Price*, performed at the Moscow Academic Mayakovsky Theater, forthcoming in *Arthur Miller Journal*.

This October, **Kathryn Kalinak** and **Vincent Bohlinger** will both be in Pordenone, Italy to attend Le Giornate del Cinema Muto, a week-long film festival devoted to silent films. They will spend up to 16 hours a day watching silent films from archives around the world, and will spend the rest of the time indulging in gelato and Bellinis.

All of the above is just a smattering of what's going on these days. If you have any information for our next bulletin, or if you have any questions about Film Studies at RIC, please contact Vincent Bohlinger, Director of Film Studies ([vbohlinger@ric.edu](mailto:vbohlinger@ric.edu)).

