

FILM STUDIES BULLETIN

Fall 2019

Be sure to like us on Facebook ([@RICEFilmStudies](#)) for news, events, information, and more! Subscribe to our channel on YouTube ([RIC Film Studies](#)) to see examples of some of the great work being made by our students!

[Affordable Schools.Net](#) has ranked RIC's Film Studies Program one of the Top Ten Best Affordable Bachelor's Degrees in Film Studies in the entire country!



STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to our May and August 2019 Film Studies graduates: **Julian Borges** (*magna cum laude*), **Enrique Castaneda-Pineda**, **Melanie Elhaddad** (*cum laude*), **Alec Ematrudo**, **Cameron Evans**, **Sarah Mae Fleming** (*summa cum laude*), **Yeri Martinez** (*cum laude*), and **Rebecca Norman** (*cum laude*)!



Additional congratulations go to **Sarah Mae Fleming** for earning the Mark W. Estrin Film Studies Award, granted to a graduating senior of exceptional merit.

Sarah Mae Fleming also had her essay "The Sunken Place in the Cineplex: *Get Out* and the Horror Genre" accepted for publication in *Film Matters*, an internationally recognized undergraduate film journal. Sarah Mae's essay comes from her final paper in Dr. Bohlinger's course on African-American Cinema. She is the third RIC Film Studies student to have her work published in *Film Matters*, following **Erica Tortolani** ('13) and **Aly Picard**.

Congratulations to **Brandon Tarro**, who was awarded our Tess Hoffmann Film Studies Scholarship for 2019. This is a scholarship totaling over \$3,700!

Congratulations to our Fall 2019 Talent Award winners! **Amanda Poulin**, **Jacob Ottaviani**, **Emile Toth**, **Ally Ruggieri**, and **Jason Lake** were awarded tuition scholarships totaling more than \$3,000.

Emma Ferriera is currently studying abroad at the Prague Film School in Czechia, where she is taking courses in film, acting/performance, and the Czech language. Her studies are partly being supported by a prestigious Gilman Award through the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program.

Last spring, **Emilie Toth** and **Erica Fluskey** did an independent study working with the Sojourner House, a local domestic violence shelter and advocacy non-profit. Their film about new resources available at the Sojourner House can be seen on the Film Studies YouTube channel [here](#).

Last semester and over the summer, **Connor Morley** did an internship with documentary filmmaker Christian de Rezendes ('00), and **Ally Ruggieri** did an internship with film producer Sara Archambault. Over the summer, **Emilie Toth** did a brief internship at the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, RI, where she got to see and mingle with some tennis greats.

Gregory Williams is currently serving as the program assistant to Film Studies through the work study program.

This year's officers for the Ocean State Film Society are **Emilie Toth** as President, **Erica Fluskey** as Vice President, **Lilly Howe** as Treasurer, and **Jake Douglas** as Secretary.

UPCOMING & RECENT EVENTS

On Wednesday, 6 November, award-winning filmmaker and Film Studies alumnus **Christian de Rezendes** ('00) will be screening the world premiere of his documentary *Portuguese Alley* at 10:00 a.m. in Gaige 200, about the village of Forestdale and its Portuguese cultural legacy. **Connor Morley** worked on the subtitles for this film while doing an internship with Breaking Branches Pictures (Christian's production company). Christian will also show his documentary about his grandmother, *Alzira's Story* (2000). These screenings are sponsored by RIC's Institute for Portuguese and Lusophone World Studies along with the Portuguese and Film Studies Programs. See [here](#) for a write-up about Christian and this event in the *New Bedford Herald News*.



The Ocean State Film Society and the Film Studies Program teamed up for this year's super-successful Trunk or Treat event.

This October, we had the absolute thrill of welcoming the acclaimed film producer **Christine Vachon** to campus, courtesy of the generosity of the RIC Foundation! The Ocean State Film Society sponsored a Christine Vachon Film Series, showcasing some of her amazing work: *Poison* (Todd Haynes, 1991), *Swoon* (Tom Kalin, 1992), *Go Fish* (Rose Troche, 1993), *Velvet Goldmine* (Todd Haynes, 1998), *Boys Don't Cry*



(Kimberly Peirce, 1999), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (John Cameron Mitchell, 2001), *Carol* (Todd Haynes, 2015), and early short films by a non-profit production company she cofounded, Apparatus Films [*A Man in Your Room* (Christine Vachon, 1983), *The Way of the Wicked* (Christine Vachon, 1989), *Tommy's* (Barry Ellsworth, 1985), *He Once Was* (Mary Hestand, 1989), and *Oreos with Attitude* (Larry McCarty, 1991)]. After lunch with faculty, Vachon visited Roz Sibielski's Film History II class to talk about her extraordinary career. At our main event, held in conjunction with Roz's Queer Cinema course, Vachon presented and discussed two early films by Todd Haynes: *Dottie Gets Spanked* (1993) and the hard-to-see, newly restored, glorious *Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story* (1988). Afterward, she had dinner with students from the Queer Cinema class along with Andrew Cate's TV Screenwriting course. See [here](#) for a front-page write-up on Vachon and [here](#) for an interview she did with *The Anchor* (on page 13). Such super, fabulous times!





We did the “Time Warp” again! After the smashing success of the RKO Army’s visit to RIC last year for a live shadow cast performance of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, they returned for an encore performance during Homecoming Week. Perhaps we have an annual tradition?

In September, the Ocean State Film Festival once again welcomed the Kaleidoscope Indian Film Festival to campus. Now in its fifth year, the festival features a weekend jam-packed with films in Boston, Cambridge, and—because of us—Providence, too. We hosted a full day of screenings, starting with two short films *The Wallet* (Saumitra Singh, 2019) and *Unshaved* (Shruti Marathe, 2019). After Q&A with Prena Dadlani, one of the producers from *Unshaved*, we screened the feature film *Abyakto* (Arjun Dutta, 2019). We next had the world premiere of *Anna and Ahana* (2019), made by RIC’s own Associate Professor of Sociology Tanni Chaudhuri. The Q&A afterward—with Dr. Chaudhuri, her cinematographer, editor, and most of her cast—was led by award-winning journalist and film-maker Swati Srivastava. We ended with the world premiere of *Oxygen* (Shoib Nikash Shah, 2019), with discussion led by two associates of lead actress Namita Lal.



ALUMNI NEWS

Julian Borges ('19) works as a media production assistant at Brown University.

Ryan Cardoso ('19) was a finalist this past summer in the Public Art Ideas Competition, sponsored by Providence’s Department of Art, Culture, and Tourism.

Sarah Mae Fleming ('19) is as a podcast researcher for Interview Connections, a podcast booking agency in Cranston.

Anastasia Lillpopp ('16) works in the wardrobe department for professional theater and is currently on the road as a dresser for the national tour of *A Christmas Story: The Musical*. (Yes, based on that film!) She is a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists, and Allied Crafts (IATSE), specifically the Associated Crafts and Technicians (ACT) department.

Andrew O’Neil ('16) is living his dream working at Walt Disney Parks and Resorts as a *Star Wars*-themed Attractions Host at Disney’s Hollywood Studios in Orlando.

The film *To Be Heard* by **Steven Barthelemy** ('14) was an official selection at this year’s Rhode Island International Film Festival. Steven is currently in South America making films and applying for grants to make a feature-length documentary in Bolivia.

Anthony Comella ('10) is a film studies instructor at Atlantis Charter High School in Fall River, Massachusetts.

Anthony Giambusso ('09) published his essay “[It Happened One Night](#),” about his childhood nightmares of Pennywise from *It* (the 1990 TV series with Tim Curry), in *Medium*. His short film *Get into Gere* was an official selection of the 2019 Silicon Beach Film Festival and the We Make Movies International Film Festival.

Kelly Kreiser ('09) is the Assistant Production Coordinator for the television show *Mrs. Fletcher*, which just premiered on HBO. She is currently based in NYC, where she is also coordinating a feature film adaptation of the play *The Humans*.

Once Around Is Never Enough, a short-form documentary by **Tim Labonte** ('07) about the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum in North Tonawanda, New York, won Bronze in the Non-Broadcast category at the 40th annual Telly Awards.

FACULTY NEWS

Welcome to **Kevin Esch**, who joins our esteemed faculty this semester! Dr. Esch earned his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa with his dissertation "In the Moment: Myth and Method in Contemporary Hollywood Film Acting." He comes with a wealth of teaching experience from Tulane and Hofstra, among others. Areas of research and teaching interest include film performance, contemporary Hollywood industry, film/TV and literature adaptation, genre theory, and much more!



Kathryn Kalinak is currently living in Amsterdam while on sabbatical this semester researching and writing a critical biography of the film composer Richard Hageman. Here she is giving a lecture at the University of Utrecht.

Hearty congratulations to **Roz Sibielski** for being granted tenure and to **Vince Bohlinger** for promotion to Professor!



Here are **Kathryn Kalinak** and **Vince Bohlinger** in Vilnius, where they were invited by 2018 Fulbright-at-RIC recipient **Antanas Kučinskis** to a conference he organized in September on "Music and Sound Design in Film/New Media: Soundscapes and Immersive Sound" at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. K gave a keynote address on "The Soundscape of *La La Land*," and Vince gave a talk on "Editing Rates and Editing Strategies in Musical Sequences in Soviet Cinema of the 1930s."

This November, **Roz Sibielski** is giving a talk on disability and monstrosity in 21st-century film and TV adaptations of the "Beauty and the Beast" story at the Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association conference.

Derek Dubois's article "Cruising the Hyperreal Highway: Edgar Wright's *Baby Driver*" has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Film and Video*. His essay "Little Swimmers," first published in the *Evansville Review*, was named a 2019 notable work in *The Best American Essays*.

Vince Bohlinger recently gave talks on the American censorship of *Battleship Potemkin* at a Slavic Studies conference in Zagreb and a conference devoted to Sergei Eisenstein in Paris.