

Northwestern University
Department of Radio/Television/Film
Spring 2019

Screenings & Performances



Friday, May 24, at 8:30 PM in Ryan Auditorium in Tech - **NSTV Premiere**

A CONVERSATION WITH WRITER/DIRECTOR

BOOTS RILEY

AND SCREENING OF HIS FILM

"SORRY TO BOTHER YOU"

WEDNESDAY 6:00PM SCREENING MCCORMICK AUDITORIUM FREE
MAY 29TH 8:30PM TALK

PRESENTED BY: RTVF DEPARTMENT, URSA, STUDIO 22, MULTI CULTI, AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT

A portrait of Boots Riley, a man with a large afro, wearing glasses and a colorful scarf. The portrait is set against a yellow background with a pink outline.

Wednesday, May 29th - MultiCulti, Studio 22, URSA, RTVF and the African American Department brought filmmaker **Boots Riley** to NU for a screening of *Sorry To Bother You*.



Friday, May 31, and Saturday, June 1 - **The MFA Writer and Director Collaboration Festival** featured four plays by MFA in Writing for the Screen + Stage students directed by students from the MFA Directing Program.



Tuesday, June 4 - *Aliens in America*, the **Advanced Sitcom Screening**, takes place at 7 PM in McCormick Auditorium.



Wednesday, June 5 - **The Improvising Characters Final Performance** will take place at 10:30 am in Louis 106.



Thursday, June 6 - **Media Arts Grant ("MAG")** films will be shown in the Annie May Swift Helmerich Auditorium, 7 PM.



Friday, June 7 - **The Senior Directing Premiere** will be held at 6 PM in Ryan Auditorium in Tech.



Friday, June 7 - **The Blackout Spring Live Show** will be held at 9:30 PM in Harris 107.



Saturday, June 8 - **The True Crime class screening** will take place at 4 PM in the Annie May Swift Hall, Helmerich Auditorium.



Saturday, June 8 - **The Studio 22 Premiere** will be held in Ryan Auditorium in Tech at 6 PM.



Wednesday, June 12, Thursday, June 13, and Friday, June 14 - **The MFA in Documentary Media program thesis film screenings** will be held at Block Cinema at 7 PM on all three nights.

MAs in Sound Arts & Industries

On May 16, **Paula Fairfield**, the sound designer for *Game of Thrones*, spoke at a public event in the Helmerich Auditorium. The following day, she held a masterclass for Sound Arts and Industries students on film sound design.



Jeffrey Gardner, Shelly Liu, Madhav Ghei, and Russell Gillespie ('18) performed multichannel sound pieces for "Sonic Spring" at the Chicago ARUP SoundLab, a unique 14-channel 3-D sound system.



Donna Fulks, a voiceover artist, held a hands-on voiceover masterclass on April 22.



Tania El Khoury gave an artist talk on April 25, in an event co-sponsored by the Departments of Performance Studies and Theatre. El Khoury is concerned with the ethical and political potential of audience interactivity in performance and installation.

MFAs in Writing for the Screen & Stage

Shuping Yang's play *Paper Dream* received a reading at Silk Road Rising.

Konner Wilson's feature screenplay *Mercy* was the winner of Northwestern's MFA Writers Krevoy Screenwriting Fund Prize.

The reading of an excerpt from **Nikkita Duke's** play *Cracked* was hosted by the Herskovits Library as part of the Evanston Literary Festival.

Dolores Diaz helped facilitate an English translation of *Otra Tempestad* for Teatro Buendia (Cuba). Her newest short play will premiere in August in the Steppenwolf Garage as part of Broken Nose Theatre's *Bechdel Fest 7*.

Aalisha Sheth's hour long sci-fi TV pilot, *The Reincarnates*, had a reading at Mussetter-Struble Theater at Northwestern University.

Exal Iraheta and **S.T. Munir** had their pilot scripts *Red Polka Dot* and *Real Americans* read at the March 3 Pilot Party at Crowd Theatre. **Nikkita Duke** will have her pilot *Happy to Host* read June 29.

Peg, a new play by current grad student **Liam Fitzgerald** (Class of 2019), will premiere November 13 – December 14 at The Den Theatre. This world premiere production is co-produced by [Broken Nose Theatre and The New Colony](#).



MFAs in Documentary Media



Jung-Ah Kim (Class of 2019) had two of her films, *Jung-Ah's Vlog* and *#Beautysickness*, screened at the Indie Fanfilmfest on May 31 in Rock Island, IL.



Ian Bertorelli's (Class of 2020) short doc *Freddy* was selected for the Chicago Park District's Chicago Onscreen summer film showcase.



In April, filmmaker **Yance Ford** was celebrated as the **2019 Hoffman Scholar**. Following a masterclass for the MFA in Documentary Media students, Ford presented a screening of the Oscar nominated *Strong Island* to a packed Helmerich Auditorium.



Chicagoland Shorts Vol. 5, a touring festival of Chicago-made short movies, features the films of **Jennifer Boles** (Class of 2019) and **Sebastian Pinzon** (Class of 2017). The Chicagoland Shorts Vol. 5 premiered at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.



The Area, a documentary by Chicago's Scrappers Film Group, screened at Block Cinema on May 16th. Following the screening, **Naeema Torres** (Class of 2019) moderated the post-screening Q&A with filmmaker David Schalliol, protagonist/producer Deborah Payne, and producer Brian Ashby.



In April, we welcomed back MFA Doc alumni **Shuhan Fan** (Class of 2016) and **Iyabo Kwayana, Luther Clement-Lam, Nevo Shinaar, and Sebastian Pinzon Silva** (Class of 2017). They talked to current MFA Documentary students about their careers since graduation.

PhDs in Screen Cultures



Whitney Pow (above, second from right) has a short article, titled "Storied in Memory," that was published in the journal *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing*. They designed a video game about early transgender game programmer Jamie Fenton, titled *Digital TV Breakfast* that was exhibited at Gallery 400 in an art exhibition titled *Chicago New Media 1972-1992*. The exhibition was organized by Jon Cates, a professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. They were invited by the Adler Planetarium to serve as a games specialist for a Galactic Games-themed Adler After Dark event, where they exhibited a few games that they designed and talked with families about game design.

Simran Bhalla received a TGS Graduate Research Grant.

Carter Moulton's article on livestreamed television is coming out in the *Popular Culture Studies Journal* on April 15. He is also presenting at DePaul's conference on Disney this spring.

Kelly Coyne's review of John Alberti's *The Killing* was published in *The Journal of Popular Television* in March. She also has an essay on queerness in Juliet Lapidus's book *Talent* forthcoming April 10 in *The Los Angeles Review of Books*.

About a dozen Screen Cultures students presented their work at the annual SCMS

conference.

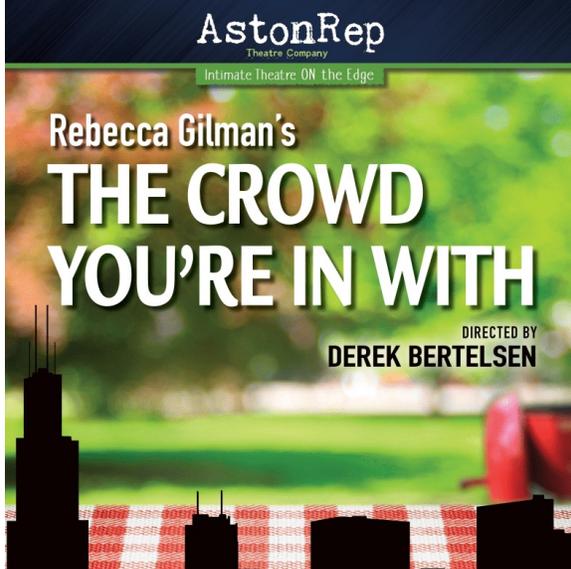
Faculty News

A warm congratulations goes out to, **Neil Verma** on a successful third year review, and **J.P. Sniadecki** and **Ariel Rogers** on their promotions to Associate Professors with tenure!

We also celebrate **Thomas Bradshaw**, who was promoted to full Professor!



Off-Broadway's New Group will premiere **Thomas Bradshaw's** *The Seagull/Woodstock, NY*, during its 2019-2020 season. Based on Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*, the story follows a group of New York theatre people who retreat to a house upstate.



The Crowd You're In With, a play by **Rebecca Gilman**, will run May 16 through June 16 at The Raven Theatre.



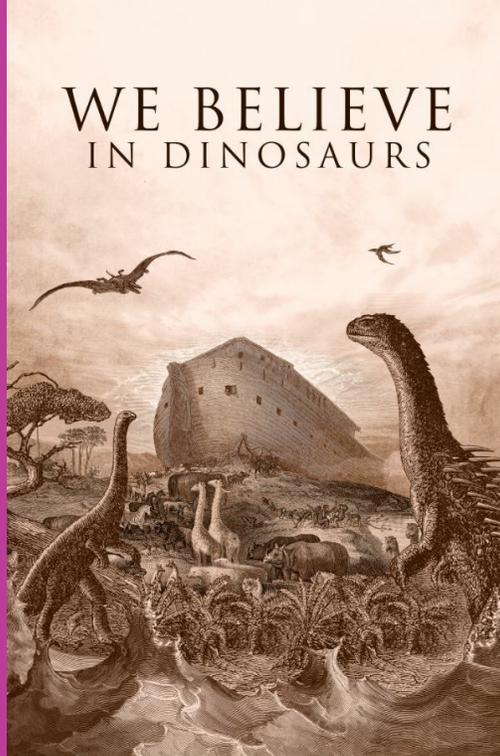
Ozge Samanci was an Artist in Resident in the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) for March 2019, where she produced a media art installation, *You Can't Unblink, for an Art Show entitled "Sense of a Future Ocean"* at SBCAST at Santa Barbara, March 31.



Congrats to assistant professor **Danielle Beverly**, whose new feature documentary *Dusty Groove: The Sound of Transition* is premiering at the San Francisco IndieFest.

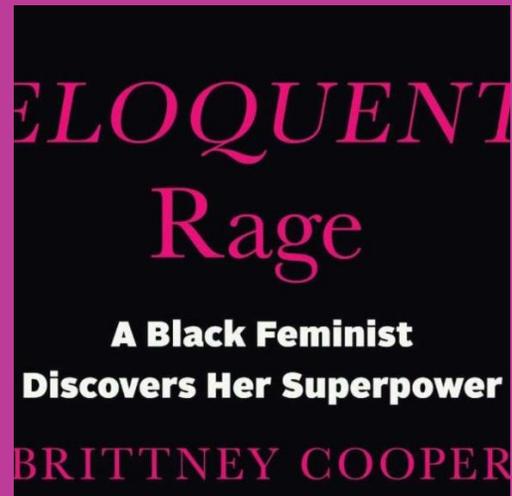
Lecturer Zina Camblin returned from leave this quarter after working in the writers room for Hulu's upcoming hour long drama *Wu-Tang: An American Saga*, produced by Ron Howard's Imagine Entertainment. The show will premiere on Hulu this fall.

Zina will be adapting the best selling Black feminist book *Eloquent Rage* by Brittney C. Cooper into a television pilot through Sony Entertainment and Gabrielle Union's production company, I'll Have Another Productions.



The documentary **Clayton Brown** co-directed, *We Believe in Dinosaurs*, was picked up by 1091 (formerly The Orchard) for distribution and is 88% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes.

She will also be writing for the new hourlong Fox dramedy "Not Just Me" produced by Jason Katims.



During its "Forty Years & More: International Conference on Iranian Diaspora Studies" on March 28, the San Francisco State University's Center for Iranian Diaspora Studies awarded **Hamid Naficy** its "Iranian Diaspora Studies Lifetime Achievement Award."

University Archives is pleased to announce that the **Hamid Naficy Papers** are now open for research. Naficy has been a member of the Northwestern faculty since 2006, and his collection reflects his extensive output in writing and film as well as his collected research materials in paper and audiovisual formats.

Alumni News



Jennifer Rumberger's (MFA Writing for



On Monday, June 17, **Shannon Pritchard**

the Screen + Stage Class of 2012) play, *A Little Ghost Story*, has been selected for the 2019 [Seven Devils Playwrighting Conference](#).

Nayna Agrawal (MFA Writing for the Screen + Stage Class of 2015) is a 2019-2020 Disney ABC comedy writer in their [writers' fellowship](#).

Carrie Barrett's play, *The Hermitage*, will receive its world premiere on June 13 at Harbor Stage Company in Wellfleet, MA. Her play *Colonel's Chicken: A Fairy Tale*, which previously won a Holland New Voices Award at the 2017 Great Plains Theatre Conference, had a limited student run in February at University of Nebraska at Omaha.

(Class of 2014) will premiere a new short play, *FUTURE OF HELIUM UNCERTAIN*, as part of American Blues Theater's [Living Newspaper Festival](#).

Avery Makel (Sound Arts and Industries Class of 2018) became a sound designer for Jackbox Games.

Meridith Friedman's plays continue to be produced around the country, and she is starting her third season as a writer on NBC's *Chicago Med*.

Will Arbery's play, *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*, set in Wyoming amidst a fraught reunion of four young conservatives, will be part of the 2019-2020 season at Playwrights Horizons.



Stay Close, a documentary co-directed by **Shuhan Fan** and **Luther Clement-Lam**, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. *Stay Close* and **Iyabo Kwayana's** thesis documentary, *Practice*, also screened at Block Cinema as part of [A Day at Northwestern](#).

Stay Close was one of only five shorts to be chosen for [the 32nd season of PBS' POV series](#). The film was also produced by alumni **Nevo Shinaar** and **Ashley Brandon** (Class of 2017).

MFA Doc Class of 2016 graduate **Jessica Simmons'** film *I Can Only Be Mary Lane* has been officially selected to these 2019 film festivals:

- New Haven International Film Festival
- Ozark Foothills FilmFest
- Boomtown Film and Music Festival
- Capital City Film Festival
- Hot Springs Int'l Women's Film Festival

Living Room Playmakers, a theatre collective founded by graduates of the MFA in Writing for the Screen + Stage program, re-imagined their sold-out 2015 show *Artifacts* at Salvage One in March and April 2019, in collaboration with current faculty and students from the Sound Arts and Industries MA program. Part audio tour, part live theatre, *Artifacts* was a one-of-a-kind, site-inspired event that led audiences deep into a labyrinthine urban artifacts store.

- Voices in Black and White Film Festival
- Big Muddy Film Festival

I Can Only Be Mary Lane and *Emerald Ice* will also be shown at this year's University Film and Video Association Conference in August.

Please send us your news for the Summer 2019 newsletter by August 31, 2019, at rtvfnewsletter@northwestern.edu.

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