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

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.
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.

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.

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

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

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

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**.

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**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, **Nacema 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.
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 Lapidos'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
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.

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**
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.

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 2019-20 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 Jesseca 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 Intl 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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