

FILM AND SCREEN STUDIES

NYC



The Film and Screen Studies (FSS) department at Pace University provides a unique interdisciplinary education in film and related media. We offer a **Bachelor of Arts in Film and Screen Studies**, as well as a minor. Our program offers students a strong foundation in film history, analysis, and theory, and the opportunity for hands-on experience in film and television production through the use of professional 16 mm film and HD video camera packages, lighting, sound equipment and editing software. Our creative and analytical courses are connected not only by a strong focus on the relation between theory and practice, but by a shared emphasis on the ethics and social responsibilities involved in both the production and reception of film and screen media. The core major curriculum is enhanced by electives that highlight the multiple possibilities of a film and screen studies education. Students are encouraged to develop their particular interest in the field by completing their credits in courses including Production Design, Special Effects and Cinema, Media and Gender, Race and Representation, Screenwriting, Video Production, and 3D Imaging.

BA IN FILM AND SCREEN STUDIES

The FSS major consists of 12 credits of required courses devoted to the analysis of film, the historical development and social contexts of cinematic traditions and technology, and the different ways that cinema and other screen media have functioned aesthetically, socially, and politically since the early 20th century. The remaining 24 credits of electives can be selected from an uncommonly broad range of courses offered by professors in film and screen studies and other departments and programs, including anthropology, art, history, communications, women's and gender studies, modern languages, and creative writing, allowing students to explore a variety of approaches to film and tailor their course of study to suit their interests and career goals. Students who wish to develop two areas of expertise are encouraged to double major in film and screen studies and another discipline. Many FSS students also study abroad for a semester and thus learn different approaches to film studies found in other countries.

REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

Pace University offers students an incredible opportunity to combine their academic experience with the dynamic world of New York City culture. Taking advantage of our location in one of the largest centers of media production in the world, and Pace University's tremendously successful Career Services office, film and screen studies students can pursue internships in film and television production, film festivals, marketing, online media, and many other related arenas, gaining professional experience while still completing their degree. Pace University's New York City campus is home to the Actors Studio Drama School MFA program and the *Inside the Actors Studio* television program, as well as the Schimmel Center, a major downtown venue for performance, dance, and film screenings.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Many of our graduates are working in film and TV production, or have continued on with their education in Masters or PhD programs, and return to Pace as alumni to provide advice to current students.

A student worked post-graduation at BBC America on shows such as *Orphan Black* and in 2019 signed an overall production deal with Hulu to develop and produce new content.

A prolific filmmaker during his time at Pace, another one of our graduates has already made an impressive career out of low-budget filmmaking: he writes, directs, acts, and produces, and in 2019 premiered his feature film *House of the Gorgon* in London.

Another recent graduate was one of the first students in the new MFA program in Directing at Brooklyn College in the Feirstein Graduate School in Cinema.

Another student who graduated summa cum laude and received the Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement upon graduation, now works for the Museum of Natural History on the Margaret Mead Film Festival.

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

Wherever our students' aspirations lie, our program flexibility and faculty guidance helps students achieve success in a wide range of career paths, such as entertainment industries, marketing, education, editing, journalism, activism, and more.

Film and Screen Studies graduates have a well-rounded education and professionalism that allows them to pursue meaningful careers in the diverse media industry or continue with a graduate education, and participate in a screen-driven world with the empowerment and social awareness provided by a sophisticated and ethically minded media education.

www.pace.edu/dyson/filmandscreen

PACE UNIVERSITY

Dyson College of Arts and Sciences



FACULTY

Luke Cantarella, MFA Associate Professor

Cantarella is a production designer for film, theater and live events and teaches courses in design, design thinking and story structure. Recent work includes projects for the MUNY, Goodspeed Musicals, and the Irish Repertory Theater. He additionally conducts research in design anthropology and is currently working on a multi-sited project on climate and culture in the global north. His writing has appeared in *Chance, Field: A Journal of Socially-Engaged Art Criticism* and in *Collaborative Analytics* (Cornell).

Jon Danziger, MFA Lecturer

Danziger, a joint faculty member in FSS and English, is a writer for film and television, teaching classes on screenwriting and writing for TV, the history of the Hollywood writer, and the history of American children's entertainment. He is currently working on projects for HBO, Paramount, and Hulu; has worked as a script analyst for the Sundance Institute and Sony Pictures, and has taught previously at the New School. He has also written for *Time* and *The Los Angeles Times*.

Ruth Johnston, PhD Professor

Johnston is the founding director of the FSS program, and co-creator of the Digital

Media Studies minor. She served as the program's director from 2004 to 2014. Her current research is in media archaeology, and emphasizes the role of technologies in shaping modern optical perception. She has published internationally in *Nouvelle Revue D'Esthétique*, *Cinema Journal*, *Camera Obscura*, and the *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*, among others. Johnston's course offerings include film art, history and theory, and specialized seminars in cinema and memory, spectatorship, media archeology, and queer cinema.

Nzingha Kendall, PhD Assistant Professor

Kendall is a film scholar and programmer whose work focuses on black cinema from across the African diaspora. She is particularly interested in women's filmmaking and experimentation as a method. Dr. Kendall's teaching areas include courses on black women filmmakers, the aesthetics of black cinema, comparative American identities through film, and film festival programming.

Frank Martinelli, MFA Clinical Associate Professor and Director of Production

Martinelli's most recent films have been short subjects exploring space, time, and movement as well as human alienation and intimacy. Recent and current screenwriting, scholarly writing,

and research interests are concerned with ethnicity, identity, and the effects of new media on youth culture and international relations.

Jennifer Pranolo, PhD Assistant Professor

Pranolo is an interdisciplinary media scholar whose research and teaching focus on identity and digitality in contemporary art, film, and computational culture. Her current project, *Nobody Sees: Race and Virtual Sight*, examines the production and proliferation of digital avatars. Recent courses have explored cinema and video games, race as medium, and a history of the user. She has published in *Screen*, *Film Quarterly*, and elsewhere.

Gloria Vela, MFA Adjunct Professor

Vela is an experienced film, television and commercial editor. She has worked on the last eight seasons of *American Pickers* for the History Channel. She is passionate about creating and telling stories through her work as well as teaching and mentoring students.

Amy Zilliax, PhD Adjunct Professor

Zilliax's research has focused on the flashback in cinema. Expertise and teaching areas include American film history, genre studies, and critical writing and composition.

Catherine Zimmer, PhD Associate Professor and Chair of the Film and Screen Studies department

Zimmer's recent book, *Surveillance Cinema*, examines how political and social discourses around surveillance intersect with the representation of surveillance in film and television. Her scholarly articles have been published in such journals as *Film Quarterly*, *Camera Obscura*, *Discourse*, and *Surveillance and Society*, and her film reviews and cultural criticism appear in forums such as *Avidly* and *Public Books*. Zimmer regularly teaches genre courses on horror and science fiction, film history and theory, and surveillance and popular culture.