The FMS Newsletter has gone electronic!
You can find our current, past, and future newsletters on our Film and Media Studies Department website: https://film.ku.edu/newsletters
Coming Attraction

Main Enrollment for Spring 2016 Classes is underway and will continue through November. Make your advising appointment now.

➢ Sign up for advising appointments with FMS Advisor Sydney Stone:
  
  To make an appointment:

  **Call (785) 864-3500** between 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

  Online: **Instructions** (online scheduling is for declared FMS majors only):  [http://advising.ku.edu/make-appointment](http://advising.ku.edu/make-appointment)

  Office Locations:
  
  300 Chalmers Hall:
  
  Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
  
  Walk-in Hours Tuesday:  1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

  215 Oldfather Studios: Thursday & Friday

➢ **Schedule a meeting with FMS faculty members by stopping by 204 Oldfather to pick a time in the sign-up book.**  All FMS Production courses require a permission number. Set up an appointment with your professor to get your permission number before they’re all gone!
Recognitions and Accomplishments

Christina Hodel (doctoral candidate) has published a book review for the manuscript “Mark Antony and Popular Culture: Masculinity and the Construction of an Icon” in the Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television. The Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television is an international and interdisciplinary journal focused on the history of the audio-visual mass media from c.1900 to the present. The DOI of the book review is: 10.1080/01439685.2015.1102444. Once the article has published online in the next month, it will be available at the following permanent link: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01439685.2015.1102444.

Courtney Sanchez, Ph.D. student, reports that her paper “The National Hero and His Immigrant Sidekick: Contested Citizenship in Argentine Silent Film” won first place in the Gary Burns Graduate Student Travel Award competition at the Midwest Popular Culture Association Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio which took place in early October.


For more information, go here: http://www.bloomsbury.com/us/rated-m-for-mature-9781628925760/
Out & About

Professor Tamara Falicov presented a paper on the political and economic ramifications of film festival funds at the Caribbean Cinema Now! conference as part of the Trinidad and Tobago film festival in Port of Spain, Trinidad. She also gave a talk and class lecture (the course was contemporary Caribbean cinema) at the University of the West Indies (UWI).

Falicov also received a travel stipend from the Terra Foundation to participate in a Latin American art history “Picturing the Americas” international symposium at the Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville, AR in mid-November.

Professor Germaine Halegoua was the chair and co-organizer of the Navigating Digital Futures Summit at the Commons. The summit was sponsored by the Office of the Provost and organized by faculty from the School of the Arts, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Journalism. The event brought faculty, staff, and graduate students who do research on digital media or who use digital media as central to their creative work, together for a half day of speakers and an “unconference.” Over 120 people attended from across the KU Lawrence and Edwards campuses and 55 different campus entities were represented.

Video of keynote presentations by Golan Levin (a digital artist, professor and Director of the STUDIO for Creative Inquiry at Carnegie Mellon) and Wendy Guillies (CEO of the Kauffman Foundation) are available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pd48mwvgJPk

More information about the event can be found here: http://digital-futures.ku.edu/

Ten short film created by students in Professor Cathy Joritz’s Experimental Production, Animation and After Effects classes were screened on Saturday, October 3rd at KU’s Midwest Fallfest 2015:

- *The Big Bang* by Trevor Mowry (2:15)
- *Dance Improv* by Tomas Gonzales, FMS BA 2014 (2:45)
- *Dance (Time manipulation)* by Trever Mowry (1:18)
- *Dancing with your Heart* by Heidi Johnson, Sara Riscoe and Ian Schoeck, FMS BGS 2014, (4:37)
- *Flight* by Mary Hauder, Design BFA 2015 (1:05)
- *Group Silhouette Animation Project 2014* (1:22) fall 2014 Animation class
- *Group Silhouette Animation Project 2012* (2:19) fall 2012 Animation class
- *Promises* (Time Manipulated Dance) by Alaine Caudle, FMS BA 2015 (2:14)
- *Radioactive* by Heidi Johnson (1:35)
- *Shaolin Nights* by James Russell (2:09)

The two Dance films included Professor Michelle Hayes and students from her Improv Dance class.
Out & About

On October 3, 2015, twenty students from John Tibbetts’ WALT DISNEY class went on a field trip to Marceline, MO, site of Disney’s boyhood home. Marceline is located 120 miles northeast of Kansas City. Walt and his family lived there from 1906-1910. Walt returned to Marceline many times in later years, remembering it as the place where he spent his happiest years. He wrote: “To tell the truth more things of importance happened to me in Marceline than have happened since—or are likely to in the future.” Their hosts were Kaye Malins and her assistant Peter Whitehead. The students convened at a local cafe for lunch and then after visiting the Disney Museum toured the locations Walt knew as a boy, including the Disney home, the Disney barn, the Memorial Arboretum, and Ripley Park. And of course there was the fabled Main Street, the model for all the “Main Streets” of Disney Theme Parks around the world. Our thanks to Kaye Malins, Peter Whitehead, and the good citizens of Marceline for their hospitality!

KU students in Marceline, MO

Disney Home

Animation student Jacob Hood signs Walt Disney’s farm at a visit to Disney’s hometown of Marceline, MO for the annual Toonfest. Jacob is currently enrolled in both Professor Tibbett’s course on Walt Disney and Professor Joritz’s Intermediate Animation class.
FMS student Becca Huerter was recently quoted in the UDK article "KU’s first bilingual play, ‘Johanna: Facing Forward’ tells the story of a domestic violence survivor." You can read the article below:

“I feel like it’s something I can honor and I feel like it’s a really powerful story to tell and it’s worth it,” Villasante said.

Villasante said does her best to get into character by using her compassion and empathy to connect with characters on a deeper level.

Villasante said she is able to put herself in the place of the character and work her way from the inside out, which gives herself the opportunity to find more natural ways to portray the character, their objectives, actions, and obstacles.

"With Johanna, even though this isn’t something that I have directly experienced, I kind of connected with her through the fact that we as human beings, especially women, all suffer from some kind of assault or form of harassment,” Villasante said.

She also is able to identify with the amount of support Orozco’s family offered her during the time of the shooting.

"I won’t be able to exactly be her but I want to be able to portray her faithfully as a character and most of all, the ideas that she has, what she wants out of her life, and what she wants to do for other people,” Villasante said.

Though the play is very serious and hits on traumatic and heavy ideas, the cast will lighten the mood with musical numbers intermittently. Rivas hopes the audiences sees how a perfect relationship can change in a heartbeat and that it doesn’t matter who a person is or where they come from.

"I think most of us know someone or have been a part of an experience that has touched upon domestic violence, violence at home, or dating violence and this play touches on those issues," Rivas said. "I hope that the play gives the audience the opportunity to think about and examine those issues.

Villasante said she hopes audiences gain a sense of empowerment, awareness, and hope.

"Be whatever it is, we all have something that we are struggling with and we all lose control over our own lives at some point or another," Villasante said. "This is a story about how Johanna managed to survive and take control of her own life after this series of devastating events that could have ended her life in many ways but they didn’t."

Villasante said the play needs to inspire people and empower them.

“It needs to create awareness that relationships can go to a toxic place really quick if the signs are not detected in the right moment and they aren’t discussed like they should be,” Villasante said.

Rivas said he does not plan on taking the show anywhere else on his own, but hopes that other people will ask for a copy and take it other places.

The show starts on Friday, Oct. 16 and runs through the 25. On Oct. 24, Rachel Dissell will host a talk-back after the show with a representative from the Willow Domestic Violence Center.

The cast members are also going to the Topeka Women’s correctional facility to perform a reading. Rivas hopes this gives them the opportunity to gauge their response on the play.

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“Johanna: Facing Forward,” the first bilingual play to show at the University, is the story of a young woman surviving domestic violence, a journalist’s ethical boundaries and recovery story. It debuts Friday night.

The playwright and director, Tlaloc Rivas, said he was moved by the survival story of Johanna Orozco, a nationally recognized survivor of domestic violence. In 2007, Orozco’s life changed. Orozco is from Cleveland, Ohio and suffered gunshot wounds after she tried to break up with her then boyfriend.

The young Latina became known for showing her wounds to the public, becoming the face for the movement against domestic violence. Rivas was haunted by Orozco’s story and thought theatre would be the best platform to present it.

“What I like to say about the theatre is that it gives voice to the voiceless,” Rivas said. “There is an unspoken conversation that takes place between audiences and actors on stage and there is also a community sort of witnessing that happens when a live audience sees a show like that.”

Rivas, who is originally from California but now teaches at the University of Iowa, was asked by University theatre instructor Jane Barrett, to bring the show to the Kansas.

Rivas received his undergraduate degree at University of California-Santa Cruz, then went on to receive his graduate degree at the University of Washington in Seattle where he got his Master’s in directing. He has been directing plays for 20 years.

Rivas plays with a lot of different themes but said that performance explores what a healthy relationship looks like, the role of family and access to guns for violence offenders.

“Somewhat related is what constitutes a healthy relationship, especially when you go to college and how to navigate those waters when you are going to an environment where sexual assault is happening on campuses,” Rivas said. “I want to create a show that can not only be performed at colleges but at high schools because of the subject matter.”

Becca Huerter, one of the cast members playing Juanita Orozco and Pat London, said with Rivas as the director, the actors were able to connect with the issue threaded throughout the script.

“Having the playwright as our director was a great way for all of us to accurately and honestly connect with our characters and Johanna’s story in general,” Huerter said. “Sexual assault is so prevalent in today’s society and this piece informs and gives understanding to a topic that people forget about or don’t want to address because when it isn’t happening to you, you don’t care as much.”

Alejandra Villasante, who is playing Johanna, is making her debut with this show and said she thinks it’s a powerful story.

“Based on what I was told about Johanna, I felt like I could really identify with her, not from the experience itself because I haven’t gone through anything as traumatic, but just based on what I was told about her life and the incident,” Villasante said.

Villasante is a junior from Peru and came to the University of Kansas in August of 2013. After she auditioned, she spent a lot of time doing research on Orozco and her story by reading articles and watching a lot of videos regarding the case.
Alumni in the News

Josh Nathan, a graduate of Moundridge High School [and KU FMS BGS, 2011], is a little excited this week. His short film, “Another Easygoing Brother in the Meadow Wind,” will be screened twice this week at the Tallgrass Film Festival in Wichita.

“It is pretty exciting for me, and I know it is as well for a lot of the people involved it,” Nathan said. “The production was a few people from Los Angeles, but we shot in Kansas and we shot it with a majority of a Kansas Crew. It is a Kansas Film.”

The short movie, eight minutes in length, tells the story of a disillusioned sniper during World War II who contemplates his lot in life, while manning his post in a field in France. Nathan directed the film and co-authored the script with Iain Trimble. It will be screened twice at the Festival, once during a program at 11:45 a.m. Oct. 15 at the Wichita Scottish Rite Center and again during a program at 3:15 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Garvey Theatre.

His love of film started at an early age.

“Like a lot of people, my passion goes back to when I was four or five seeing Star Wars at my cousin’s house,” Nathan said. “From there on out, I was obsessed with seeing movies however I could.”

Nathan graduated from Moundridge high school before enrolling at Bethel College. He said he went to Bethel to play football, but while at the school took a class that allowed him the chance to make a movie.

“I slowly got more interested in film. I took one class at Bethel where I made a film; I shot it and edited it. That ignited it,” Nathan said.

He transferred to the University of Kansas to pursue a degree in film. According to the Internet Movie Database, he has worked on three feature films since graduating — The Dark Knight Rises, The Master and Lincoln.

He is currently writing a full-length film, one he hopes to get made when doors open.

“I have my sights set on making a feature film I have spent the last four years writing. Hopefully I will have that made in five years,” Nathan said.

That’s where the short film comes in. Nathan said getting support for a short film is easier, keeps film makers working and getting experience.

“It is a good starting point for young filmmakers in terms of budget and time, it is a doable process,” Nathan said. “Short films are building towards a feature. That is what I am working on now with several of the people who are involved with the film playing at Tallgrass.”

Copied from http://www.thekansan.com/article/20151013/NEWS/151019918
Native filmmaker: Kansas oughta be in pictures

In the short film “Another Easygoing Brother in the Meadow Wind,” the barren, snow-covered plains of Douglas County make a convincing stand-in for a stretch of nameless French countryside.

It’s the kind of scene Joshua Nathan [KU FMS BGS, 2011] and his fellow Kansas filmmakers would like to see more of. Granted, he’s the writer and director of said film, showing twice in the coming days during the 13th Annual Tallgrass Film Festival in Wichita. But Kansas has a lot to offer the movie industry through both its human and terrestrial talent, he contends.

“We have a lot of ideas and we have a lot of vision and we want to shoot here,” Nathan said Monday after arriving back in his home state from Los Angeles. “We’re trying to drum up support.”

The 2006 graduate of Moundridge High School calls his World War II-period short “sort of a mix of a narrative and a poem.” It opens on a shot of that cold, empty field – located outside of Lawrence, where Nathan got his degree at the University of Kansas. The blades of a lonely windmill spin ever so slightly in the distance as a far-off figure treks into the frame.

Then, “bang.” The body collapses.

The view descends to reveal a sniper, clad in shades of white and beige. The soldier’s voice comes in somberly as the camera circles him until he, too, falls prey to a well-placed bullet.

A new voice-over begins as a second combatant approaches and kicks at the body, checking for signs of life. Then he sits, silently and, the words suggest, regretfully, next to the corpse.

Cut to black.

The story is told in a single, continuous shot, an act of cinematography Nathan said audiences applauded when the film made its debut earlier this month at the Santa Monica Independent Film Festival.

Kansas residents will get two chances to view it: Thursday at 11:45 a.m. during the “At Your Service” military shorts program held at the Wichita Scottish Rite Center, and 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the Garvey Center during a “Spotlight on Kansas Filmmakers.”

Nathan’s road to Wichita already has taken several exciting turns. After starting his college career at Bethel University in pursuit of playing football, he transferred to KU two years later. His time as a Jayhawk opened doors for internships that set up connections in Hollywood. And after graduation, he cashed those networking checks to earn jobs as a production assistant on big-screen movies like “The Dark Knight Rises,” “The Master,” “Lincoln,” “Inherent Vice” and “The Gambler.”

“I just fell into some good work and kept it rolling,” Nathan said matter-of-factly. “I was able to get some nice experience on bigger sets.”

“Another Easygoing Brother in the Meadow Wind” isn’t his only creation. He’s the writer, director and producer of three other documentaries, and he spent time at the start of this year walking across Kansas with collaborator and fellow Kansan Patrick Ross gathering material for another that details interesting sites in the state.

Nathan also is seeking financing for a feature-length movie he’s written and directed called “The Dreams of Rene Sendam.” He’d like to shoot that in Kansas, too.

He hasn’t watched most of the other Kansas-made movies that will be showing at Tallgrass this weekend, but he’s interested in seeing the work of his peers – and excited about sharing the product of his own imagination with them and the public.

“You have to take the time you want and need until it’s ready and then go and give it to the world,” Nathan said.

**Alumni in the News**

FMS alumni **Josh Doke** and **Edward Schroer**, both 2012 BGS, were featured in the University Daily Kansan:

Living together and planning a feature-length film, Rockhaven Films crew members set sights on an October start for 'Goodland'

Growing up in the small town of Goodland, **Josh Doke** was the only kid in his class interested in film.

Doke couldn’t even talk his friends into making films with him, he said.

Even so, he graduated with a degree in film and media studies at the University in 2012. Shortly after graduating, Doke and a group of friends created a production studio called Rockhaven Films.

Most of the Rockhaven crew met at the University and organically formed friendships through classes and the film club.

"When it got to be our senior year of college, we had a meeting and we decided that we had two options," Doke said. "We could go to New York or L.A. and try to break into that film industry, or we could stay together, start a business and make the films that we want to make down the line."

Rockhaven was born. Located in downtown Lawrence, the studio serves as a creative space for Rockhaven but also as the home of Doke and **Edward Schroer**, the editor of "Goodland."

Film memorabilia covers the walls, and props and wardrobe pieces are scattered throughout the house. There's even a pet spider they call Gary. Members of Rockhaven live and work like any other group of friends — the only difference is that they're trying to make a feature-length film.

The studio's first feature-length film, "Goodland," will begin production in October. Rockhaven has done shorts and commercial work in the past, but "Goodland" is the biggest project that its ever been involved with.

"Goodland" is funded mostly by Rockhaven itself, but the studio has had a hard time trying to find the last $12,000 it needed to make the film.

"We decided that this is what we wanted to do and it’s hard to get someone to invest in a first time filmmaker, especially if he demands surrounding himself with first timers," Doke said. "It’s a hard sell, even if someone likes your script."

"Goodland" is a crime-thriller set in a fictional version of Doke's hometown. The plot revolves around strangers who show up in the small town on the same day a dead body is found. The death seems to be an accident, but the town's sheriff doesn't think so.

The film's producer, J.S. Hampton, said the question about violence being used for "the greater good" hooked him.

"What attracted me to the script is that it’s a lot of gray area. You don’t necessarily know who’s good and who’s bad at some points," Hampton said. "At the end [of the film] even when you see everything going on, it’s still gray, and I think that’s how people are, living in the grey area."

Doke and Rockhaven started a Kickstarter campaign to seek extra funding. Seven days from its deadline, the campaign is roughly $1,300 away from its goal.

"I was a little questionable about the Kickstarter, but J [Hampton] told me a number we had to hit, and if we didn’t hit we were running a Kickstarter," Doke said. "We’re not there yet, but I’m confident we’ll hit our mark."

"Goodland" director Josh Doke peers up into a combine while scouting locations on Aug. 31.

The Arts Engagement Certification is designed to equip undergraduate students with the tools they will need to be lifelong participants in the arts. Regardless of their major or previous level of involvement with the arts, students in this program will be able to fully immerse themselves in the rich art culture available to them here at KU. Students will leave this program with a broad exposure to different types of art and the ability to appreciate and intelligently discuss that art. Most importantly, they will leave KU with a passion for the arts and the ways it can enrich society.

Through attending classes and events in our nine participating departments, students gain a broad exposure to the arts while earning a certificate that appears on their official KU transcript.

**Benefits to you:**

- **Connection:** Become more involved with your campus through engaging with the diverse arts opportunities available here at KU.
- **Education:** Explore the world from multiple and alternate points of view. Find new ways to engage with the big ideas and values of our time.
- **Recognition:** The Arts Engagement Certification will appear on your official KU transcript, communicating to future employers your broad cultural knowledge and the value you place on the arts.
- **Fulfillment:** Pursue your interest in the arts and gain the personal satisfaction that comes with experiencing and producing creative works.

Participating Departments include the Department of Architecture, the Department of Art History, the Department of Dance, the Department of Design, the Department of English, the Department of Film and Media Studies, the School of Music, the Department of Theatre and the Department of Visual Art.

You can find more information about the Arts Engagement Center here: [http://artsengagement.ku.edu/](http://artsengagement.ku.edu/)

You can also read what Professor Bob Hurst has to say about The Arts Engagement Certification here: [https://artsengagement.drupal.ku.edu/how-attend-film-showing-qa-professor-bob-hurst-film-and-media-studies](https://artsengagement.drupal.ku.edu/how-attend-film-showing-qa-professor-bob-hurst-film-and-media-studies)

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**Academic Calendar**

- **Monday, November 2** — Undergraduate Application for Graduation
- **Wednesday, November 25** — First day of Thanksgiving Break
- **Sunday, November 29** — Last day of Thanksgiving Break

[http://www.registrar.ku.edu/calendar/](http://www.registrar.ku.edu/calendar/)

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**Equipment Check-in:** 10:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
**Equipment Check-out:** 1:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Sign-up to check-out equipment in the binder on the table near the equipment room.

The **computer lab** is available for use during the following times:  
Monday from 11:00 a.m. — 2:30 p.m., Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m., Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. — 5:00 p.m., and Friday: 8:30 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Check with your instructor or John McCluskey, Assistant Technical Director, for more information.

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**Sydney Stone**  
**Advising Specialist**  
**Office Hours in FMS:**  
Thursdays and Fridays  
215 Oldfather Studios  
sydney.mstone@ku.edu  
785-864-3500

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**Film Festivals, Contests, Local Film Jobs, Call-for-Papers**  
Announcements of film festivals, contests, local jobs, call-for-papers, etc. are kept in a binder in the reception area at Oldfather Studios (room 204).  
Check it out!