Coming Attractions

Trans/forming Activist Media in the Americas
October 24-29 | The Common

Trans/forming Activist Media in the Americas brings together an interdisciplinary group of media producers and scholars to explore how current activist movements in the Americas are transformed by migrations of people and ideas across new media forms and modalities.

Events will include a weeklong transmedia exhibition of activist works, with evening screenings and discussions with local activists and scholars. The TAMA exhibit and screenings will feature works by both KU and Haskell faculty and students. A symposium on Friday and Saturday will feature roundtable discussions between artists, activists, and scholars from across North America and the Lawrence–KC area; art/media workshops and performances by Bocafloja, Gregg Deal, Kai Barrow, Tanaya Winder; and a keynote by Maurice Rafael Magaña (University of Arizona) followed by a closing reception on Saturday evening.

The film/media exhibition and symposium, convened by KU faculty Joo Ok Kim (AMS), Joshua Miner (FMS), Christopher Perreira (AMS), and Magali Rabasa from Lewis & Clark College, is a Commons Starter Grant Project, co-sponsored by the Center for Migration Research.

Why join a student club? A few reasons: meet new people, build relationships, find future crew and actors, get more hands-on experience, and build your demo reel!

KU Animation Club: https://www.facebook.com/animationclubku/?fref=ts
KU Cinewomen: https://www.facebook.com/groups/cinewomenku/
KU Documentary Film Society: https://www.facebook.com/groups/106845006071318/
KU Filmworks: https://www.facebook.com/groups/KUFilmworks/
KU Film Actors: https://www.facebook.com/groups/164172536962963/
KU Screenwriters: https://www.facebook.com/groups/456965681024292/
For more information: http://film.ku.edu/student-organizations
Coming Attractions

Kevin Willmott, Matt Jacobson, and KU alum Mark von Schlemmer presented their film *The Profit* (starring KU Basketball alumn Scot Pollard) as a work-in-progress as part of the KU Mini-College on June 7.

*The Profit* was shown at Liberty Hall on September 24. The film stars KU alum and former NBA player, Scot Pollard, and was directed by FMS professor, Kevin Willmott. Read more about the film on Page 8.

Watch the teaser on Vimeo: https://vimeo.com/183587795

The film, *From Ashes to Immortality*, premieres Thursday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. at The Cider Gallery.

A short, twenty-five minute film about an innocent girl, a disturbed father, a troubled neighbor, and a tale of magic. It showcases a range of talent from Lawrence's own Not So Late Show TV Host Mike Anderson, Director/Actor/Writer Kevin Willmott, and Director of Photography Jeremy Osbern. It also features guests Wes Studi and Blake Robbins. Directed by Eric Hyde. Produced by George Dean. Music by Matt Pelsma.

Watch trailer: https://www.facebook.com/fromashestointimmortality/
Recognitions and Accomplishments

Christina Hodel (Doctoral Candidate) has published a peer-reviewed journal article and peer-reviewed book chapter. Her article “Negotiating Genre Boundaries and Mediating Gender Stereotypes on MTV’s 16 and Pregnant and Teen Mom” has been published in a special issue about youth culture in the journal “Studies in the Humanities.” Her article explores the controversial representations of teen mothers in two popular MTV reality series about teen pregnancy. MTV’s representations of young mothers are explored both from the perspective of two modes of storytelling—documentary and reality television—that the network successfully negotiates. In addition, related choices in characterization, including the ways that the teen moms cast the shadows of some familiar feminine stereotypes, are also discussed. Studies in the Humanities is a multidisciplinary journal of theoretical investigations in literature, film, drama, and cultural studies and has been published bi-annually since 1968.

Hodel’s chapter “The Filleting of Gender and Sexuality in Silence of the Lambs” has been published by Rowman & Littlefield in an anthology edited by Cynthia Miller titled “The Silence of the Lambs: Critical Essays on a Cannibal, Clarice, and Nice Chianti.” Christina’s chapter examines the correlations among femininity, masculinity, and homosexuality as portrayed in Jonathan Demme’s 1991 classic The Silence of the Lambs. Going beyond simply examining this film from the feminine, masculine, and queer perspectives, Christina used themes such as gender inversion and gender dysmorphia as a framework in order to clarify how each character’s perspective and identity of self informs and influences the other characters in the seminal film. This chapter demonstrates how sexuality and gender interrelate with one another to form as part of the source of horror in this film and offers revisionary approaches to gender which in turn shift the traditional course of the horror narrative. The implications of the study reveal how femininity and masculinity should not be bifurcated when reading this film, but rather seen as overlapping or shared elements that provide insight and critical commentary into how The Silence of the Lambs is treating the complex relations that bind together feminism, male hegemony, and queerness.

John C. Tibbetts’ new book is The Gothic Worlds of Peter Straub, a critical study of one of America’s most celebrated writers of fantasy fiction (Ghost Story, Houses without Doors, Koko, The Talisman). John conducted an interview with Straub’s friend and collaborator, Stephen King, exclusively for this volume. The book situates Straub within the American Gothic literary tradition, extending from Charles Brockden Brown to Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry James, and H.P. Lovecraft. Professor Gary K. Wolfe notes: “Tibbetts provides an invaluable roadmap to the complex, multi-layered novels and stories that will eventually come to define Straub’s legacy, and that already define the literary possibilities of the genre which, before Straub came along, was simply labeled horror.”
In August, John C. Tibbetts was one of many KU FMS participants in MidAmeriCon II, the 74th World Science Fiction Convention, in Kansas City. At the invitation of the WorldCon, he mounted an exhibition of forty of his fantasy-and-science fiction related paintings and illustrations. In addition, he participated in four panel discussions, with topics including Star Trek, the works of Edgar Rice Burroughs, and the television series Firefly.

Kevin Willmott and Matt Jacobson presented their films CSA: Confederate States of America. The Battle For Bunker Hill, and Destination: Planet Negro! at MidAmeriCon II. Professor Jacobson also moderated an hour-long discussion with Professor Willmott, about the process of making Afro-Futurist films in the Midwest.

Professor Jacobson also participated on several other media panels as part of the WorldCon, including a panel on “cyberpunk” with Cory Doctorow and Pat Cadigan; moderating two panels, one on LGBT issues and the Star Wars universe, and the other on critical responses to Batman V. Superman; presenting excerpts from his long-form multi-year documentary on the process of creating a WorldCon; and giving two additional solo presentations, one on music videos and science fiction, and one on storytelling through model making (including the work on his film Destination: Planet Negro!). He also showed several of his models in the Art Show.

Professor Jacobson also led a team of students in documenting the entire run of MidAmeriCon II, including FMS students Ricky Smith, Christina Highsmith, and Megan Elliot, as well as filming a brief interview with MidAmeriCon II chair Ruth Lichtwardt for the Kansas City Star Online, and editing the clip reels for the Best Dramatic Long-Form and Best Dramatic Short-Form Presentations for the 2016 Hugo Awards Ceremony.
**Out & About**

Three students -- Luke Austin, Alaine Caudle, and Ricky Yang -- in Germaine Halegoua and Meg Jamieson’s Digital Storytelling class created a game about library anxiety that will be integrated into first-year-experience classes this fall and used in conjunction with Learning Studio events held on September 26 and 27. The game is based on peer-reviewed research and personal experiences of library anxiety and strategies for overcoming fear and anxiety around library use. Starting this month, the game will be incorporated into 45 sections of the University 101 course for first year students. The game is available here: [http://game.lib.dept.ku.edu/](http://game.lib.dept.ku.edu/)

Matt Jacobson led a group of KU FMS students (including Ben Brodsky and Sam Ashida-Butler) in documenting the Free State Festival, the Lawrence-based arts, music and film festival, June 20-25. (This is the third year in a row that Professor Jacobson has documented this festival.) Professor Jacobson worked on a number of other projects this summer, including creating two videos for the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission, as well as directing a series of training videos for a research project for the School of Education, crewed by FMS students Ben Brodsky, Megan Elliott, Annie Southall, and Alex Robinson.

Germaine Halegoua published an article titled, “Jumping for Fun? Negotiating Mobility and the Geopolitics of Foursquare” in the peer-reviewed, open access journal Social Media + Society. The article was based on research conducted and funded by Microsoft Research New England in collaboration with researchers from Microsoft and University of Southern California. The study looked at the phenomenon of “jumping,” which is considered a form of cheating, on the social media platform Foursquare. A link to the article can be found here: [http://sms.sagepub.com/content/2/3/2056305116665859.full.pdf+html](http://sms.sagepub.com/content/2/3/2056305116665859.full.pdf+html)

Halegoua also presented her work on “smart cities” at a Red Hot Research session in September. Read more: [http://www.thecommons.ku.edu/RedHotResearch.shtml](http://www.thecommons.ku.edu/RedHotResearch.shtml)

Kevin Willmott’s documentary Gordon Parks Elementary screened at the Black Harvest Film Festival at the Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago, Illinois, on August 14. This documentary had additional photography by Matt Jacobson, and was edited by KU FMS alumnus Mark von Schlemmer.

For more information about the film: [http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/gordonparkselementary](http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/gordonparkselementary)
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWN1vLr65es](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWN1vLr65es)
Germaine Halegoua was interviewed about her research on social media for an NPR series about the unintended consequences of tourism in national parks. The episode is part of an All Things Considered Series on KUNC in Colorado called “Loved to Death.”

A link to the audio is available here: http://www.kunc.org/post/social-media-spoiling-colorados-hanging-lake

Is Social Media Spoiling Colorado's Hanging Lake?

Clear mountain water cascades into a greenish blue lake, with pines dangling over the edge. Even for Colorado, it’s unique. Hanging Lake is described as a jewel in the White River National Forest. For many years, it was an unspoken secret that only Coloradans knew.

But there’s a problem. The secret is out.

In the past eight years, visitation to the site just off Interstate 70 west of the Continental Divide has tripled. In 2015 more than 130,000 people visited Hanging Lake. The 2016 hiking season is on track to beat it.

Social media is exacerbating that trend - not just at Hanging Lake but at other sites around Colorado.

It wasn’t as much of a problem when it was just a few errant visitors. But the popularity of places like Hanging Lake in part driven by their fame on social media is degrading the rare travertine rock, the water quality and the infamous log.

“Places are symbolic and they have symbolic value and there are culturally shared meanings of particular places,” said Germaine Halegoua, assistant professor of film and media studies at the University of Kansas. “Visiting these places have some sort of value within social networks,” she added. “Although it’s the same picture, it doesn’t hold the same type of value and meaning for everyone...it might be that a travel blog said, ‘that’s the place to go’ that year, or your best friend went and you want to share that experience with her, or an image has become iconic and has come to stand in for Colorado.”

How we share these images has evolved. Instead of slide shows in a room of friends or photo albums, social media presents us with potentially tens of thousands of people - most of them complete strangers - who can access and replicate personal images. That in turn makes places like Hanging Lake too popular for their own good.

Read full story: http://www.kunc.org/post/social-media-spoiling-colorados-hanging-lake
Out & About

Scot Pollard has ties to his character in feature film "The Profit"

Former Kansas basketball player and ex-NBA star Scot Pollard has been teammates with many people, but now he has teamed up with filmmaker and University film professor Kevin Willmott for a feature film titled "The Profit."

The film will premiere at Liberty Hall at 6 p.m. on Sept. 24. Both Pollard and Willmott will be in attendance to speak with audience members after the screening.

The film, which features Pollard in the lead role, is a drama centered around the trials and tribulations of aging NBA All-Star Joseph "The Profit" Smith. With a year left in the league to leave a final impression on his career, according to the official IMDB page, Smith reconnects with his old college town. In the process, the character revisits his past and has to battle critical moral dilemmas.

"We lift the skirt up on things people don’t really see or hear about," Pollard said. "There now might be a deeper appreciation for what players go through. That you’re constantly a target; that you’re constantly being victimized for this or that."

Smith, a character who Pollard said has several small similarities to himself, is a man "stripped down to his bones" during the duration of the story, and someone who was a challenge to play.

"There are certain parts of this movie that have happened to me in real life and it touches home," Pollard said. "The character is a portion of me."

Other notable characters in "The Profit" include young college player Jamal "Big Chest" Chesterfield (Joseph Anderson), ex-girlfriend Maggie (Michelle Davidson), and Smith's former college coach (Walter Coppage).

First efforts to get the film on its feet began over four years ago, when Pollard had the idea for a scripted television show that would have elements of his life—similar to that of the finished product "The Profit." After hiring a few Los Angeles screenwriters, Pollard began showing the script to people in Hollywood.

After the search for Hollywood interest proved unsuccessful, Pollard came back to Lawrence where he spoke to Willmott after working with him on 2014's "Jayhawks."

Then, during a lunch at Jefferson's with Willmott and future movie co-writer Scott Richardson, his story caught their attention.

But, this story would no longer be for television. Instead, Willmott said a revamping of the basic ideas into a film could catch more eyes and be more financially reasonable.

"It's low budget with big budget ideas," Willmott said. "Scot's got a really interesting point of view and he's a really interesting character, just as a person and someone with a lot of experiences."

After a year and a half of shooting and a premiere delay due to Pollard's "Survivor" appearance and Willmott's work with the film "Chi-Raq," "The Profit" is ready to be viewed by a wide audience.

"There's a lot of different levels of the film," Willmott said. "And I think people that are interested in sports will think it's a really good movie about the world that they probably know very little about and would really like to know."

While it is a film based on an athlete, Pollard said those outside the world of sports can appreciate the message the film sends as well.

"It’s a drama that people can appreciate as a non-sports fan and realizing that things like these happen," Pollard said. "That when bad things happen to [professional athletes], it’s not just their own fault."

Nick Schlyer, TH&F 1996, reports that he has been selected by the Directors Guild of America and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers as a 2016 trainee in the Assistant Directors Training Program and is currently attached as a Trainee to the new ABC comedy “Speechless” that premiered on September 21. Trainees become employees of a wide variety of feature films, TV series and commercials where they will work under the supervision of DGA AD/UPM members until completion of the program.

Nick writes, “My KU degree in Theatre and Film has given me an adventurous career. KU gave me a great foundation for this career and I want to thank everyone back in Lawrence for the solid start in show business.”


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University graduate achieves success through body painting

For Elsa Rhae, body painter and 2013 University graduate in film and media studies, her senior year involved one fateful decision: which elective to take in order to fulfill her degree. It is a dilemma that isn't unlike most at the University. Her final choice, a stage makeup course, would lead her into a new career path. She said the kit she had to buy required for class hooked her.

"It was the kit," Rhae said. "We had to buy that kit. Full of really not that quality makeup, but I never really had anything like it."

During her time in the stage makeup class, Rhae would take the class required and use them at home for her own projects.

Then, the idea came to her to show others what she was doing. She already had a YouTube channel -- a longtime passion of hers -- she would use what she learned from her film courses and combine that with her newfound love for painting.

"I was like, 'hey, I bet I could take this platform and combine it with this platform, tie that together and turn it into something that I can make revenue off of,'" Rhae said.

Jump to May of 2014. Rhae has a small following of a few hundred subscribers on YouTube, but a video inspired by her interest in "Game of Thrones" would soon go viral. The video currently sits at over 300,000 views.

Now at 126,000 subscribers and counting, Rhae attributes her success to thinking out of the box and sticking to what she wants to do, not what the popular trends are.

"Whether it makes me more popular or not, it makes me enjoy it more," Rhae said.

Read full story: [http://www.kansan.com/arts_and_culture/university-graduate-achieves-success-through-body-painting/article_f2f2db56-762f-11e6-8666-13ca82fb1fb8.html](http://www.kansan.com/arts_and_culture/university-graduate-achieves-success-through-body-painting/article_f2f2db56-762f-11e6-8666-13ca82fb1fb8.html)
Academic Calendar
Saturday, October 8 — First day of Fall Break
Tuesday, October 11 — Last day of Fall Break
Tuesday, November 1 — Undergraduate Application for Graduation deadline
http://www.registrar.ku.edu/calendar/

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.
Sign-up for editing rooms by signing the edit room schedule posted on the editing room doors.
The computer lab is available for use during the following times:
  Monday: 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
  Tuesday: 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.
  Wednesday: 8:30 – 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
  Thursdays: 8:30 – 5:00 p.m.
  Friday: 8:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Check with your instructor or John McCluskey, Assistant Technical Director, for more information.

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