



## Film Studies at UNCW

Wilmington is home to the third largest film production facility in the United States.

Recognizing the potential of a curricular connection with the regional film industry, UNCW launched a small interdisciplinary Film Studies program in 1997 with the support of Screen Gems Studios president Frank Capra Jr. After achieving departmental status in 2003, [Film Studies](#) quickly grew to become one of the most popular and competitive majors on campus, with approximately 170 pre-majors and 140 majors. Building upon on the success of our undergraduate model, and seeking to further utilize UNCW's location in a thriving film production center, Film Studies is currently developing graduate M.F.A. and M.A. programs.

### A Cohesive and Comprehensive Approach to the Study of Cinema

Most university film programs segregate cinema study and motion picture production. What distinguishes Film Studies at UNCW is the belief that a comprehensive knowledge of film history, theory, and analysis enriches the creative filmmaking process, and that film scholarship benefits from an understanding of how filmmakers conceive, develop, and realize their vision. The Film Studies curriculum reflects this integrated approach; Film Studies majors perform substantial work in both critical studies and film production.

Film Studies courses cover all modes of cinematic expression: narrative, documentary, avant garde/experimental, and animation. In addition, the critical studies curriculum covers film analysis, history, rhetoric and theory, and a wide range of world cinema. The film production curriculum encompasses every aspect of the integrated film production process, including screenwriting, directing, producing, cinematography, camera operation, lighting, sound recording and design, 3D and 2D animation, and interactive media.

### An Emphasis on Applied Learning

UNCW Film Studies students plan, curate, present and host [Visions](#), an annual international film festival and conference that brings undergraduate film scholars and filmmakers together to share their work and ideas. The 2011 inaugural event featured participants from UNCW, Yale, NYU, USC, Vassar, University of Warwick (UK), Flinders University (Australia), Ithaca College, University of Florida, Florida Atlantic University, and UNC Charlotte.

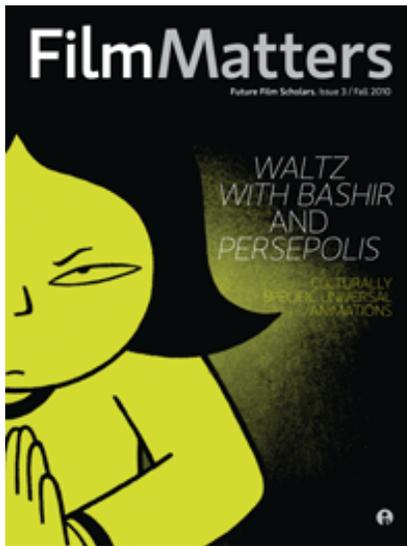
Students in critical studies courses curate, introduce, and write program notes for FST sponsored film events, including the **Latin American Film Series**, **Japanese Cinema Night**, and the [Exclusif New French Film Festival](#).

Film Studies faculty and students participate in [Reel Girls](#), a media literacy and documentary video production workshop for low income middle school students.



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Film Studies students edit [Film Matters](#), the first quarterly film journal written and edited by undergraduate students. Film Matters is published and distributed internationally by the UK publisher Intellect Press in collaboration with Film Studies and UNCW.



Students work in collaborative teams to complete motion picture projects as part of many Film Studies production courses. Each semester culminates with a juried **Student Screenings** event featuring the best of these narrative, documentary, experimental, and animated student films. Film Studies also facilitates student filmmaking outside of departmental curriculum with its support of the **UNCW Honors Scholars** program and sponsorship of student organizations like the [Flicker Film Society](#) and **Screenwriters Club**.

Two Film Studies department student films have achieved the final stage of the national Student Academy Award competition: [Twice as Bright](#) (Leo Hageman, 2010), and *The Drill* (Joel Davenport, 2006).

Many more of these student films screen in regional film festivals, including *Indefinite Meandering of Words Left Unsaid* (Lexi Lefkowitz, 2008), recipient of the “Best of North Carolina” award at the Hi Mom! film festival, and the “Best Experimental Film Award” at the Atlanta Underground Film Festival; and [Firewall of Sound](#) (Devin Dematta, 2010), the winner of the Carolina Film Festival’s “Best Documentary” prize.



**The Film Studies Internship program** is a two time recipient of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Institutional Grant. The program places more than 80 students each year in film industry, film festival, and publishing positions in North Carolina, New York, Los Angeles, and the United Kingdom. FST students who were hired as a result of internships include Alison Diviney, Acquisitions associate at The Weinstein Company (*Inglorious Bastards*, *A Single Man*), and Caroline Roberts, assistant to academy award winning director Rob Marshall (*Chicago*, *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*).

## Graduate Placement

A significant number of Film Studies majors pursue graduate degrees. FST alumni are enrolled in Ph.D. programs at the University of Iowa (Cinema and Comparative Literature) and George Mason University (Human Factors and Applied Cognition). Film Studies is represented at some of the most prestigious M.F.A. filmmaking programs in the U.S., including The American Film Institute (3 students, including the recipient of the William J. Fadiman Screenwriter Award for artistic and academic achievement, and a Richard Levinson Endowed Scholarship), and Columbia University (2 students, including the recipient of a full-ride Jacob Javitz Fellowship).

Many Film Studies department graduates work in the film industry as editors, post production supervisors, segment producers, production coordinators, assistant directors, script supervisors, camera operators and assistants, and in locations, casting, and development.