

CHIJI AKOMA is Chair of the Global Interdisciplinary Studies department and professor of English, specializing in African and Black Diaspora literatures at Villanova. Lately, he's been doing translation work in Igbo language.

RUTH BIENSTOCK ANOLIK teaches in the English and Theology Depts at Villanova University. Her writing on Gothic literature focuses on the interchange between horror writing and the actual horrors of the real world. She also leads film and book discussions for the GEMS program at the JCC in Wynnewood and the Gladwyne Library Book Discussion series.

DEREK ARNOLD has been a member of the Villanova Communication Department for 15 years. He studied and made films as part of his Communication degree from LaSalle University. He studies the connections between persuasion and politics, and media and rhetoric.

ROCKIA K. HARRIS is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Communication at Villanova University. As a recent doctoral graduate of Louisiana State University, she teaches an upper-level course that explores power in mass media, identity, and social change. Her scholarship examines how race and gender is communicated through popular culture and news media. Her forthcoming projects and publications analyze Black womanhood, Black Horror and Black youth (in) visibility in media fantasy worlds.

DAN JEFFERSON is a graduate of Haverford College and a lifelong cineaste. His love of film was nurtured by David Grossman, who headed Temple

University's Center City Campus movie house and Philadelphia Film Forum.

MAGHAN KEITA is a Professor of History and Global Interdisciplinary Studies at Villanova. He is also the Founding Director of both the Africana Studies and Global Interdisciplinary Studies programs at Villanova.

JOSEPH LENNON is Associate Dean for International and Interdisciplinary Initiatives for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Professor of English. He also serves as the Emily C. Riley Director of the Center for Irish Studies. His recent scholarship and publications focus on the history of hunger strikes and fasting protests.

SUSAN MACKEY-KALLIS is a Professor in the Communication Department at Villanova. She has published widely on rhetoric and film, including two highly praised books, *Oliver Stone's America: "Dreaming the Myth Outward"* and *The Hero and the Perennial Journey Home in American Film*.

SUSAN MARCOSSON works in education and is a self-taught film enthusiast. Her cameo in M. Night Shyamalan's *Unbreakable* was cut from the film but appears in the DVD version.

JOHN O'LEARY is the Director of The Cultural Film and Lecture Series at Villanova. He has co-written two chapters for books about situation comedies. In addition, Dr. O'Leary is the co-founder of The Social Justice Documentary Program at Villanova.

HEZEKIAH LEWIS, a native Californian, has an MFA in directing from UCLA's film school. Lewis

has directed and produced films that have been recognized with both domestic and international awards. He is a Professor in the Communication Department at Villanova.

TANIA ROMERO is a documentary filmmaker, co-director of the Social Justice Documentary Program at Villanova, and Assistant Teaching Professor in the Department of Communication at Villanova. Her work as a documentary filmmaker aims to embolden BIPOC communities.

JOHN PAUL SPIRO is a Teaching Professor in the Augustine and Culture Seminar Program. He also teaches courses on Shakespeare, political philosophy, and stand-up comedy.

KENNETH SALAAM, also known as "Freedom Smitty," was raised in North Philadelphia and was a member of the NAACP Youth Council under the leadership of Cecil B. Moore. His efforts, along with others, led to the desegregation of Girard College.

ELANA STARR, who was Publicity Director of the CFS for more than 21 years, has taught a variety of courses in film form and film theory at Villanova, Rosemont College, and The University of the Arts. Her area of interest is the representations of outsiders, especially in mainstream literature.

RICK WORLAND is Professor in the Department of Electronic Media and Film at Southern Methodist University. He has published many articles dealing with American popular culture in books and scholarly journals. He has recently published two books: *The Horror Film: An Introduction* and *Searching for New Frontiers: Hollywood Films in the 1960s*.

CULTURAL FILM SERIES COMMITTEE

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SUSAN MARCOSSON, **JOHN PAUL SPIRO**,
ELANA ROSE STARR

INFORMATION

CALL (610) 519-4454
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PARKING



All films are screened at the Connelly Center Cinema. Parking available in the St. Augustine (M2) lot behind the Connelly Center



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CELEBRATING
 AFRICAN AND
 AFRICAN AMERICAN
 FILMMAKERS

CULTURAL FILM SERIES 2023-2024



CULTURAL FILM SERIES 2023 - 2024

CELEBRATING AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN FILMMAKERS

This year's film series will feature the work of African and African American Filmmakers.

Films are screened in the Cinema of the Connelly Center on Villanova's campus on Sundays at 3:30 and 7 p.m. and Monday evenings at 7 p.m.

The speakers, who introduce the film and lead a discussion after the screening, are only present for the Monday evening screenings.

As always, all screenings are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. John O'Leary at john.oleary@villanova.edu, or by calling (610) 519-4454

FALL 2023

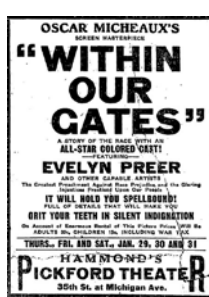
SEPTEMBER 24 - 25

WITHIN OUR GATES (PLUS TWO SHORT FILMS)

USA, 1920 - 96 minutes
Directed by Oscar Micheaux

Within our Gates, the oldest known surviving film made by an African American director, tells the story of an educated black woman with a shocking past who dedicates herself to helping a near bankrupt school for impoverished black youths in the 1920s.

Speaker: Rick Worland



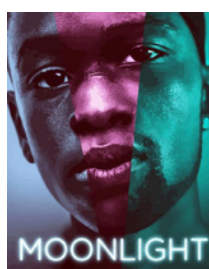
OCTOBER 1 - 2

MOONLIGHT

USA, 2016 - 111 minutes
Directed by Barry Jenkins

In exploring the story of a young African American man grappling with his identity and sexuality, Jenkins has created, "a film of rare grace - a tender, compassionate, restrained look at a life lived in the shadows" says Adam Graham of *Detroit News*.

Speaker: Susan Mackey-Kallis



OCTOBER 22 - 23

ATLANTIQUE

France, 2019 - 106 minutes
Directed by Mati Diop

Set in Senegal, this "deeply poetic and profoundly moving cinema experience" (Alexandra Heller-Nicholas, *AWF.org*) tells the story of workers on the construction site of a futuristic tower who decide to leave the country by the ocean for a better future.

Speakers: Dan Jefferson and Susan Marcossan



OCTOBER 29 - 30

INSIDE MAN

USA, 2006 - 129 minutes
Directed by Spike Lee

A police detective, a bank robber, and a high-power broker enter high-stakes negotiations after the criminal's brilliant heist spirals into a hostage situation in this, "wily thriller, which revitalizes a familiar premise by turning it inside out" (J. R. Jones, *Chicago Reader*).

Speaker: Elana Starr



NOVEMBER 12 - 13

BLACK GIRL

Senegal, 1966 - 65 minutes
Directed by Ousmane Sembene

One of the first African films to receive international recognition, this film tells the story of a black girl from Senegal who becomes a servant in France in this, "outstanding work: funny, insightful, beautifully shot and heartbreaking" (Betsy Reed, *Guardian US*).

Speaker: Maghan Keita



NOVEMBER 19 - 20

MOOLAADÉ

Senegal, 2003 - 124 minutes
Directed by Ousmane Sembene

"Moolaadé is the kind of film that can only be made by a director whose heart is in harmony with his mind" says Roger Ebert, *RogerEbert.com* of this story about a woman who shelters a group of girls from suffering female genital mutilation.

Speaker: Chiji Akoma



DECEMBER 3 - 4

CECIL'S PEOPLE

USA, 2016 - 30 minutes
Directed by Jon Kohl

In 1965, members of Philadelphia's NAACP rallied under the leadership of Cecil B. Moore to desegregate Girard College. Originally founded in 1831, Girard College remained segregated until 1968. Fifty years later, four Freedom Fighters recount their struggle in this documentary.

Speaker: Kenneth Salaam



SPRING 2024

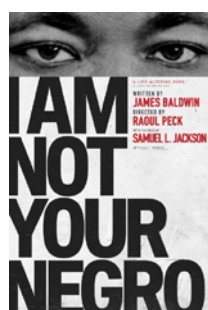
FEBRUARY 4 - 5

I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO

USA, 2016 - 93 minutes
Directed by Raoul Peck

This documentary examines legendary writer James Baldwin as he tells the story of race in America with his unfinished novel, *Remember This House*. "You would be hard-pressed to find a movie that speaks to the present moment with greater clarity and force" says A. O. Scott of the *New York Times*.

Speaker: Rockia K. Harris



FEBRUARY 11 - 12

EVE'S BAYOU

USA, 1997 - 108 minutes
Directed by Kasi Lemmons

Set in 1962 Louisiana, this family drama, "illuminates the joys, hurts and mysteries of a girlhood set under the moss canopy of the Louisiana bayou" says Jami Bernard of the *New York Daily News*.

Speaker: Ruth Anolik



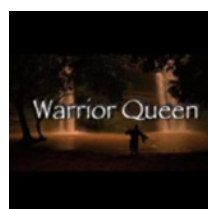
FEBRUARY 18 - 19

WARRIOR QUEEN

USA, 2009 - 22 minutes
Directed by Hezekiah Lewis

Warrior Queen, written and directed by Villanova Professor Hezekiah Lewis, tells the story of Yaa Asantewaa, a Ghanaian queen who struggles to preserve the Ashanti culture against early 1900s British rule.

Speaker: Hezekiah Lewis



FEBRUARY 25 - 26

HUNGER

USA, 2008 - 96 minutes
Directed by Steve McQueen

This, "daring, brutal, vital piece of filmmaking" (Brian Tallerico, *Movie Retriever*) follows the 1981 IRA Hunger Strike, led by Bobby Sands.

Speaker: Joseph Lennon



MARCH 17 - 18

SUMMER OF SOUL

USA, 2021 - 118 minutes
Directed by Questlove

This documentary about the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival which celebrated African American music and culture is, "sonically flawless, authentically textured and deep-rooted in cultural significance" says Whelan Barzey of *Empire Magazine*.

Speaker: Derek Arnold



MARCH 24 - 25

12 YEARS A SLAVE

USA, 2013 - 134 minutes
Directed by Steve McQueen

This film about the true story of Solomon Northup, a free black man who was abducted and sold into slavery, "speaks to the courage and resilience of one man, the savagery of many, and the potential, for both good and for ill, in us all" says Steven Rea of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Speaker: John Paul Spiro



APRIL 14 - 15

YELEN

Mali, 1987 - 105 minutes
Directed by Souleymane Cissé

This film follows a young man with magical powers who journeys to his uncle to request help in fighting his sorcerer father. Cissé's, "grandly imaginative visual artistry renders the magical world concrete" says Richard Brody of *The New Yorker*.

Speaker: Tania Romero



APRIL 21 - 22

BLACULA

USA, 1972
93 minutes
Directed by William Crain

An 18th century African prince, turned into a vampire by Dracula, finds himself in modern day Los Angeles. This smart and enjoyable horror film made important creative contributions to the portrayal of the Black vampire.

Speaker: Rick Worland

