

Clemson World Cinema 2023 Annual Report



Department of
**INTERDISCIPLINARY
STUDIES**

GREETINGS FROM WORLD CINEMA!

This year, our program says goodbye and congratulations to thirteen graduates, our largest class ever. We'll miss our students, but we're excited for them as they start the next chapter in their lives. Among the new World Cinema alumni, **Vivian Schmotzer** will attend the M.A. in Translation program at the University of Surrey, United Kingdom, which Vivian explains is "centered around accessibility in film, television and video games. I will be learning about the process of making subtitles, writing and rewriting scripts, and creating dubs." **Vanya Bokar** will be heading to the University of Texas at Austin to begin an M.A. in Media Studies, where he looks to build on his interests in screenwriting and film theory. We wish all our graduates the best as they prepare for life after Clemson.



World Cinema held numerous film events throughout the year, from speakers to panel discussions to screenings. In October, The Humanities Hub and World Cinema invited Dr. Ross Melnick, Professor of Film and Media Studies at UC Santa Barbara, to present a lecture, "Hollywood and the French Resistance: The Paramount Theater during the Nazi Occupation of Paris." In the spring, we were one sponsor of the Common Read Film Series, which included a 35mm print of *Black Orpheus* (Dir. Marcel Camus, 1959), followed by a panel discussion with Dr. Kaifa Roland, Director of Global Black Studies, and *Lovers Rock* from Steve McQueen's anthology *Small Axe* (2020), with World Cinema affiliated faculty Dr. Aga Skrodzka and Dr. Luca Barattoni on the post-screening panel. In February, Dr. Roy Menari from the Department of the Arts at the University of Bologna delivered a virtual talk, "Vertigo and the Spirals of Film Art."

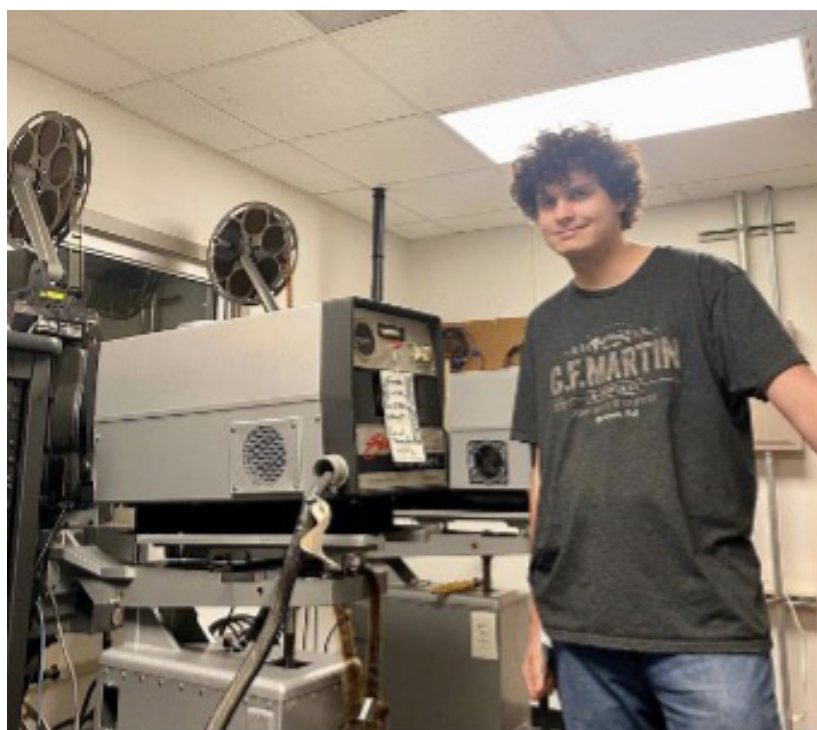
The changeover projection system we purchased in 2020 continues to pay dividends, allowing us to secure 35mm studio prints for campus screenings. In addition to *Black Orpheus*, we screened 35mm prints of *It's a Wonderful Life* (Dir. Frank Capra, 1946) in December and *Singin' in the Rain* (Dir. Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen, 1952) in February. We now organize film series every semester, open to the campus and surrounding communities. A Creative Inquiry in Film Programming has recently been approved, which we anticipate will get more students involved in organizing film events, from World Cinema and beyond. If you haven't attended one of our screenings, we hope to see you there next year!

We continue to work with the Arts Center of Clemson in partnership with South Arts to host the Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers, whose mission is "Connecting independent filmmakers with communities throughout the South for film screenings with conversations around stories, important topics, and the art of filmmaking" (southarts.org). Last year marked the return of Southern Circuit to campus after more than ten years.



Screenings included *Mama Bears* (Dir. Daresha Kyi, 2022), *Outta the Muck* (Dir. Ira McKinley, 2022), and *Hazing* (Dir. Byron Hurt, 2023). The screenings were all in McKissick Auditorium in Hendrix, three in the fall and three in the spring, with discussions after the screening which often included filmmakers or producers or people whose stories were told in the film. World Cinema majors Sharbel Feghali and Erin Gwyer are interning with the Arts Center to work with South Arts in the selection of next year's films, and to take the lead in hosting the on-campus screenings.

Also, a hearty congratulations to this year's recipients of the World Cinema Awards: **Brodie Blizzard** and **Sara Ciplickas**.



Brodie won the World Cinema Award, which recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in World Cinema and in the university, and who have been committed to promoting World Cinema across the university. Since Fall 2021, he has been a fixture in World Cinema's film series, introducing films, working with faculty to compile written introductions for film programs, working with a projectionist for 35mm screenings. Brodie served as student representative on the World Cinema Steering Committee. He has represented our program on the Dean's Undergraduate Advisory Council and as Ambassador for the College of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities. His primary interests are in film history. He's considering graduate school in film studies, and career paths to film programming, archives, film librarianship. World Cinema is grateful for the outstanding leadership he has demonstrated!

Sara won the Capstone Award, which recognizes the senior with outstanding achievement in a work of criticism or production completed for the Capstone Seminar, and who has demonstrated high scholastic standing as a World Cinema major (overall GPA of 3.5 or higher). For her project, Sara conceptualized an undergraduate film online and print publication launched at Clemson this spring: *Reel Dialogue*, which publishes students' film reviews, essays, creative projects such as photography or designs, and, for the online version, short films or video essays. The World Cinema Steering Committee admired her work and vision, describing *Reel Dialogue* as "a very elastic template that seeks to engage with cinema through a variety of media." Sara drew on her study across a range of disciplines to develop this project. She writes: "Studying film is for more than just filmmakers. I want students interested in writing, design, social media, publishing, and journalism to see how many opportunities there are

in the entertainment industry. This project is a path for more students like me to declare interdisciplinary majors and create a unique experience at Clemson.” Sara was also the recipient of the College-wide Phi Kappa Phi Certificate of Merit, awarded to a senior with an overall GPA of at least 3.5 who has made noteworthy contributions to Clemson. She will study brand management this fall at Sup de Luxe in Paris. Her goal is to work in industry as a creative director or brand manager for studios, museums, or production companies.

Exciting things lie ahead in the next academic year as World Cinema moves to the new Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, with Global Black Studies, Women’s Leadership, and Rhetorics, Communication, and Information Design. So, stay tuned; there is much to look forward to! Follow us on Instagram: [cu_worldcinema](#) for more information. And as always, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me at johnsm@clemson.edu if you’d like to learn more about our program and the work we’re doing.



Best wishes,

John Smith

John Smith
Director of World Cinema

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