

**Hopkins Center  
for the Arts**  
at Dartmouth



**The Magnuson Center  
for Entrepreneurship**  
at Dartmouth

present

# **Dartmouth Film & Media Alumni Festival**

**Thursday–Sunday, November 7–10**

**Loew Auditorium • Dartmouth College • 2024**

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*Cosponsored by the Leslie Center for the Humanities, the Department of Film & Media Studies, Center for Professional Development, the Dartmouth Club of the Upper Valley and the Magnuson Center for Entrepreneurship*

# Schedule of Events

Thu, Nov 7

## **Film: The Nutcracker at Wethersfield**

*With filmmaker Annie Sundberg '90*

**6 pm • Loew Auditorium**

A boldly reimagined pandemic production of the holiday classic brings together dancers and artists of the highest caliber in this documentary ode to creativity. Discussion follows.

Fri, Nov 8

## **Panel: Emerging Tech and the Future of Entertainment**

**3 pm • Loew Auditorium • Free**

Alums working for streaming platforms, AI companies and more exchange ideas about the future of entertainment. Panelists include Michelle Brattson Majors '96, Evan Golden '04, Katie Kilkenny '14, Johnny Mathias '11 and Sarah Rudzki '11

## **Film: Nature of the Crime**

*With filmmakers Ricki Stern '87 and Jesse Sweet '98*

**5 pm • Loew Auditorium**

This unprecedented look at our country's parole process explores how we as a society might seek justice in a humane way and what it means to deserve a second chance. Discussion follows.

## **Festival Party**

**7–8 pm • Nearburg Forum**

This party is open to all Dartmouth students and festival passholders. Heavy apps and drinks will be served. *Co-hosted with the Dartmouth Club of the Upper Valley.*

## **Film: Hold Your Breath**

*With producer Alix Madigan '84*

**8 pm • Loew Auditorium**

Sarah Paulson and Ebon Moss-Bachrach star in this Dust Bowl-era psychological thriller which taps into our present anxieties around climate change. Discussion follows.

Sat, Nov 9

## **Panel: Non-Fiction Film and Social Impact**

**11 am • Loew Auditorium • Free**

This panel of alumni non-fiction filmmakers share stories about the obstacles they face and rewarding experiences where their films have made a difference. Guests include Samantha Knowles '12, Kate Novack '94, Jason Maloney '91, Ricki Stern '87, Alexander Stockton '15 and Jesse Sweet '98.

## **Panel: Storytelling, Form & Content**

Through Film, Television & New Media

**2 pm • Loew Auditorium • Free**

Alumni working in physical production, producing, directing for television and new media explore the relationship between form and content with new modes of storytelling. Guests include producer Michelle Brattson Majors '96, Alix Madigan '84, Bailey Magrann-Wells '08, Alice Mathias '07, Alexi Pappas '11 and Mac Simonson '16.

## **Film: Alumni Shorts Showcase**

**4 pm • Loew Auditorium**

This program of bite-sized movies showcase the talents of established filmmakers, up-and-coming talent and student work by notable alumni. Discussion follows with filmmakers Samantha Knowles '12, Jason Maloney '91, Kate Novack '94, Alexander Stockton '15 and Harriette Yahr '87.

## **Film: Special A24 Sneak Screening**

*With Mac Simonson '16 in person*

**8 pm • Loew Auditorium**

A surprise title brought to you by the studio behind *Moonlight*, *Everything Everywhere All At Once*, *Past Lives* and *Midsommar*. Intro by A24 executive Mac Simonson '16.

Sun, Nov 10

## **Panel: Filmmaking at Dartmouth and in the Upper Valley**

**2 pm • Loew Auditorium • Free**

Local Dartmouth alumni share clips of new work and discuss the resources and inspiration available for aspiring filmmakers in the area. Harriette Yahr '87 will moderate a conversation with Jordyn Fitch '20, Dan Maxell-Crosby '02, Nora Jacobson '74, Ben Silberfarb '90 and Signe Taylor.

## **Film: Not an Artist**

**4 pm • Loew Auditorium**

Alexi Pappas '11 and RZA star in this comedy about an artist-in-residence program where the attendees must unlock their full creative potential or abandon art forever. Virtual introduction by director Jeremy Teicher '10. *Open to Dartmouth ID and festival passholders only.*

# About the Guests

**Michelle Brattson Majors '96** is executive vice president of physical production at Amblin Partners since 2022, whose recent films include *Carry-On* and *The Thursday Murder Club*. Michelle was a director of production for Netflix Original Studio Films from 2017-2022 where she managed productions including *Hustle*, *Marriage Story* and more. Before her in-house studio career Michelle spent 15 years freelancing in production management on major studio films including *Interstellar*, *Star Trek Into Darkness*, *Frost/Nixon* and *Charlie Wilson's War*. Michelle is a member of the Producers Guild of America and a Women in Film mentor. Michelle holds a Master in Producing from the USC School of Cinematic Arts' Peter Stark Program and a BA in English from Dartmouth College.

**Rick Brook '82** served as Film Society director at the time that Bill Pence started his role as Director of the Hop Film program. He is a longtime steward of the "Dartmouth Mafia" out at the Telluride Film Festival, where he has worked as a theater manager and ringmaster at the Sheridan Opera House for 40+ years. Along with Bill and Chris Robinson '86, Rick helped launch the Turner Classic Movies festival in Los Angeles. He also served as board president of Cinema KC from 2017-2019. Although his career focus is on the restaurant business, Rick's time with the Film Society made him a lifelong movie lover with an interest in film programming.

**Jordyn Fitch '20** is a filmmaker, media educator, community organizer and professional rabble-rouser from South Florida who loves complicated board games and organizing the working class. They are the Production Manager and a producer at Junction Arts & Media. They live in Lebanon, NH with their lovely wife and slightly wilting plants.

**Evan Golden '04** is a Senior Product Manager focused on various data projects for Disney Entertainment & ESPN Technology at the Walt Disney Company. He began his career working for legendary producers Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall, contributing to such films as *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, *The*

*Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *The Adventures of Tintin* and *Ponyo* among others. He spent the next few years as a writing assistant to Oscar-nominated screenwriter Eric Singer (*American Hustle*) before moving to Disney. While at Dartmouth Evan was a film major, served as Director of the Dartmouth Film Society, and began an 18-year run working for the Telluride Film Festival.

**Nora Jacobson '74** is an award-winning independent filmmaker who works in narrative film as well as documentary. She is devoted to telling stories of women, social justice, cultural diversity and place. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Herb Lockwood Award for Excellence in the Arts, among other awards. Her films have been shown theatrically, on PBS, at Sundance, the New York Film Festival and many other venues and festivals.

**Katie Kilkenny '14** is a labor and media reporter at *The Hollywood Reporter*, where she covers labor and union issues and publishes features and investigative work. Prior to joining THR as an Associate Editor covering breaking news in 2017, she was a culture associate editor at *Pacific Standard* and an entertainment reporting fellow for *The Atlantic*. Her work has been recognized with National Arts & Entertainment Journalism and SoCal Journalism awards.

**Samantha (Sam) Knowles '12** is an award-winning Brooklyn-based filmmaker. Her film *How We Get Free* on HBO has most recently been shortlisted for a 2024 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Film, and she has been listed on the DOC NYC 40 Under 40 List for 2023, which honors and celebrates emerging talent in the documentary world. Samatha has been working in documentary film for the past decade on documentaries for HBO, Netflix, *New York Times*, ESPN, the Discovery Channel, PBS, Showtime and BET. She is a Dartmouth College alum (cum laude) with dual degrees in Film and Psychology, and is currently directing a forthcoming documentary series for Disney and Imaginee.

**Alix Madigan '84** is an independent producer whose films have brought together high-caliber actors to tell poignant human stories in a variety of genres. She produced *Winter's Bone*, which received four Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture. Alix is currently in post-production on *HORSEGIRLS*, an independent film shooting in Portland. Other recent credits include *Hold Your Breath*, *The Lie* and *1982* directed by Oualid Mouaness, which was Lebanon's entry for Best International Film for the Academy Awards in 2019. Alix's first produced movie was *Sunday* which won The Grand Jury Prize for best dramatic feature in the 1997 Sundance Film Festival. She serves on the board of Film Independent and is a member of AMPAS.

**Bailey (née Massey) Magrann-Wells '08** is the Head of Story at CAA, the world's leading entertainment and sports agency. After beginning her career as an assistant and later an English teacher, Bailey found her niche as a story analyst, a position for which she has evaluated hundreds of screenplays, pilots and manuscripts. After reading professionally for five years, Bailey was promoted to head of the CAA Story Department in 2020. As Story Editor, Bailey manages the agency's in-house readers, administers the script library, and scouts promising intellectual property for clients. A former Film and Television Studies major and Film Society director, Bailey looks forward to returning to Hanover to discuss the connection between story and screen.

**Jason Maloney '91** is an award-winning cameraman, editor and news and documentary producer specializing in foreign affairs coverage. His work has appeared on ABC, CBC, CBS, CNN, Discovery, HDNet, PBS, Nytimes.com and Time.com. He teaches courses on multimedia production and international crisis reporting. In 2014, he launched GlobalBeat, NYU's international reporting program that brings graduate students overseas for hands-on video reporting. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Directors Guild of America. Jason holds a BA from

Dartmouth College and a master's from the London School of Economics.

**Alice Mathias '07** is an Emmy-winning director and producer who has been nominated 9 times as an Executive Producer of *I Think You Should Leave* (Netflix), *Portlandia* (IFC), and *Documentary Now!* (IFC). Alice's directing credits include *I Think You Should Leave* (Netflix), *Schmigadoon* (Apple), *History of the World: Part II* (Hulu) *That Damn Michael Che* (HBO Max), and *Portlandia* (IFC). She won a Peabody Award as Executive Producer of *Los Espookys* (HBO), and she also produced Julio Torres' standup special *My Favorite Shapes* (HBO) and Fred Armisen's Grammy-nominated Netflix standup special *Standup for Drummers*. Originally from Chicago, Alice is a graduate of Dartmouth College and USC film school.

**Johnny Mathias '11** works in global business development at Apple Inc., where he is responsible for growing Apple's multi-billion dollar media services business (Apple Music, Apple TV+, Sports, Apple Arcade, etc.). Johnny is deeply involved in the startup community, serving as a Los Angeles leader at Dartmouth's Magnuson Center for Entrepreneurship and a DCLA Board Member. Johnny is also the lead singer / guitarist of the rock band Filligar and has performed alongside Grammy-winning artists Counting Crows, The Black Keys and others. Johnny holds an MBA from Tuck and a BA with honors cum laude from Dartmouth College.

**Dan Maxell Crosby '02** is a video and film professional with 20+ years of experience in all stages of production. In addition to producing compelling content with Dartmouth's Media Production Group, Dan also serves on the board of JAM (Junction Arts & Media) located in beautiful downtown White River Junction. He can also be found tinkering with printmaking and stop motion animation, running through the VT hills, and reclaiming (rather unsuccessfully) his vintage LEGO® collection from his now fourteen-year-old son. Dan majored in film and television studies and

minored in economics, and is married to Sarah Maxell Crosby '04—both of them longtime members of the Dartmouth Film Society.

**Kate Novack '94** is an Emmy-nominated writer, director and producer of documentaries. Her film *Hysterical Girl* (New York Times Op-Docs), revisiting Sigmund Freud's only major case history of a female patient, was shortlisted for an Academy Award and nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Writing. Kate's feature *The Gospel According to Andre* was named one of the top ten Queer films of the year by *Indiewire*. She wrote and produced *Page One: Inside the New York Times*, *A Table In Heaven* and *The Guy Who Got Cut Wrong*, featuring the Soviet-Jewish novelist Gary Shteyngart.

**Alexi Pappas '11** previously co-wrote and starred in the feature film *Olympic Dreams* alongside Nick Kroll, premiering at SXSW 2019. In 2016 Alexi co-wrote, co-directed and starred in the feature film *Tracktown* with a cast including Rachel Dratch '88. Alexi's writing has been published in the *New York Times*, her critically acclaimed memoir *Bravey* (2021) was included in multiple "best books of the year" lists. A Greek American, Alexi is the Greek national record holder in the 10,000 meters with a personal best of 31:36 set at the Rio Olympics. Alexi graduated magna cum laude from Dartmouth College and now lives in Los Angeles, California.

**Chris Robinson '86** is an itinerant film scholar who has worked with the TCM Classic Film Festival since its inception. He is a long-time curator, and veteran since 1985, at the Telluride Film Festival. He has taught at Emerson College, the University of Kansas, and Columbia University. He has worked in production, distribution, and exhibition, and also has served as post-production editor on numerous documentaries for HBO, ESPN and PBS, including films that screened at the Sundance Film Festival. He is now Resident Curator for Arkansas Cinema Society and an Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies at the University of Arkansas, despite trying to live in New York.

**Sarah (née Laeuchli) Rudzki '11** is a product leader with degrees in theater, and has directed and produced productions internationally. She is the co-founder of the company Bitpart AI, which gives intelligence to NPCs to play their roles, right out of the box, and web-based tools to make them your own. Prior to working at Bitpart AI, she helped develop realistic, human-sounding chatbots for Giant Otter and Drift. As a student at Dartmouth, Sarah majored in Theater and served as the president for the Displaced Theater Club.

**Ben Silberfarb '90** is a writer and director as well as director of photography and video editor. His projects range from the production of feature films (*Brief Reunion*) to television commercials and everything in between. Ben's background in environmental conservation including a Master of Environmental Studies (Yale University), employment by The Nature Conservancy (1992-97) and The Lyme Timber Company (1999-2006) has fed a special interest in filmmaking about the outdoors. Along with nature, Ben loves bicycles and cosmological ideas of space and time.

**Mac Simonson '16** has been at A24 since 2016, working on releases including *Stop Making Sense* (Jonathan Demme), *Showing Up* and *First Cow* (Kelly Reichardt), *First Reformed* (Paul Schrader), *The Souvenir* (Joanna Hogg), *High Life* and *Stars at Noon* (Claire Denis), *Aftersun* (Charlotte Wells), *Janet Planet* (Annie Baker), and *I Saw the TV Glow* (Jane Schoenbrun). At Dartmouth he majored in English and minored in Philosophy, and worked for the late Hop Film director Bill Pence on the Telluride Film Festival's shorts programs in 2014 and 2015. He lives and works in New York.

**Ricki Stern '87** is an award-winning documentary film director, producer and writer. Most recently, she co-directed and co-produced with Jesse Sweet '98 the HBO documentary *Nature of the Crime*. Her many directing credits include the five-part series *UFOs: Investigating the Unknown* (2023), the six-part series

*Surviving Death* (2021) and the Emmy-nominated *Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work*. She has been to the Hop many times with her film partner Annie Sundberg '90 to present *Reversing Roe*, *Marathon: The Patriots Day Bombing*, *In My Father's House*, *Knuckleball!*, *The Devil Came on Horseback*, and *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*. Her first film was the Emmy-nominated *Neglect Not the Children* (1992).

**Alexander Stockton '15** is a journalist and a filmmaker for New York Times Opinion. He's been awarded two Emmy awards, for *Heartache in the Hot Zone*, a video dispatch from a hospital during the pandemic, and for a video investigation called *The Taliban Promised Them Amnesty. Then They Executed Them*. Previously, Alex worked on *VICE News Tonight* on HBO. While at Dartmouth, Alex wrote and directed a fiction feature film called *Transient*, which premiered at the 2016 Beverly Hills Film Festival. Alex double-majored in Film Studies and Economics, and studied abroad in Scotland. He lives in San Francisco.

**Jesse Sweet '98** is an Emmy award-winning documentary filmmaker. He recently directed *Killer Robots* (Netflix), exploring artificial intelligence in the military, *The Murders Before The Marathon* (ABC News/Hulu), investigating whether Tamerlan Tsarnaev committed a triple homicide 18 months before he bombed the Boston Marathon, and *City of Joel*, following a small-town political battle between a Hasidic sect and their secular neighbors. Previous works include *Surviving Death* (Netflix), *Parts Unknown with Anthony Bourdain* (CNN), *Business of Drugs* (Netflix), *Years of Living Dangerously* (Showtime), *Enhanced* (ESPN), *Death Row Stories* (CNN) and *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*

**Signe Taylor** is an experienced documentary filmmaker and media educator, who has worked as a Senior Producer with the Media Production Group at Dartmouth since 2018. Her collaboration with Dartmouth Professor Kimberly Juanita Brown received a Case Award. Prior to Dartmouth, Signe

produced and directed *It's Criminal*, a documentary focused on a Dartmouth class which brought students to a local jail to collaborate with incarcerated women on a play. She also directed *Circus Dreams*, a feature documentary about the only traveling youth circus in the United States. She received her BA from Barnard College and her Master in Communication from the Documentary Film Program at Stanford University.

**Jeremy Teicher '10** co-directed *Olympic Dreams* and *Tracktown*, and now his fourth feature film *Not an Artist* is making its way through the festival circuit. His award-winning first feature film, *Tall as the Baobab Tree*, garnered acclaim from over 50 festivals around the world and was distributed by Sundance Artist Services in 2013. *Tall as the Baobab Tree* is inspired by true stories from Jeremy's short documentary film, *This is Us*, which was supported by Dartmouth's Lombard Public Service Fellowship and was nominated for a Student Academy Award.

**Harriette Yahr '87** is a filmmaker and educator. Her experience in film is wide-ranging and includes screenwriting, directing, producing, editing, cinematography and journalism. Her film work has been screened at film festivals internationally, including the Telluride Film Festival. Harriette teaches filmmaking and screenwriting, as well as Oral Histories and Digital Storytelling, a course that merges theory with creative media exploration (video, podcasts, web-based storytelling). She is currently working on an animated short that is taking her down new, expressive roads (including with AI) and is developing a program for Dartmouth students at the Sundance Film Festival which had its first iteration in 2024. She also enjoys making pop-up books and has been awarded the Dartmouth Book Arts prize.

# About the Dartmouth Film Society

When the Dartmouth Film Society hosted its first screening on October 25, 1949 (of W.C. Fields's *Million Dollar Legs*), there were no VHS tapes, no DVDs—and certainly no Netflix. If you wanted to see a movie that wasn't currently in theaters, you had to find a film print and rig up a projector. So that's exactly what Professor Maurice Rapf '35, Orton Hicks and J. Blair Watson, Director Emeritus of Dartmouth College Films, set out to do.



Many students who participated in DFS went on to pursue careers as creatives and studio executives after graduation, so now it is well-known that the "Dartmouth Mafia" within the film industry is ready to help the next generation of students get started with careers centered around storytelling, the moving image and more. This festival weekend, the centerpiece of the yearlong 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Dartmouth Film Society, is a celebration of the lasting impact Dartmouth alumni have had and continue to have on the film, media and entertainment industry.

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Assistive Listening Devices available in the lobby.



If you do not wish to keep your playbill, please discard it in the recycling bin provided in the lobby. Thank you.