

MDOCS

JOHN B. MOORE DOCUMENTARY STUDIES COLLABORATIVE



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News of Note

[Director's Note: February, 2016](#)

With spring semester underway, MDOCS students, faculty and staff are hard at work on this semester's projects...

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[Student Highlight: Emma Foley '16](#)

MDOCS student Emma Foley '16 discusses her documentary film project which reveals the female perspective of first time sexual experiences. Maybe losing your virginity isn't all it's built up to be?

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[Doc off Campus: Laura Juncadella '11](#)

Students from Prof.Dym's course, 'Cuba Travel Seminar' stopped through Miami en route to Cuba. While their, they caught up with Skidmore alumna Laura Juncadella '11 to see what she's been up to post graduation.

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[Doc on Campus: Iva Radivojevic and Danielle Rosen '06](#)

Two doc filmmakers, two different views, two different ways to "make it" in the documentary industry. Learn more from the intimate lunch discussion with these two award-winning filmmakers.

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[MDOCS Picks: What's the last doc work you've seen?](#)

What is the last piece of documentary work you experienced? Would you recommend it? Find out what 4 members of the Skidmore community have to say.

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Upcoming

Events

- March 1 @ 12:30-1:30pm, LI113 - Lunch w/ Bhawin Suchak (Youth FX), Film Distribution
- March 1 @ 6-8pm - [Youth FX Shorts Program with filmmakers](#)
- March 2 @ 5-7pm - [Student Showcase - Media Production](#)
- March 8 @ 7-9pm - [Screening, Oriented with Khader Abu Seif](#)
- March 24 @ 11:10-12:30pm - [David DeSario, Researching a Hidden Story about A Day's Work](#)

[Announcement - Summer course registration is open!](#)

- DS 251D Intro to Audio Documentary (4 cr) with Eileen McAdam
- DS 251C The Essay Film (3 cr) with Jonna McKone



SKIDMORE

C O L L E G E

CREATIVE THOUGHT MATTERS

Skidmore College · 815 North Broadway · Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
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Director's Note: February, 2016

February 26, 2016

With spring semester underway, MDOCS students, faculty and staff are hard at work on this semester's projects, planning for Storytellers' Institute (2016), and engaging with a wide range of documentarians on campus and in the community. Whether editing their own films, reflecting on visiting documentarians' career trajectories, getting insight into faculty's documentary watching and listening picks, or interviewing alumni in the field, students are making connections.



MDOCS/MFS Ethics Bowl, February 18, 2016 with Scott Mulligan (Legal Concerns), Beck Krefting (Disciplinary Approaches and Oversight) & Jordana Dym (Self, Subject and Releases)

MDOCS hosted its first "Ethics Bowl" in collaboration with the Media and Film Studies Program, is working with Academic Technologies and the Center for Leadership in Teaching and Learning on developing web-based assignments, and sponsored workshops in interviewing for oral history with Eileen McAdam and event photography with Eric Jenks.

Documentary film screenings are plentiful for the doc film buff as well -- whether Bob ParkeHarrison's hosting of Salt of the Earth in January and a finecut screening with an area filmmaker ready to go on the festival circuit or a visit with Youth FX's award-winning teenage filmmakers and program director Bhawin Suchak March 1 or the International Student Union and Pride Alliance's screening of Oriented with participant Khader Abu Seif (coming in March). More are yet to come.



Event Photo Workshop with Eric Jenks
February 12, 2016

Over winter break, thanks to Off Campus Study & Exchanges (OCSE) and Advancement, I had the opportunity to "scout" a little in Florida, Utah, California and New York, getting to know and reconnect with some of Skidmore's far-flung network of professionals in film, television, museum and web-based storytelling. First stop, Florida. I first met Laura Juncadella, '11, as an International Affairs major with a longstanding interest in Cuba.

So when a History/Doc Studies travel seminar to Cuba explored Miami and Little Havana in early January, it was a delight to connect her with 12 Skidmore and 6 St. Lawrence students on the way to "La Habana." Thanks to an audio storyteller in the group, we can share her story about how she'd followed her dream of working in documentary media to Miami-based Fusion, a startup online journalism/documentary platform with hard hitting stories, with a producer who knew the value of her liberal arts training. (For those on campus, look for "How Was Cuba?" -- the students' reflection on their experience in an exhibit March 23-29 exhibit in Case Center Gallery.)

Next stop -- Utah, a stop where Advancement organized an alumni reception at Sundance Film Festival, drawing in friends, family, and showcased two alumni with films in competition, one doc -- Danielle Rosen '06 (Kate Plays Christine) -- and one narrative, (Swiss Army Man). It's true what they say -- there's a lot going on. From finding a fabulous virtual reality experience to bring to Storytellers' Institute, to meeting a Swedish film distributor and a Lebanese filmmaker while standing in line, to chatting with Kickstarter about funding strategies, to attending a Latino Reels discussion of access issues and solutions in media careers, there was plenty to do before watching the films. Clearly, Sundance and other festivals have a lot to offer students and we're putting on thinking caps back on campus on ways to connect and build a meaningful experience with some events close to home, as well as those an airplane ride away.

The journey wrapped up, for now, with discussions in both Los Angeles and New York City with a range of practitioners on next steps for MDOCS. Who better to tap for advice on what skills and interests paved the way for careers in front of and behind the camera and microphone, writing the stories that make a difference, curating cutting-edge exhibitions, and making sure the legal t's are crossed and i's are dotted?

And (not to brag but...) we've passed a milestone on Facebook -- 200 likes. Thanks for the interest...we love the company and hope to keep growing.

Jordana Dym, Director



Adam Tinkle, Intro to Audio Doc.

Ron Taylor, Video Projects.

Photos J. Wakeman

Student Highlight: Emma Foley '16

February 26, 2016

Emma Foley has taken on a challenging doc film project, telling the many stories of the loss of one's virginity. The challenge comes not only in getting people to talk about the intimacy of the subject while respecting their anonymity, but also in unwrapping the stigma surrounding this popular topic for teens and young people. Like many difficult subjects, a person or a small group has to speak up first to begin the conversation.



As Foley states, "If this is something that's being talked about and something that's being felt by other people, I think that it's less alienating than the traditional concept of 'the perfect way you lose your virginity.'" The project has been created as a series of short films or "chapters" which have the ability to be added onto for years to come, but Foley hopes to have a solid collection of stories told within the next few months.

She is ready to start making the connections necessary to break the ice on this sometimes difficult conversation, sharing that "I have a little sister who's 14 years old and she hates when I talk to her about this stuff, but her and her friends... that's who I want to see this."

Listen to the 6 min interview clip of Emma Foley speaking with Emily Rizzo '18 about her experience in creating this project.

(<http://www.skidmore.edu/mdocs/news/2016/media/022616-highlight-Foley5.wav>)

Emma Foley, '16 is an Anthropology Major and Media & Film Studies Minor. She is currently working on this project in DS 302, Documentary Video Projects, with Ron Taylor.

Film Still #1: "Since losing that really traditional documentary interview style I have gotten the chance to be more creative in the process and leave more room for interpretation."



Film Still #2: I'm shooting completely non-narrative footage of bedrooms, and bathrooms and shadows on the wall, and things that can be interpreted by the viewer."



Film Still #3: "I'm still figuring out how I can be more visually interesting when I'm shooting a bunch of objects on a bedroom desk."



Doc off Campus: Laura Juncadella '11

February 26, 2016



On January 3, 2016, three Skidmore students on their way to Cuba with a travel seminar exploring the history of travel had lunch in Miami, Florida, with Laura Juncadella, '11 (International Affairs and Latin American Studies).



Juncadella took classes in documentary film storytelling at Skidmore before the creation of John B. Moore Documentary Studies Collaborative. Now five years after graduation, she still believes in a Liberal Arts education, and says that background can be a plus for employers looking to hire in production fields like television news.

Listen to excerpts from the conversation to hear how a liberal arts program paved the way for her current job with Fusion, a media company working on important stories for the YouTube generation, in which she shares the story of how she came to work at Fusion and the importance of visual storytelling.

(<http://www.skidmore.edu/mdocs/news/2016/media/022616-Doc-Juncadella5.mp3>)



Laura (left) with Dan Plumer, '16 (American Studies), Lucy Cooper-Hauser, '17 (Government) and James Rider, '16 (Government).

Doc on Campus: Iva Radivojevic and Danielle Rosen '06

February 25, 2016



Last November, MDOCS lucked out with a double-whammy visit from two highly accomplished documentary filmmakers. Writer-producer-cinematographer Iva Radivojevic (*left picture*) and producer Danielle Rosen, '06 (*right picture*) are both practicing filmmakers with distinct career paths and backgrounds. After presenting their pieces to Skidmore students in separate screening events, the two joined with several Skidmore students to discuss their inspirations, methods, and documentary mantras.

Both bringing fresh perspectives to the table, the creative minds behind *Evaporating Borders* (Iva) and *Drunk, Stoned, Brilliant, Dead: The History of the National Lampoon* (Danielle) push us to expand our definition of documentary film. MDOCS encourages students to explore the diverse range of opportunities within the doc industry, reinforcing the idea that there's no one "correct" way to create a documentary project. With that in mind, check out how Iva and Danielle compare and contrast when it comes to their filmmaking styles and approaches.

Background:

Having a background as an illustrator and studio artist, Iva has always been familiar with the sensation of having a "vision" to express. Although filmmaking was not her initial interest, what ultimately drew her to the medium was its ability to capture the stories she wanted to tell. Iva's films often touch on themes of displacement and migration. Having been born in Cyprus, she brings the international perspective necessary to effectively communicate these stories. Iva's filmmaking journey has taken her to places like Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, and Croatia (to name a few). Wherever her work brings her, Iva maintains that "the camera is an extension of you," so the more you can experience, the better. Her worn-in passport has also brought her to Brooklyn, where she has gone on to set up her permanent center of operations. Danielle is also based in NYC, where she serves as the Vice President of Production at 4th Row Films, a production company that specializes in independent films (both documentary and narrative). A Skidmore alum, Danielle graduated with degrees in Psychology and Theater. Coming at film from this path, she credits her adaptable nature within the industry to her liberal arts education, which set her up with the business, artistic, and interpersonal skills necessary to create largely collaborative projects.

Production:

Probably the area where the two filmmakers differ the most is in the actual processes they go through in order to create their films. Iva works on a comparatively smaller scale, and prefers to operate independently on all aspects of her projects. Working with a portable DSLR camera ideal for low-profile filming, Iva is able to act improvisationally and experimentally as her own director, writer, camera crew, and editor. As she puts it, she grants herself a "full artistic license." On the other end of the spectrum, what's fantastic about Danielle's situation is that she's surrounded by a group of people all working together towards the same creative vision. 4th Row Films upholds the idea that "who we work with and how we work with others becomes as important as the talent that goes into producing a film."

Style:

"You can make personal films without being in them," Iva explains. The projects she creates strike a personal chord with her, but she chooses to not turn the camera on herself. The narration, however, is a separate matter. *Evaporating Borders* "dissects the experience of asylum seekers in Cyprus," and is told through a series of vignettes, each narrated by Iva (speaking in Greek). Her narration is enhanced by vibrant shots of open landscapes and Grecian streets, allowing audiences space to take in what she says. Elements of the personal and the natural are captured with great attention to detail. Iva effectively communicates a tone that's both subdued and engaging.

4th Row Films chooses to create films about a broad range of topics, which has allowed them to build up a diverse body of work. *Drunk, Stoned, Brilliant, Dead* (2015), offers a broad and vivid history of the *National Lampoon*. Incorporating dozens of one-on-one interviews with the comedy legends who contributed to the rise and acclaim of the publication, *DSBD* is "intended to introduce a new generation to the comedy they already love." Told in a more "traditional doc style," the film incorporated a combination of intimate interviews, archival footage, and still photography. The film brings an often-welcomed hint of comedy while still acknowledging the important role the *National Lampoon* has played in the history of American comedy.

Funding:

The phrase "starving artist" was thrown around during the filmmakers' lunch, and both women agree that at the end of the day, you don't have to starve to do what you love. Particularly in our over-connected world, there are tons of conceivable methods for artists to both make a living, and get their work seen. For Iva, her work comes first, and business comes second. "I love filming for myself, not for work." She starts her process with an idea, and through active Kickstarter campaigns and generous support, she's able to carry that idea through to the end. 4th Row Films takes a different approach, producing commercial work as a means to self-finance their personal projects. "There's no way to make films without resources," Danielle adds, "so keep doing what you're good at in order to provide for yourself."

There was a ton of information to keep track of during the lunch—The ins and outs of each film, the constructive processes that go into making them, the cinematography choices, etc. What I expected to be a polarizing conversation, however, turned out to be an affirmation of the work being done within MDOCS. As an aspiring filmmaker with plenty of ideas but little insight as to how I continue forward, I found it reassuring to learn that the choices that go into one project do not have to define me or the choices I make further into my career. There's no "correct" way to express a story, whether I choose to carry on my merry way independently or in a pack of people with whom I share the same creative goals.

- Sam Grant '18

For more information on Iva's film, [Evaporating Borders](http://www.evaporatingborders.com): www.evaporatingborders.com

To visit Iva's website, check out: www.ivaasks.com

For more information on 4th Row Films, visit: 4throwfilms.com

MDOCS Picks: What's the last doc work you've seen?

February 25, 2016

Each semester MDOCS gathers together experts in the field of documentary to teach courses across the spectrum of all documentary traditions. These creative minds come from the Skidmore community as well as the Saratoga community. To introduce you to these talented people, we bring you "MDOCS Picks." A short question & answer segment that shines a light on some of the work coming out of the doc world today.

This month MDOCS student Rep Rebecca Stern '16 asked:

"What was the last piece of documentary work you experienced and would you recommend it?"

"The last *good* documentary I saw for the first time was ***In Transit***, Albert Maysles' final film (alongside 4 other directors!). It takes place entirely on a train, and it is one of the loveliest films I've seen in a long time. I highly recommend it."



Link: www.intransitfilm.com

Cecilia Aldarondo obtained her M.A. in Contemporary Art Theory from Goldsmiths College and her Ph.D. in Comparative Studies in Discourse and Society from the University of Minnesota. Her personal documentary "*Memories of a Penitent Heart*" was just accepted into the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival. This semester she is teaching "Film" as part of the English department.

"It was the ***Ted Radio Hour***, they had an **interview with Monica Lewinski**. It was artful, thoughtful, and made you feel your common humanity, and empathy with a situation she was in when she was 22 years old. I found that when I heard the interview, I had been caught by mainstream media, by the spin doctors and I blew her off. This interview suggests a different possibility."



Link: <http://www.npr.org/2016/02/11/466050747/how-do-we-move-beyond-the-darkest-moments-in-our-lives>

Susan Bender is a Skidmore Professor Emerita. During her tenure at the College (1982-2010), she taught courses in archaeology within the anthropology program and directed students in archaeological field studies in Colorado's Rocky Mountains. Since her retirement she has continued her Colorado research program in collaboration with Skidmore alumni. This semester she rejoins the Skidmore community teaching "*Interview 101*" as part of the Documentary Studies program.



"The most recent documentary work I saw was ***The Girl Who Talked to Dolphins***, a 2014 documentary film by Christopher Riley for BBC. It recounts neuroscientist John C. Lilly's NASA-funded research in the 1960s on human-dolphin communication, and meanders into such fascinating and bizarre territory as the search for extraterrestrials, LSD experimentation, and cross-species love."

Link: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b046w2n8

Meghan Hyde is the Museum Educator for College and Public Programs at the Tang Teaching Museum. She is responsible for outreach to the college community and development and implementation of student programming and public programs related to exhibitions.

"Two older works stand out for me: ***Fast, Cheap and Out of Control*** by Errol Morris (1997) and ***Devil's Playground*** by Lucy Walker (2002). Although very different documentary [film] styles, both are still quite strong and relevant today. (Incidentally *Devil's Playground* made *Entertainment Weekly's* list of 50 Best Movies You've Never Seen). If you're looking for clever parody, IFC's *Documentary Now* is fun (and some sound work was done on the series by my former student Tom Curley!)



Ron Taylor is a filmmaker and photographer, who has worked in the commercial film and documentary industry with many different production houses, including the Maysles in NYC. Ron is a graduate of and former teaching assistant at Syracuse University's Newhouse TV and Film program. This semester he is teaching "Video Projects" in the Documentary Studies program.



Wednesday, March 2, 2016

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

LIB 113

Check out what MDOCS students have been up to! LI113 is hosting a showcase of production student work from the spring semester. A sampling of audio work, video and oral history will be up on the screens for everyone to experience individually and in small groups.

If you're sharing work, want to make connections for future projects, or are just interested in learning more about the program stop by! There will be pizza and drinks.

This event is open to the public.



Tuesday, March 8, 2016

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Davis Auditorium

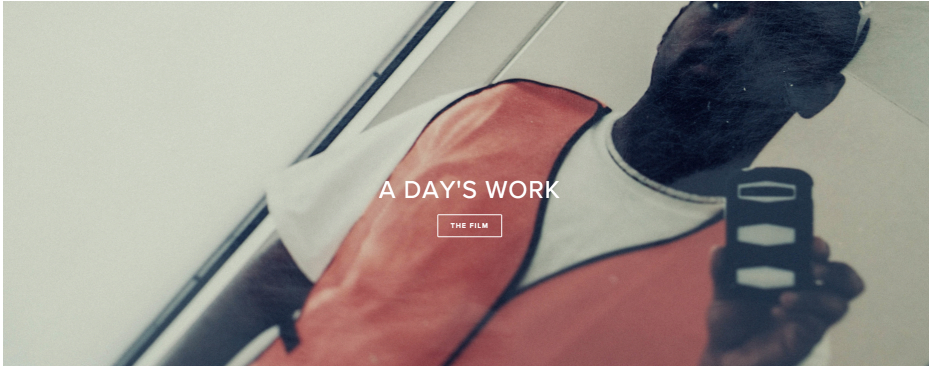
Screening: "Oriented," a film by Jake Witzenfeld, Discussion with Khader Abu Seif, 7-9pm, Davis Auditorium

Oriented (2015) follows the lives of three gay Palestinian friends confronting their national and sexual identity in Tel Aviv, including Khader Abu Seif.

Determined to "change their reality," the three best friends form a group called "Qambuta," a non-violent, cultural resistance movement fighting for gender and national equality. Through their activism, they address what it means to grow up with the burden of a multi-faceted identity.

Co-sponsored by International Student Union, Pride Alliance, International Affairs and World Languages and Literatures

This event is free and open to the public.



Discussion with David DeSario, Researching a Hidden Story about "A Day's Work"

Thursday, March 24, 2016

11:10-12:30

Zankel 214

Join Executive Producer Dave DeSario for a discussion about the creative process and research involved in bringing social documentary stories to life through filmmaking.

This feature documentary *A Day's Work* (2015) profiles the sister of Day Davis, a young man killed on his first day of work as a temporary employee, as she searches for answers. An investigation reveals the troubling issues that led to Day's death and how the \$100 billion temporary staffing industry is putting millions of American workers at risk.

A Day's Work will screen at 5:30 pm at Albany Law School, Dean Alexander Moot Court Room, 80 New Scotland Ave., Albany NY. Sponsored by the NorthEast New York Coalition for Occupational Safety & Albany Law School Labor and Employment Law Society. For details, nenycoshATgmail.com.

Join Dave in an open session of DS 201 Principles of Documentary. Free and open to the public.