This June, the MDOCS' Storytellers' Institute explores the theme of "fact and fiction." Documentary works are evidence-based stories, working with facts to render, reveal, and represent truth(s) to inform and, at times, inspire action. Yet despite relying on real people, depicting real places, and presenting real events, all documentary works are, in the end, stories shaped by their authors to sway an audience.

Storytellers' Institute Fellows and guests work in the borders of fact and fiction, grappling with the question of truth for the period to join us over five weeks for creative work and interrogation.

Please join us for public free event at our Point of Departure (June 2), Festovium Weekend (June 9-12) and Spring Street Gallery Exhibit (June 16-29) to look, listen, and discuss, and take in a little virtual reality.

Storytellers' Institute: 2016 Schedule of Events
June 2-16 - Walking the Line | Fact & Fiction in Documentary Storytelling — screenings, listening sessions, virtual reality experience, discussions, and an exhibit and more.
Read More...

Read More...

Storytellers' Institute: 2016 Skidmore Scholars
Meet the B Skidmore Student and 2 Skidmore Faculty Storytellers' Institute Scholars advancing stories in film, podcast, photography and multimedia exploring loss, running, science, family, social justice, and more.
Read More...

Storytellers' Institute: 6/2, Fact or Fiction? Adapting Reality for Stage and Screen
A filmmaker, Broadway producer and film festival founder talk truth and fiction in storytelling followed by a screening and Q&A for Chip Durand's new film Tolkien & Lewis: How, Shanghailand The Quest for Meaning. Free and open to the public.
Read More...

Storytellers' Institute: 6/9-12, Festovium Festovium (in). A gathering combining the best elements of a festival and a symposium. Join filmmakers, audio creators, visual artists, and virtual reality designers for recent documentary work that interrogates the division between fact and fiction, truth and reality. Free and open to the public.
Read More...

Storytellers' Institute: 6/16-29, Spring Street Gallery Exhibit
The four Storytellers' Institute Fellows present their work, exhibit, installation, and screenings, with artist talks.
Read More...
The John B. Moore Documentary Studies Collaborative’s (MDOCS) annual Storytellers’ Institute brings together documentary professionals, students and faculty for thought-provoking conversation, production and inspiration. This 5-week residency program offers documentary creators space and time to focus on their work while also participating in public events that welcome the community into the conversation.

**Point of Departure: Adapting Reality for Stage and Screen**  
Thursday, June 2: 5-6pm Panel, 7pm Screening and Q&A - Davis Auditorium

Join Chip Duncan (Filmmaker/Photographer), Dan Markley (Producer), and Jonathan Burkhart (President, Nantucket Film Festival) for a moderated discussion about the challenges of representing “real” stories on the stage and screen. The panel is directly

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**Festosium Weekend**  
Thursday, June 9 – Sunday, June 12 - Tang Teaching Museum

This weekend-long gathering presents a series of screenings, exhibits, talks and events with filmmakers, audio documentarians, visual artists, multimedia designers, and virtual reality storytellers considering how recent documentary work challenges our understanding of what separates (or unites) fact and fiction, truth and imagination.

Guests include: Jeff Daniel Silva (*Ivan & Ivana*), Ann Heppermann (*Serendipity* podcast), Martin Johnson (*Serendipity* podcast), Kaitlin Prest (*The Heart* podcast), Stephanie Spray (*Manakamana*), Maxim Pozdorovkin (*Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer*), Nicolás Pereda (*Summer of Goliath*), Marc Beaudet & Loïc Suty (*Turbulent.ca*, virtual reality)

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**Institute @ Spring St. Gallery**  
Thursday, June 16 - Wednesday, June 29 - Spring St. Gallery (110 Spring St, Saratoga Springs)

Spring St. Gallery is hosting a collective exhibit of work by this year’s Institute Fellows and former Skidmore Student Scholars with accompanying artist talks and screenings.

**Thursday, June 16, 6-8:30pm** – Artists’ talks and opening reception: Featuring Institute Fellows Courtney Reid-Eaton and Jake Nussbaum

**Tuesday, June 21, 7-9pm** – Screening: *Inheritance*, followed by a discussion with director and Institute Fellow Aggie Ebrahimi Bazaz

**Thursday, June 23, 7-9:30pm** – Special Preview Screening: *Spectres of Shortwave*, followed by Q&A with director and Institute Fellow Amanda Dawn Christie

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Institute screenings, performances and presentations are free and open to the public. For further information visit [www.skidmore.edu/mdocs/storytellers-institute](http://www.skidmore.edu/mdocs/storytellers-institute).
Storytellers' Institute: Introducing the 2016 Institute Fellows

May 9, 2016

MDOCS is delighted to welcome four Institute Fellows for 2016, an accomplished group of storytellers innovating in evidence-based documentary practices in film, audio, exhibition, archive, and multimedia. Aggie Bazaz, Amanda Dawn Christie, Jake Nussbaum, and Courtney Reid-Eaton, come to Skidmore to explore the questions of telling a research-based, fact-driven story when it is seemingly impossible to remove ones’ past experience, perspective, and individual lens.

AGGIE BAZAZ is an award-winning, Iranian American documentary filmmaker and educator with interests in diasporic identity, feminism, and the interchange of form and content in documentary engagements. As such, Aggie’s works borrow from a variety of storytelling traditions. Aggie currently serves as Assistant Professor of Film Production at Muhlenberg College.

During the Institute, Aggie will be in pre-production on a film exploring the cultural parallels of the struggles of the Shi’ite Muslim’s small army of Hussein during the fateful battle with the Sunni caliph, Yazid and the reality many Latin American migrants face as they cross the US-Mexico border through the treacherous and often fatal Sonoran desert. Bazaz hopes to use the time, creative community, and resources of the Storytellers’ Institute to conduct research, build connections, and develop a script and timeline for a documentary-fiction hybrid that would recount and dramatize this ongoing desert migration.

AMANDA DAWN CHRISTIE is an interdisciplinary artist working in film, video, performance, photography, and electroacoustic sound design. Concepts and themes explored in her work focus primarily on the relationship between the human body and analogue technology in a digital age. She currently works full time as an artist with the support of a new media creation grant from the Canada Council for the Arts and Arts NB.
Requiem for Radio is a multidisciplinary work using audio, video, interactive programming, theremins, sculpture, text, and performance to pay homage to the recently demolished Radio Canada International Shortwave Transmission Site. Christie has been working on this body of interactive works since 2008, and will continue to add to this suite of five distinct works during her time at the Institute.

Amanda’s new film, "Spectres of Shortwave," sneak peek preview at Spring St. Gallery on June 23rd.

JAKE NUSSBAUM is a Brooklyn-based multidisciplinary artist. His work utilizes the research-based practices of anthropology and documentary in tandem with the imaginary world of the creative arts. In addition to being a contributor to INTERCOURSE magazine, he is the station manager of Clocktower Radio in New York City.

The Sanford-Johnson Trail project began in the wake of the shooting of Trayvon Martin by George Zimmerman in 2013. In an exploration to grasp a sense of "truth" and greater insight not provided by the media, Jake created a to-scale recreation in Johnson, VT of Trayvon Martin's path the night he was killed based on crime scene evidence. Jake walked the trail every week for a year, amassing a large personal archive of notes, objects, research, and photographs, that forms the basis for the multimedia book and exhibition he will be working on this summer.
COURTNEY REID-EATON has been the Exhibitions Director at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University since 2001, overseeing the selection, scheduling, curating, design, and installation of exhibits in all of the Center’s galleries and organizing related public programs.

When Courtney’s grandfather died she became the keeper of the family archive; photographs, letters, poems, a few super 8 mm films, and a cassette tape onto which her grandfather had begun to cast his last ramblings. Her family’s undocumented oral histories include her grandfather’s migration from his homeland, St. Kitts to NYC, as a teenaged merchant marine ship stowaway; her maternal great grandfather’s disputed end; and her own, richly characterized early 60’s Harlem childhood. All of the parts of these stories will be the basis for a multimedia project she will begin at the Institute incorporating film, video, audio, narrative writing/poetry, photography, and performance.
Storytellers' Institute: 2016 Skidmore Scholars

May 9, 2016

The 2016 Institute Fellows will be joined by ten Skidmore Scholars made up of two Skidmore faculty members and eight students. The Skidmore Scholars are all working on independent documentary projects and were selected on an application basis for their strength in project proposal, storytelling skills, and abilities to execute their project.

Skidmore Faculty Scholar Rik Scarce (Sociology) is advancing work on a documentary film in production about minimalist running and Erika Schielke (Biology) will begin work on a science podcast based on regional environmental challenges. Skidmore Student Scholars Colleen Craven, Jen Davies, Maryam DeWitt, Emma Foley, Eleanor Green, Emma Lanier, Dan Plumer, and Emily Rizzo are creating documentary projects in film, sound and multimedia on topics ranging from the deeper understanding gained through intersectional study of the Civil Rights Movement to addressing racial tension in a Skidmore Intergroup Relations class to intimate stories of loss of virginity to a film that aims to bring to life the voice of a lost mother.

RIK SCARCE joined the Skidmore College faculty in 2003. His specialty courses include Environmental Sociology, Video Ethnography, Contemporary Social Theory, and Political Sociology. In his 2009 book Born to Run, Christopher McDougall advocates runners wearing minimalist shoes or getting rid of shoes altogether, running barefooted as most humans did until recent millennia. Rik's film, Baring It All explores the essential component of the emerging second running revolution and what it portends for runners and running while tracing the swift contradictory reactions to McDougall’s book.

ERIKA SCHIELKE is an Instructor in the Biology Department where she primarily teaches Introductory Biology labs and a non-majors course on the ecology of the Adirondack Park. She is working on a series of podcasts about regional environmental issues. Science Shorts (working title) is a series of podcasts (4, 4 min features) on regional environmental topics. The stories will draw on research from her course, Ecology of the Adirondacks, and will be a natural outgrowth of her work in regional environmental challenges.

COLLEEN CRAVEN ’17 is a rising senior at Skidmore College, majoring in Studio Art with a concentration in communications design as well as minoring in Arts Administration. Colleen is exploring where fact and fiction meet in the psychology of mind-
altering drugs through a multimedia project. She is looking into how these chemical compounds can create an entirely different reality that while it might be considered hallucinating, is the reality of the person who’s mind has been temporarily altered.

JENNIFER DAVIES ’17 is a rising senior at Skidmore College, majoring in Studio Art with a concentration in photography and communications design as well as minoring in Media & Film Studies. Her documentary film illuminates how it feels to be twenty through conversations with students about their thoughts, opinions, emotions, hopes, worries, and experiences.

MARYAM DEWITT ’18 is a native Ohioan studying Social Work at Skidmore College. Five years ago, Maryam lost her mother to a heart attack in November 2011. The lines between fact and fiction become blurred as more time passes and these memories of her mother begin to fade. The goal of her documentary film Mama is to restore and preserve the memories of her mother and to create something that the family can watch to honor the impact she had on all of their lives.

EMMA FOLEY ’16 graduates from Skidmore this May with a BA in Anthropology. In an effort to help young women feel less excluded by the societal standards for female virginity experiences, Emma has collected stories from a series of individuals who felt as though their “first time” didn’t quite fit. Her film series will highlight the stories that don’t quite fit the traditional narrative of how to properly “lose one’s virginity.”

ELEANOR GREEN ’18 is a rising junior majoring in Studio Art and minoring in Media & Film Studies. Her documentary film Max about her great-great uncle Maxwell B. Allen tells the story of a young doctor in the 1920s consumed by compulsive gambling and a crippling depression that ultimately claimed his life in a murder-suicide that made The New York Times headlines. Her film will examine mental illness and gambling through Max’s story.
EMMA LANIER ’16 is a dance artist from San Francisco, whose choreographic drive led her to audio and video documentary. Her film *Echando un vistazo a María Manuela* goes inside the studio and onto the streets of Madrid with young choreographer José Maldonado and his all-female ensemble to see how he uses flamenco dance to embody, expose, and revoke gender inequality in Spain.

DANIEL PLUMER ’16 graduates from Skidmore this May with a degree in American Studies and a minor in Spanish. He is developing an audio doc that puts into practice the use of intersectional thinking to create a more complex and nuanced narrative of the Civil Rights Movement. The piece explores the controversial nature of black leadership in Birmingham during the Children’s Crusade from the conflicting perspectives of MLK, Fred Shuttlesworth and A.G. Gaston.

EMILY RIZZO ’18 is working on a film *Uncovering Silence* (working title) which illustrates real students’ experiences in a dialogue class in Intergroup Relations, a minor at Skidmore that focuses on addressing racial tension. The film conveys what it’s like to partake in an IGR dialogue and what it’s like to grow with each other, learn more about themselves and their places in society, and gain new perspectives through an emotionally and mentally challenging dialogue.
Fact or Fiction?: Adapting Reality for Stage and Screen

What is the relationship between truth, or fact, and story? Many documentary storytellers push the boundaries of truth, whether by sins of omission (framing, selection) or commission (reenactment, ordering). Conversely, many works of fiction are “based on a true story” and strive for emotional truth when choosing between art and narrow factuality. In this Point of Departure filmmaker and photographer Chip Duncan, producer of stage and screen Dan Markley, and co-founder and president of the Nantucket Film Festival Jonathan Burkhart talk truth and fiction in storytelling.

5 pm: Keynote: A conversation between Chip Duncan, Dan Markley and Jonathan Burkhart

6 pm: Reception

7 pm: Screening: Chip Duncan's new film Tolkien & Lewis: Myth, Imagination & The Quest for Meaning, followed by a moderated Q&A with the director

Chip Duncan is a filmmaker, author, photography and President of The Duncan Group, Inc., a documentary production company formed in 1985. Currently airing internationally is his documentary Tolkien & Lewis: Myth, Imagination & The Quest for Meaning which will screen during this year’s MDOCS Storytellers’ Institute.

Other documentary film works include The Sound Man (2015), which follows a Nairobi-based sound engineer and his 35-year-career covering major news events throughout East Africa and The Reagan Presidency (2013), which had international broadcast and includes interviews with Oscar Arias, Sandra Day O’Connor, and Condoleezza Rice among many others. He is currently in production on The Negotiator, which chronicles former Senator George Mitchell’s historic struggle to bring peace to Northern Ireland and includes interviews with both President Clinton and former Secretary of State Clinton and Meltdown: World Without Ice, the feature film to his classroom series on global warming. His past productions have been filmed in more than forty countries, aired on PBS and the Discovery Network, screened at film festivals including Sundance, won over 125 awards, and have been broadcast in over 140 countries.

Duncan is also an acclaimed photographer whose photo documentation has taken him to humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan and Darfur to health care conditions in Burma (Myanmar) to carbon-reducing development programs in Ghana to post-earthquake efforts in Haiti and Pakistan... to name a few. His photographic work has been displayed in national and international exhibits and is on permanent display in many locations around the U.S. including the U.S. Dept. of State. Learn more about Chip, his work, and production company at www.duncanentertainment.com.
Dan Markley has been a theatre producer, manager, owner and investor for 25 years in NYC. He’s currently Executive Director & Producer of the New York Musical Festival as well as co-producer of the Tony Award-nominated musical, *Something Rotten!*, and the Obie Award-winning, *Stomp*.

He has received Tony, Drama Desk, Obie, Outer Critics, Helen Hayes and Olivier Awards or nominations for various productions and has produced numerous On and Off Broadway shows including *Oleanna* (original production), *Damn Yankees* (Tony nomination), *On The Waterfront*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *Lifegame*, *Shockheaded Peter*, *Irving Berlin’s White Christmas*, *High Fidelity*, and *Family Secrets* (revival).

As an investor and investment manager, he’s participated in over forty commercial productions including *Rent*, *Art*, *De La Guarda*, *Swan Lake*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, and *The Vagina Monologues*. Additionally, he has participated in multiple productions of the mega-hit *Wicked* and the Tony Award-winning musicals *Avenue Q* and *In The Heights*. As a consultant, Dan has recently provided services in the areas of theater design, management and programming for both the Dreamland Film and Performing Arts Center and the nearly completed White Heron Theatre on Nantucket.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Markley served a presidential appointment as Director of Entertainment for the 1990 G-7 Economic Summit of Industrialized Nations. Prior to that appointment he served five years as Producer of USO Celebrity Entertainment, traveling the world from 1985-90. He has been a Tony Award voter, lectures enthusiastically at major colleges and industry seminars, and serves the company boards of Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre and the Nantucket Dreamland Foundation.

Jonathan Burkhart holds a wide breadth of titles from co-founder and president of the Nantucket Film Festival to Producer for independent films, commercials, television, and theater to last but not least a certified trimix scuba deep-sea diver. Diving into the industry at a young age (14), he worked as a cameraman on dozens of television shows, commercials and feature films. Some feature film credits include Spike Lee’s *Do the Right Thing* and *Mo’ Better Blues*, *Mountain View*, *A Better Tomorrow*, *Dazed and Confused*, *Roommates*, and *Reversal of Fortune*.

He produced the award winning film *Baby Steps* starring Kathy Bates and several feature films for BCDF Pictures in New York such as *Higher Ground*, *Love, & Misunderstanding*, *The Last Keepers*, and *Rhymes with Banana*. Jonathan also produced *I Dream Too Much* starring Eden Brolin, and *License Plates* starring Robert Gorrie. In development are *Military Working Dog*, *Next Fall*, and *The Independents*.

In theater, Jonathan has produced acclaimed Broadway shows such as *Laugh Whore* (Tony-nominated) and the 10th anniversary production of *RENT* with the original cast. Other shows include *In Search of Cleo* and *Avow*. After losing his dear friend Jenifer Estess to ALS, Jonathan joined the stunningly successful Project ALS where he is most proud of his duties as event producer.
Festosium™ (n). A gathering that combines the best elements of a festival to showcase and a symposium to bring together a small group of scholars and artists to engage with intellectual and creative work.

MDOCS’ inaugural festosium will be held June 10-12, 2016, with filmmakers, audio creators, visual artists, and virtual reality designers presenting recent documentary work that interrogates the division between fact and fiction, truth and reality.

All events are hosted at the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum on the Skidmore College campus. Everything is free and open to the public.

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**SCHEDULE**

**Thursday June 9**

8p: Opening Screening & Discussion: *Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer* (91 min) by Maxim Pozdorovkin & Mike Lerner

**Friday June 10**

1:00 p: Welcoming Remarks with Director Jordana Dym

1:30 p: Sneak Peek Screening: Documentary Shorts (90 min)

- *Monsoon-Reflections/Untitled* (23 min) by Stephanie Spray
- *El Palacio* (30 min) by Nicolas Pereda
- *The Truth about Killer Robots* (13 min excerpt) by Maxim Pozdorovkin
- *La Bobera* (3 min trailer) by Jeff Silva & Luis Arnias

3:00 p: Institute Fellows Welcome
3:30 p: Festosium Presenters’ Panel: A preview and opening framework for the program

4:45 p: Screening & Discussion: Manakamana (118 min) by Stephanie Spray

7p: Reception and Gallery Opening with Evian Pan ’17

8p: Listening event: The Truth that Fiction Can (and Cannot) Reveal

   Ann Heppermann and Martin Johnson, founders of The Sarah Awards and hosts of the Serendipity podcast, will present audio works and lead a discussion about how in this Second Golden Age of Radio, fictional works have been used to articulate truths that have primarily been the purview of documentary.

Saturday June 11

10a: Engagement with Borrowed Light exhibit: Doc photography talk led by Sarah Miller and Sarah Sweeney

11a: Panel Discussion: Virtual Realities

   Marc Beaudet, founder and director of Turbulent.ca and Loic Suty, director of the design team on The Unknown Photographer discuss the creation of research-based virtual realities. Their latest work, their latest work The Unknown Photographer began with a WWI photo album that inspired a documentary film and 20-min virtual reality experience.

2p: Audio Presentation & Discussion: The Evolution of Movies in Our Heads

   Ann Heppermann will lead Kaitlin Prest in a discussion about the evolution of her award-winning audio piece Movies in Your Head. The piece is the story about a woman who falls fast in love and begins to imagine the future she will have with her new girlfriend. When things fall apart, she then questions whether every kiss, utterance and conversation was real or imagined. The piece started off as a documentary—more than 20 people were interviewed and a rough documentary was cut. But for Prest, the rough documentary felt less true than the story she felt she could tell in fiction.

4p: Panel Discussion: Crossing Borders: Exploring the Chimeric Paradox of the Real in Documentary Film with Nicolas Pereda, Maxim Pozdorovkin, Jeff Silva and Stephanie Spray

6p: Reception

7p: Screening & Discussion: Summer of Goliath (78 min) by Nicolas Pereda
Sunday June 12

11-1p: Roundtable: Teaching with Documentary

2p: Sneak Preview Screening: Lee & Opal

Description: Deep in Kentucky coal country, Lee & Opal Sexton continue to farm their land along Linefork Creek. Well into his eighties, Lee is a retired coal miner and revered banjo legend, a living link to the deep past of American music. Though hampered by hearing loss, Lee continues to perform at square dances and teach his distinctive style to a new generation eager to preserve a vanishing cultural tradition. Filmed over three years, "Lee & Opal" offers an immersive view of its subjects daily rituals and their inherent resiliency, while documenting the raw yet delicate music of a singular musician, linked to the past yet immediately present.

CURATORS

ANN HEPPERMANN is documentary artist, reporter, and educator. Her Peabody award-winning work has aired on numerous public radio shows including This American Life, 99% Invisible, and Radiolab. In 2011 she was named a United States Artists Rockefeller Fellow. She teaches audio fiction and narrative journalism at Sarah Lawrence College in its writing program. Bitch Magazine once called her a “sort of Goddess of podcasting.” She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Learn more about The Sarah Lawrence College International Audio Fiction Awards, co-founded by Ann Heppermann and Martin Johnson (below) at www.thesarahawards.

JEFF SILVA is an American filmmaker, teacher and film programmer based in France. Jeff’s work explores the quotidian aspects of his subjects’ lives, often over long spans of time. His most recently completed personal projects include Linefork (2016), Ivan & Ivana (2011), and Balkan Rhapsodies: 78 Measures of War (2008) have been exhibited at festivals, and museums internationally, including: MoMA’s Documentary Fortnight, The Viennale, Visions du Reel, Valdivia, Flahertiana, and DocAviv. An affiliate of the Sensory Ethnography Lab at Harvard University since 2006. The SEL is a practice-based program of visual anthropology exploring the interstices of art, anthropology and documentary film, where Jeff between its inception in 2006 until 2009 developed the curriculum and methodology
of the program aside founder and director Lucien Taylor. Jeff has also been programming documentary and experimental cinema for the past 15 years at BALAGAN, an offbeat and alternative screening series which he co-founded in 2000 in Boston.

Learn more about Jeff and his work at jeffdanielsilva.com.

**VIRTUAL REALITY**

Founded in 2002, **TURBULENT** creates, produces and distributes award-winning cross-platform and transmedia projects with an emphasis on content, community, and a even eCommerce. Creative and efficient, they love challenges and imagining the best solutions to address them. They believe that the achievement of ambitious projects and brands starts with a creative use of technology. Passionate about their work and working as a team, combining their strengths to always surpass themselves, they're convinced that the quality of their projects is proportional to the passion they have in achieving them. Turbulent is behind the entire online platform of the Guinness World Record-setting crowdfunded project *Star Citizen*, a AAA video game created by Chris Roberts. They developed *My CEC Zone*, an award-winning educational digital platform that supports 70% of primary and secondary school students in Quebec. They conceived and produced, *Champlain's Dream*, the most successful convergent project in Canada in terms of number of users and impact on client business. Turbulent's latest achievement, *The Unknown Photographer*, is a virtual-reality immersion into the fragmented memories of a World War I photographer which is currently touring the world and was part of the official selection of New Frontiers at the Sundance Film Festival 2016.

The Turbulent team (**MARC BEAUDET** (lft), President & Co-Founder and **LOIC SUTY** (rt) Creative Director of *The Unknown Photographer*) is bringing their 20-min virtual-reality immersive experience *The Unknown Photographer* to the 2016 Storytellers' Institute Festosium for attendees to experience throughout the weekend.
**GUEST PRESENTERS**

**MARTIN JOHNSON** is the creative director at Ljudbang productions in Stockholm and a radio producer, journalist, sound designer and author. In 2008 he won Prix Italia for his documentary *My Father Takes a Vacation*. His work has been broadcast around the world in England, Canada, USA, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Finland, Norway and Ireland. His collection of essays called *The Ocean* was published in 2012 with much critical acclaim and is translated into several Languages. He has written several radio drama plays, including a story for The Sarah Awards launch.

**NICOLÁS PEREDA** is a filmmaker whose work explores the everyday through fractured and elliptical narratives using fiction and documentary tools. His work has been the subject of more than 20 retrospectives worldwide in venues such as Anthology Film Archive, Pacific Film Archive, Jeonju Int’l Film Festival and TIFF Cinematheque. He’s also presented his films in most major international film festivals including Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Locarno, and Toronto, as well as in galleries and museums like the Reina Sofía in Madrid, the National Museum of Modern Art in Paris, the Guggenheim and MOMA in New York, and on television stations such as HBO, Turner, MVS, Netflix, and ISat. In 2010 he was awarded the Premio Orizzonti at the Venice Film Festival.

**MAXIM POZDOROVKIN** is an award-winning filmmaker, writer and media curator from Russia now based in NYC. He’s the director of three feature docs and numerous short films. His documentary *Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer* (2013) premiered at Sundance where it won a Special Jury Award. Released theatrically worldwide, the film was shortlisted for an Academy Award. Maxim holds a PhD from Harvard University and is currently an artist fellow at Harvard’s Society of Fellows. His most recent film, *The Notorious Mr. Bout* (2014), about Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout, premiered at Sundance and screened at festivals around the world. His first feature film, *Capital*, is a modern-day city symphony about the construction of a utopian city in Kazakhstan.

**KAITLIN PREST** is the creative director of *The Heart* Podcast on Radiotopia. She creates narrative audio experiences live and digital with rich sound design and intimate subject macer. Her audio work was awarded the Hearsay Festival’s Overall Prize 2014 and Prix Italia Golden Award for New Radio Formats 2015.
STEPHANIE SPRAY is a filmmaker, phonographer, and anthropologist whose work explores the confluence of social aesthetics and art in everyday life. Born in Minnesota and raised in Alabama, she has spent much of her adult life in Nepal, where she made the majority of her films, videos, and sound pieces. Her work has been screened in film festivals around the world, from Locarno to BAFICI, where it has won numerous prizes; exhibited in museums such as The Whitney, MoMA, and The National Musuem; and had theatrical releases at home and abroad. She is completing her PhD in Media Anthropology in the Sensory Ethnography Lab at Harvard University.
From June 16-29, the Spring Street Gallery in Saratoga Springs hosts an MDOCS exhibition showcasing the work of the 2016 Institute Fellows as well as documentary work by Affiliated Faculty and MDOCS/Storytellers' Institute Students.

Institute Fellows Aggie Ebrahimi Bazaz, Amanda Dawn Christie, Jake Nussbaum and Courtney Reid-Eaton present a glimpse of their practice in exhibition and artist talks, pop-up exhibits and screenings.

Additional work on display by: Affiliated Faculty Sarah Sweeney (Art) and Adam Tinkle (MDOCS/MFS); 2015 Institute scholars Jackson Bryant, '16, Nat Cabrera, '17, Wilson Espinal,'17, Ele Martínez, '18, Evian Pan '17; 2016 Institute scholar Emily Rizzo, '18; and Lisa Fierstein, '16, Lisa Moran, '17, and Mirella Nappi, '16.

Spring Street Gallery is open weekdays 10am - 5pm and by appointment.


Schedule of Events
**Thursday, June 16 – Opening reception 6-9pm**

7 - 7:30PM Courtney Reid-Eaton artist talk and Q&A  
8 - 8:30PM Jake Nussbaum artist talk and Q&A

**Tuesday, June 21 @ 7-9pm – Screening Inheritance 7-9pm**

directly followed by a Q&A with Director Aggie Ebrahimi Bazaz

*Inheritance* (2012, 26 min) poetically explores the influence of political realities on lived, daily experience. In this personal documentary film, Iranian-born filmmaker, Aggie Ebrahimi Bazaz, intimately explores the contemporaneous events of Islamic Revolution and divorce that uprooted her family and embroiled them in the complicated process of diasporic identity formation in the U.S. Using her mother’s home as a metaphor for diasporic space, the filmmaker excavates the detritus that settled around the family as they traversed the uneven terrains of Revolution, divorce, and eventually, self-imposed exile.

This story unfolds through a collage of images, forms, voices and eras. Archival images of the polling stations in which millions of Iranians voted for an Islamic Republic pipe in through a television watched by the filmmaker’s family in the U.S., thirty years later. Questions and photos documenting the filmmaker’s absent father are integrated into a poetic voice-over written and spoken by the filmmaker, looking back from the contemporary moment, aiming to recover a lost history, seeking to look forward.

Learn more about the film and watch the trailer at [www.aebrahimi.com](http://www.aebrahimi.com)

**Thursday, June 23 @ 7-9:30pm – Exclusive Test Screening of Spectres of Shortwave**

directly followed by a Q&A with Director Amanda Dawn Christie
Spectres of Shortwave is an experimental documentary film about the RCI shortwave radio towers in Sackville, New Brunswick. Images in the film were captured on 35mm film accompanied by personal stories told by people who lived near the towers. For over 67 years, the Radio Canada International (RCI) shortwave site broadcast all over the world. In 2012, budget cuts necessitated the decommissioning of this site.

This film is part of a greater project Amanda has been working on since 2008 called Requiem for Radio. This body of work is multidisciplinary using audio, video, interactive programming, theremins, sculpture, text, and performance to pay homage to the recently demolished Radio Canada International Shortwave Transmission Site. All of her projects surrounding the RCI radio towers have been a mix of fact and fiction, as she places rural mythology alongside historical fact without differentiating between the two.

Learn more about the film and watch preview clips at www.amandadawnchristie.ca