FROM THE CHAIR

The Film Program is committed to giving young filmmakers the vocabulary and skills that allow their talents to come alive. The combination of craft and business savvy that we teach at Columbia makes our students more entrepreneurial and ready for the changing environment they will be faced with upon graduation. The proof is in the amazing achievements of our students—a remarkable number of alumni films are screened at prominent festivals worldwide, and an astounding number of our alumni are making their first features within a year of graduation. We hear from incoming students that the quality of the films coming out of the program is one of the reasons they choose to come to Columbia. We at Columbia believe strongly that storytelling through the moving image remains the most powerful medium ever created to explore ideas, cultures, and the state of the world we live in. I hope you will consider joining us.

Ira Deutchman, Chair

My time at the Columbia University Film Program is an irreplaceable part of my artistic development and career. Focused on storytelling, populated by a gifted encouraging faculty and a variety of talented students, Columbia was the birthplace of my first two features, Heavy and Cop Land. It is also a place of great memories and friendships that still live on.

James Mangold ('99)
Solar (2011), directed by Nicholas Greene ('10), produced by Julie Buck ('11) and Roberto Lanza, Hillary Spera (pictured), Director of Photography
Grand Canal (2013), written and directed by Johnny Ma ('14), produced by Jie Chen ('13) and Sarah Stallard
MFA PROGRAMS

The MFA programs—in Screenwriting/Directing and in Creative Producing—are among the world’s premiere training grounds for young filmmakers. Unlike other film schools, the two programs share a common first year, combining instruction in producing, directing, and writing with technical training, as well as history and theory. All the courses within this unique, integrated curriculum focus on film as a medium for the telling of stories.

SCREENWRITING/DIRECTING

The mission of the MFA in Screenwriting/Directing is to rigorously train storytellers in film, television, and digital media. The course of study includes two years of creative workshops and related courses, followed by one to three years of thesis work. Students are immersed in the principles and working methods of a variety of genres and dramatic forms, and each student is encouraged to explore and establish his or her personal voice.

CREATIVE PRODUCING

The MFA Program in Creative Producing takes advantage of Columbia’s unique geography at the center of the independent film world, with the mission of creating the next generation of producers. The program emphasizes the role of the producer as the creative force behind a project, requiring business and organizational skills, the ability to form creative collaborations and an understanding of an ever-changing marketplace.
MA PROGRAM IN FILM STUDIES

The Master’s Program in Film Studies and the undergraduate Film Studies major give students a unique opportunity to study film history and theory in the midst of an active filmmaking community. The program takes up the evolution of cinema as an art, an institution, an object of philosophical study and an international socio-cultural phenomenon. It is designed to consider current theoretical approaches and to look historiographically at trends such as the transition from film to digital media. The program is uniquely situated adjacent to the MFA programs in Screenwriting/Directing and Creative Producing, reminding students of the importance of filmmaking practice. The many courses offered in Columbia’s Arts and Sciences departments create opportunities to individualize the course of study. Students are encouraged to take electives in national cinemas, cultural theory, economics, literary studies and philosophy. Our MA alumni enter top international PhD programs, as well as hold jobs as curators, distributors, and critical reviewers.

For more information on our deadlines, news and events, visit arts.columbia.edu/film.

"Production Still, camera operator during The River (1938) shoot." From the Rare Books and Manuscript Library, Columbia University, Pare Lorentz Papers.

“Robert & Frances Flaherty looking at film negatives.” From the Rare Books and Manuscript Library, Columbia University, Robert Flaherty Papers.

Slide Camille (1921), June Mathis (w), Natacha Rambova (des). Private Collection.
ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since the MFA program began in 1965, it has been renowned for the global success of its alumni in film and television, including top prizes at Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Berlin and the Academy Awards.

Since 2000, alumni and faculty have won Academy Awards for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Documentary, Best Screenplay and Best Original Song.

Kathryn Bigelow ('81) became the first woman to win an Academy Award for Best Director, for *The Hurt Locker*, 2010.

Jennifer Lee ('05) is the writer and co-director of Disney's *Frozen*, which won two Oscars, became the highest grossing animated film of all time, and the highest grossing film ever directed by a woman.

Our faculty and alumni filmmakers have won and been nominated for countless Golden Globe Awards and Independent Spirit Awards.

Columbia filmmakers dominate the shorts selections at Sundance, Cannes, Tribeca and more: they have been honored at these festivals with awards including the Palm d’Or, Grand Jury Prizes and Waldo Screenwriting Awards, among others.

Several Columbia films have been featured in MoMA’s New Directors/New Films, including two festival openers.

Our alumni are consistently named to *Filmmaker Magazine’s* 25 New Faces of Independent Film list, most recently Lauren Wolkstein ('10).

Columbia films have placed as medal winners in the Narrative category at the Student Academy Awards for the last four years, including 2012 Gold Medal winner Mark Raso ('12).

Our alumni are consistently selected for the Sundance Directors Lab and Screenwriters Lab.

Alumnus Ayad Akhtar ('02) won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2013.

Other notable alumni include Andy Bienen ('96), Lisa Cholodenko ('97), Cherien Dabis ('04), Adam Davidson ('91), Nicole Holofcener ('88), Phil Johnston ('04), Simon Kinberg ('03), James Mangold ('99), Greg Mottola ('99), Kimberly Peirce ('96), James Ponsoldt ('05), Maureen Ryan ('92) and Malia Scotch Marmo ('88).
**APPLICATION AND FINANCIAL AID**

**APPLY**

The School welcomes applications for the fall semester of each year. Visit [arts.columbia.edu/apply](http://arts.columbia.edu/apply) for all information about applying and application requirements; note specific guidelines for international students, including visa information.

**FINANCIAL AID**

The School of the Arts and Columbia’s Office of University Financial Aid work carefully with current and admitted students to arrange the financing of their degrees. Fellowships, scholarships, federal aid, teaching opportunities and other options are available for eligible students, as well as guidance for finding outside funding.

For more information, visit [arts.columbia.edu/admissions/financing-your-degree](http://arts.columbia.edu/admissions/financing-your-degree).
Tidy Up (2011), written and directed by Satsuki Okawa (‘11), produced by Young Chun (‘11)

Bittersweet Sixteen (2014), directed by Clara Leac (‘14), produced by Julie Begey Seureau (‘14), photo by Paul Sarkis

Tobacco Burn (2014), directed and co-written by Justin Liberman (‘13), co-written by Ajani Josef Jackson (‘15), produced by Alvaro R. Valente (‘13), and co-produced by Nicole Delaney (‘13)
Paula Wilson, Remodeled, 2007
Relief woodcut, offset lithography and silkscreen with collaged elements and hand coloring, 19-1/2" x 25-3/4" (detail)
Photo by Michael DiVito
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The School of the Arts offers students the opportunity to study film at one of the world’s great universities, with a faculty of working professionals esteemed in both Hollywood and the independent film community. Our home is New York City, creative capital of the United States, affording access to exceptional talent and locations, major research collections, and the constant opportunity to see films from every country and era. The Film Program is populated by top students from around the world, and offers cutting-edge creativity, intellectual rigor and hands-on practicality.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Columbia University School of the Arts awards the Master of Fine Arts degree in Film, Theatre, Visual Arts and Writing, the Master of Arts degree in Film Studies, and an interdisciplinary program in Sound Arts. The School is a thriving, diverse community of artists from around the world with talent, vision and commitment. The faculty is composed of acclaimed and internationally renowned artists, film and theatre directors, writers of poetry, fiction and nonfiction, playwrights, producers, critics and scholars. Every year the School of the Arts presents exciting and innovative programs for the public including performances, exhibitions, screenings, symposia, a film festival and numerous lectures, readings, panel discussions and talks with artists, writers, critics and scholars. For more information, visit arts.columbia.edu.

Visit arts.columbia.edu/film-brochure for application requirements and financial aid information.