FOTOFOCUS backstories BIENNIAL

Film Screenings

Film Screening: Training for Freedom

October 4, 3-3:30pm

Miami University: Richard and Carole Cocks Art Museum

Training for Freedom Summer presents the history and personal stories of those who came together in Oxford, OH, as they prepared to help register Black voters in the Deep South.

Premiere Screening of "Capturing Life" (1839–1869)

October 9, 6–8pm

Cincinnati Museum Center: Reakirt Auditorium

This one-hour documentary combines interviews with rare archival photographs for a compelling look at the region's first generation of photographers. A panel discussion under the theme "Visual Heritage" will follow the Premiere Screening.

Film Screening: Reading Freedom Summer

October 11, 3–3:30pm Miami University: Richard and Carole Cocks Art Museum

Reading Freedom Summer (Andy Rice and partners) is a reflection on Freedom Summer 1964, a documentary featuring letters and songs read and sung by Oxford citizens and Miami University students.

Film Screening and Director and Curator Conversation

October 12, 2–3pm

National Underground Railroad and Freedom Center

Film screening of Excavated: From Soil to Stars will be accompanied by a conversation between Director Alphonso J. Wesson and Social Justice Curator Trudy Gaba as they discuss how this project came together and the use of time-based media to reveal new ways of connecting people and histories across temporal boundaries.

Film Screening: Feet in the Sand

October 15, 7–9pm Woodward Theater

After the success of his first film The Sparring Partner, Puerto Rican director Gustavo Ramos Perales presents his new film, Feet in the Sand, which tells the story of how two immigrants in Puerto Rico strive to consolidate their lives in a new country. Screening to be followed by Q&A with filmmaker Gustavo Ramos Perales.

Film Screening: Unorthodocs Shorts

October 17, 4:30-7pm

Wexner Center for the Arts

Short films from up-and-coming filmmakers and established artists working in a dizzy range of documentary forms and tones. Among this year's highlights is Jill, Uncredited (Anthony Ing, 2022), a playful yet profound portrait of the prolific background actor Jill Goldston who has appeared in almost 2000 films and TV programs ranging from Mr. Bean to The Elephant Man. This short film retains the viewer's focus as each new scene becomes a "Where's Waldo?"-esque search for Goldston.

Documentary Screening: "Capturing Life" (1839–1869)

October 17, 5–7pm

The George and Ellen Rieveschl Digitorium Griffin Hall, Northern Kentucky University

This one-hour documentary combines interviews with rare archival photographs for a compelling look at the region's first generation of photographers. A panel discussion under the theme "Visual Heritage" will follow the Documentary Screening.

Film Screening: Union (Stephen Maing, Brett Story, 2024)

October 17, 7–9pm

Wexner Center for the Arts

This intimate and surprising David vs. Goliath story closely follows a group of current and former Amazon employees who seek to unionize within one of the world's largest and most powerful companies. After the screening, the film's codirector Brett Story will be in conversation with the Ohio filmmaker Steven Bognar, an Oscar-winner for his powerful unionization film American Factory.

Film Screening: Training for Freedom

October 18, 3–3:30pm

Miami University: Richard and Carole Cocks Art Museum

Training for Freedom Summer presents the history and personal stories of those who came together in Oxford, OH, as they prepared to help register Black voters in the Deep South.

Film Screening: Hunting Island

October 18, 7:30–9pm The Lodge KY

Photographs taken by Matthew Shelton on Hunting Island, South Carolina, are abstracted through animation to create a film accompanied by a live, improvised music score. *Q&A* with filmmaker Matthew Shelton will follow each showing.

Film Screening: *Grand Theft Hamlet* (Pinny Grylls and Sam Crane, 2024) October 18, 7:30–9pm

Wexner Center for the Arts

Shot entirely within the notoriously violent world of Grand Theft Auto, this film charts the ridiculous, hilarious and moving adventure of Sam and Mark as they attempt to stage a full production of Hamlet within the game. Winner of the 2024 South by Southwest Jury Award for Best Feature Documentary.

Film Screening: *No Other Land* (Basel Adra, Yuval Abraham, Rachel Szor, Hamdan Ballal, 2024) October 19, 12–2pm

Wexner Center for the Arts

Following an unlikely collaboration between a Palestinian filmmaker and an Israeli journalist, this is a powerful record of life in Occupied Palestine. Bearing witness to the everyday horrors of life under occupation, and the stark inequality it gives rise to, this is a welcome and urgent act of witness and testimony.

Film Screening: Hunting Island

October 19, 4-5:30pm

The Lodge KY

Photographs taken by Matthew Shelton on Hunting Island, South Carolina, are abstracted through animation to create a film accompanied by a live, improvised music score. *Q&A* with filmmaker Matthew Shelton will follow each showing.

Film Screening: Sound Spring (Catalina Jordan Alvarez, 2024)

October 19, 4:30–6pm Wexner Center for the Arts

Unfolding in a series of eight vignettes, Sound Spring explores the unique history of Yellow Springs, Ohio over hundreds of years, as narrated by its residents in comical scenes. Through interacting with their own previously recorded media, villagers uncover layers of time and storytelling. Sound Spring was supported by the Wexner Center's Film/Video Studio and Alvarez is the 2020 Ohio Shorts Jury Award winner.

Celebrating Julia Reichart: Her Life and Legacy with Steve Bognar

October 19, 7pm-9pm

Wexner Center for the Arts

This tribute to the late and beloved Oscar-winning Ohio documentarian Julia Reichert by her long-term partner celebrates her legacy and spirit through never-seen-before footage of her life and work. This program will bring Julia's inspirational spirit to the Wexner Center with three short films by Bognar that highlight the incredible woman who was so often behind a camera: Remembering Julia, Julia Home Movies, and Julia's Stepping Stones.

Film Screening: *Hunting Island* October 19, 8pm–9:30pm

The Lodge KY

The filmmaker Matthew Shelton will be present at every screening and give a brief introductory speech to each screening, and Q&A opportunities will follow each showing.

Film Screening: DRIVER (Neza Azimi, 2024)

October 20, 1–3pm Wexner Center for the Arts

DRIVER follows three years in the life of long-haul trucker Desiree Wood and her community of women drivers, presenting a snapshot of a quickly-disappearing labor landscape, told through the women who are living it every day. Desiree and her sisterhood of truckers are fueled by a sense of gallows humor and a fiery outrage as they rally against the crushing forces of an industry that is indifferent to their survival.

Film Screening: The Remarkable Life of Ibelin (Benjamin Ree, 2024)

October 20, 3–5pm

Wexner Center for the Arts

When Mats Steen was diagnosed with a rare form of muscular dystrophy and increasingly lost control of his body, he fell into the world of computer games with the aid of specially built chairs. His parents had worried about the isolation of the last years of his life but after his death at the age of 25, they realized that he'd had a rich and eventful online gaming life and had made friends around the world. Through a blend of reconstructed animated gameplay and interviews, the exciting Norwegian filmmaker Benjamin Ree creates a vivid portrait of Ibelin, Steen's avatar within the World of Warcraft community, illustrating how Steen was able to transcend the limits of his physical world.

Film Screening: Hunting Island

October 20, 4-5:30pm

The Lodge KY

The filmmaker Matthew Shelton will be present at every screening and give a brief introductory speech to each screening, and Q&A opportunities will follow each showing.

Film Screening: Hunting Island

October 20, 7:30-9:30pm

The Lodge KY

The filmmaker Matthew Shelton will be present at every screening and give a brief introductory speech to each screening, and Q&A opportunities will follow each showing.

Film Screening: The World is Family (Anand Patwardhan, 2023)

October 21, 4–6pm Wexner Center for the Arts

Anand Partwardhan is known for his brave documentaries that question his country's dominant Hindu nationalist ideology. In The World Is Family (an old Sanskrit phrase),

Anand looks at his family's elders who had fought for India's Independence alongside Mahatma Gandhi in the first half of the 20th century.

Film Screening: Rafaela

October 21, 7–9pm Woodward Theater

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In Rafaela, directed by Tito Rodríguez, Judith Rodríguez delivers an intense and affecting performance as a female gang leader forced to live a violent life that contrasts with her real desires. Screening to be followed by Q&A with actress Judith Rodriguez and screenwriter Cristian Mojica.

Film Screening: Rafaela

October 22, 3:30-6pm

The Digitorium, Griffin Hall, Northern Kentucky University

In Rafaela, directed by Tito Rodríguez, Judith Rodríguez delivers an intense and affecting performance as a female gang leader forced to live a violent life that contrasts with her real desires. Screening to be followed by Q&A with actress Judith Rodriguez and screenwriter Cristian Mojica.

Film Screening: Reading Freedom Summer

October 25, 3-3:30pm

Reading Freedom Summer (Andy Rice and partners) is a reflection on Freedom Summer 1964, a documentary featuring letters and songs read and sung by Oxford citizens and Miami University students.

Film Screening: All the Flowers

October 28, 7–9:30pm Woodward Theater

All the Flowers, an observational documentary about the trans community in the Santa Fe neighborhood of Bogotá, Colombia, by Puerto Rican filmmaker Carmen Oquendo, took ten years to make and was supported by grants from the Ford Foundation, the Guggenheim, and the Sundance Institute. Screening to be followed by Q&A with director Carmen Oquendo (via Videoconference) and Producer Alejandro Angel Torres (in person).

Documentary Screening: "Capturing Life" (1839–1869)

October 29, 6-8pm

Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library: Main Branch

This one-hour documentary combines interviews with rare archival photographs for a compelling look at the region's first generation of photographers. A panel discussion under the theme "Photography and Education" will follow the Documentary Screening.

Film Screening, Artist Talk, and Closing Reception

November 2, 1–3pm Kennedy Heights Arts Center

Join us in the KHAC Lindner Annex for the screening of the short film created by Gee Horton and Shay Nartker from 1– 2pm, followed by Artist Talk with Gee Horton & Shay Nartker from 2–3pm.

Don't Talk About ilt, Be About It Full Documentary Screening & Reception November 2, 6:30–9pm PAR-Projects: Gallery at Studeō PAR-

This event will feature the full screening of the documentary Don't Talk About It, Be About It, featuring the viewpoints and life's work of Cincinnati native Omar Childress.