

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
Tisch School of the Arts
Institute of Film and Television

The 54th Annual

First
Run
Festival

March 20-30, 1996

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54th Annual First Run Festival

March 20 – 28

Cinema Village
22 East 12th Street

FILM SCREENINGS

4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

*Additional 1 p.m. screening

Wednesday, March 20

Thursday, March 21

Friday, March 22

Saturday, March 23*

Sunday, March 24*

Monday, March 25

Tuesday, March 26

VIDEO SCREENINGS

6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 27

Thursday, March 28

Saturday, March 30

Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center
West 65th Street and Broadway

WASSERMAN AWARDS CEREMONY

Awards Presentation and Screening

6 p.m.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to the 54th Annual First Run Festival.

Each year, the Tisch School of the Arts presents over 150 films made by its graduate and undergraduate students in film and television. Many of these works are shown at international film festivals and on cable television, and many win student filmmaker awards. Every year for the last sixteen years, at least one student from the Department of Film and Television has received or been nominated for the coveted Student Academy Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Audiences for our festivals have included the general public and industry professionals, as well as the NYU community, who eagerly await the imaginative and innovative filmmaking that has come to characterize the First Run Festival.

This year, we are pleased to announce the first year of the Wasserman Awards, the Tisch School's top honors named in honor of Lew and Edie Wasserman, generous benefactors and good friends of the Tisch School. We are also pleased to announce the establishment of the New York Picture Company Awards, established by alumna, Deborah Penchina, to honor our young screenwriters. Both award ceremonies will be hosted this year at Alice Tully Hall.

Our tradition of excellence continues this year with our ten-day festival at Cinema Village and Alice Tully Hall. We invite you to enjoy this preview of the next generation of filmmakers.



Mary Schmidt Campbell
Dean, Tisch School of the Arts

FESTIVAL JUDGES

FILM

FACULTY JUDGES

Karl Bardosh
Yvette Biro
Yuri Denysenko
Carol Dysinger
Boris Frumin
Lora Hays
Marketa Kimbrell
Tom Mangravite
Lamar Sanders
Nick Tanis

VIDEO

FACULTY JUDGES

Jim Brown
Carlos DeJesus
Katherine Hurbis-Cherrier
Lynne McVeigh



WASSERMAN JUDGES

Len Amato
Anthony Bregman
Anne Carey
Sandra Forman
Sean Gallagher
Bob Gosse
Adam Kanter
Richard LaGravanese
Sy Lesser
Mary Meagher
Abby Nolan
Jeff Sagansky
Susan Seideman
Dave Tuttle

VIDEO INDUSTRY JUDGES

Skip Blumberg
Chan Lee

UNDERGRADUATE FILMS

UNDERGRADUATE FILMS

Guyville

Ken Ahern

(310) 450-6151

The true story of champion marksman Guy Morrisset, who, after losing his wife to lead poisoning, found inner peace through his love of high-powered firearms. (15:00)



The Hero Within

Phil Altieri

Due to declining comic book sales, an illustrator is faced with having to kill off his favorite superhero character. This proves to be difficult once the superhero comes to life and will not allow himself to be erased. (27:00)

Christmas

Franco Barbeite

A college student maneuvers friends so as not to be alone in the dorms for Christmas break and ends up ensuring he gets left alone. (21:00)

★ *still life*

Tracey Bartels

The last day in the life of a mass murderer; the same day in the life of his son. (30:00)

Memories of Matthew's Place

Daniel Bova

A journey into the heart of Canarsie, Brooklyn. (8:00)

The Forgotten

Monica Brady

Shot entirely in the Republic of Ireland, *The Forgotten* is a story about a 12-year-old girl who regains her fading hope and human spirit through the friendship of a kind-hearted stranger. (14:55)

Kiss and Tell

Ivy Brooks

A cross-cultural look at kissing in the '90s. (15:00)

The Recipe for Cruelty

Matt Burch

The Recipe for Cruelty: 2 hardboiled convicts, 1 girlfriend caught in the middle, 1/2 tsp. heartache, 1 tbs. revenge. Stir slowly. Serve cold. (28:00)



Day Dreaming

Paul Carluccio

A Knicks fan's quest to sneak into Madison Square Garden and the travels of a man with a pet fish are two day dreams imagined from the sights and sounds of a bike messenger's work day. (22:00)

★ Semi-finalist

Sunday

Maya Churi

Helen and Sue wait in a pick-up truck in the parking lot of a local go-go bar. Their ride home is inside, having a drink. (18:00)

Fourth Down

Josh Cramer

Ingenuous young white woman unwittingly confronts racial anxieties when trapped in an elevator with a black man she blindly provokes. (12:00)

Cafe Babel

Juan Dapena

Paris, 1926; Cafe Babel. Night unfolds through the eyes of the establishment's bartender, a chronic kleptomaniac. (20:00)



Half a Cup

Tawd Dorenfeld

Jake, a man who has passed through his midlife crisis 20 times over, gives it all up. Meeting with the Devil himself, he ponders nothing except his time to die and all-in-all goes home to heaven. (11:00)

★ *Crayons*

Michael Dougherty

A boy, his crayon, and the nun that comes between them. The story of the fragility of creativity in the smothering walls of a Catholic school. (2:50)

A Cry in Silence

John Dreyer

The bonds of motherhood are explored in this gripping social drama that presents the choices of a woman struggling to provide for herself and her child. (15:00)

Days Before Spring

Hisashi Eto

Days Before Spring documents an eventless day in the life of a blue-colored man who lives in Brooklyn. (10:00)

Mutes

Kenta Eto

A girl tries to help a mute homeless man in Central Park. (11:00)

Dangerous Waters

Anniken Fjesme

A dramatic coming-of-age story of a thirteen-year-old boy living in a small town, who has to deal with a very complicated situation and a certain fixation on his mother. (15:00)

Sweaty Naked Male Flesh

Jordan Flaherty

A spontaneous and sexual celebration of New York's downtown gay male club scene. (5:00)

Kill Kimono

Lisette Marie Flanary

Kill Kimono is the story of three Japanese women in search of identity amidst the dictates of culture . . . but somewhere, on one of the many rooftops in New York City, waits an angel tending a rock garden, waiting to touch their lives. (15:00)



54th Annual First Run Festival

UNDERGRADUATE FILMS

The Lost Chapter

Brad Follmer

Time travel! Explosions! Fist Fights! Drama!
Entertainment Tonight's Leonard Maltin hosts this tribute to the action serials. Sterling Slade, government agent, battles the Shadow Legion and their plot to conquer the world. (15:00)

Duo

Alexandre Ginnsz

Duo is the story of a 13-year-old boy with Down's Syndrome and his secret love for a young violinist. (23:00)

The Applicant

Leila Godowsky

This film is based on the Sylvia Plath poem, "The Applicant." The director's interpretation is a commentary on post-World War II stereotypes of the roles of men and women. (4:30)

Cream Rinse

Leila Godowsky

A teenage girl contemplates her decision after she tests positive for pregnancy. (9:07)

Fat Free

Thorsten Gritschke

Life's heavy but less filling. What's for dessert? Memories. (14:00)

The Covers

Eric Guggenheim
(516) 883-2707

Three musicians with a SEVERE substance abuse problem are so deluded they don't realize that the songs they are composing and performing are distant (but mistakable) renditions of classic hits by rock bands, such as The Beatles and The Doors. (30:00)



Enter the Cypha

Kevin Jordan

Darren Marks lives in a town where you can be anything but different. On what seemed like any other birthday, he was about to enter a world where everything isn't what it appears to be. (20:00)

Driving South

Roger Karshan

Why did Brian kill his girlfriend? Everyone seems to know except Brian. A black comedy about randomness. (10:00)

Swap Meat

Mathew Kaufman

A cow movie! People, cows, blood, and box office. (8:00)



D.U.M.B. (Down Under Manhattan Bridge)

Laurent Kibrit

An Italian tourist picks the wrong car, takes the wrong turn, on the wrong night, and finds himself trapped . . . down under Manhattan Bridge. (13:00)

Vamonos Muchacho

Alexander Landin

A Latino teen, Emilio, struggles to overcome his troubles: an affluent prep school with an exhaustive job, two bullies, and a dubious faculty; and a home with abuse, drugs, and failed ideals. With help from his only friend, Emilio obtains relief. (27:00)

★ Semi-finalist

Ethel & Harvey—A Love Story

Kevin Malcolm

An elderly married couple tries to kill each other for the insurance money. (20:00)

Four Aces

Amir Mann

(212) 929-6487

The anxiety of meeting the girlfriend's parents reaches new heights. (15:00)



★ ***The Money Shot***

Matt Mailer

Morality is called into question when an obsessed documentary filmmaker exploits the lives of two street kids. (30:00)



Chicken Livers

Federica Martino

A tragi-comic tale about mad love, courage, and a deli in the Bronx. (21:00)



The Locked Room

Rebecca McKean

Stacy is unable to acknowledge her husband's suicide jump from their high-rise apartment. When Stacy is scheduled to fill in on a suicide watch for a patient, John Loney, their interaction leads to an explosive confrontation. (22:00)

★ ***Ana: Portrait in Days***

Liselle Mei

Fragment by fragment, behind tightened corsets, veiled expressions, and closed doors, a portrait of a woman is painted. (30:00)

UNDERGRADUATE FILMS

Trick Fotogo

Ted Minoff

Tired of being pushed around, Trick Fotogo attempts to strengthen himself up. Through his successive failures he discovers his natural talent and assumes his position as a role model to children everywhere. (4:30)

The Big Bajor

Regina Moerikofer

Vanya, a young gypsy woman, realizes that her marriage is in trouble. An elderly woman with a secret is her last chance for happiness, but first she must work the "big bajor"—a swindle worth more than \$10,000. (25:00)

***October***

Marcia Mohiuddin

Rachel thought her gift would bring her back into the family... but she never expected to uncover her parents' deadly hidden past. (30:00)

August Roads

Joshua Moss

When Jimmy got into Princeton on a full scholarship, he forgot about one little thing: he couldn't go. (25:14)

Balloons

Marc Paneque

A modern-day fairy tale which illustrates a bizarre love-triangle between man, woman, and male mannequin. Shades of grey on the emotional and idealistic scale make this a fun ride. (27:00)

***Talkative***

James J. Price

Lack of communication in a family leads to loss. A father learns about his son and himself. (10:00)

Lost Souls

Fred Raskin

Sixteen-year-old Jake Farrel returns from the dead to find himself being hunted down by an army of demonic soldiers, with a gunslinging woman and a good-natured vigilante to assist him. (23:00)

***Personally Yours***

Jeff Robinson

A comical short depicting a young man's search for the love of his life in the gay personals. (6:00)

★ ***My Name is Rabbit and I Don't Know Why***

Elke Rosthal

The memory surrounding the death of Ida's mother slowly changes when she returns to live with her father, whom she hasn't seen in 10 years. (30:00)

Soldier Boy

Ryan Rothmaier

Who would have thought that getting to school could be such an adventure? *Soldier Boy* follows the imaginative journey of a young boy as he literally battles his way through suburbia. (8:00)

★ **Semi-finalist**

★ *eclipse*

Jason Ruscio

eclipse is a film about loss and fear, as seen through the war-torn eyes of a young boy. (27:00)

Upon Arrival

Franziska Schlotterer

When Rachel returns from a business trip, her fiance is not at the airport. (14:55)

do not call it fixity . . .

Evann Siebens

A brief, experimental dance film that explores the properties of light, movement, editing, music, and text. (6:30)



drift

Jason Sinopoli

Conscience dissected is made from guilt, care for others, and distrust of yourself. It is watching yourself, slowly, deliberately, edge up to the slippery line of what you can accept. Sometimes, it is watching as you cross it! (40:00)

Graduation Day

Michael Spenelli

Surviving a year on the front lines, a soldier on the edge of sanity finds himself confronting the past he thought he left behind. (15:00)

Lizard Lovers

Andrea Vecchiato

On a late summer night, on a roof somewhere in the East Village, two boys realize that their relationship is over. (5:45)

Random Timer Man

Ilija Von Nagel

A comedy about a lonely man who ruins his life over self-built torture and pleasure machines. (14:42)

The News from Here

Chris Wade

Welcome to Macom's County . . . No news? No news. (17:00)

Detention

Matt Wittig

Detention is a story about racism in a suburban high school. (10:00)

Blind Date

Constantinos Yiallourides

A woman goes on a blind date and meets the man of her dreams. (12:00)



GRADUATE FILMS

Sawyersville Blues

Michael Angst

A young mother seeks a night of self-fulfillment in a small town, where privacy is in short supply. (17:15)

The 53rd Calypso

Josh Apter

The 53rd Calypso follows three different scenes of urban frustration: a bickering married couple, an oppressed waitress, and a confounded painter. Each are on the brink of explosion, and share a bizarre, yet common climax. (25:00)

★ *Around the Time*

Phil Bertelsen

The civil rights movement is in full swing. This interracial romance is not concerned with picket lines, yet it leaves a legacy, nonetheless. Truthful tales inspire an evocative story which combines fact and fiction in search of youth. (14:30)



GRADUATE FILMS

To Go

Olly Blackburn

Two people's lives - a politician on the lam and a young Chinese woman - head towards each other on election night. (19:00)

Movements

Harlan Bosmajian

Through his conversations with a boy from a mental institution, a musician pieces together his life. (35:00)

Fairytale in the Supermarket

Joshua Brown and Katherine Belsey

From Switzerland comes an all-dancing, all-singing story about two people who find each other because of their common obsession with a chain of organic supermarkets. (17:00)



★ *Memorial Day*

Daniel Carey

A group of strangers come upon an accident on a remote road where a man is trapped in an overturned car. (23:00)

★ **Semi-finalist**

The Replacement

Sharon Cohen

A dramatic coming of age story about a young adolescent girl, Suzanna, who grows up in the shadow of her older sister's mysterious and untimely death. (20:00)

Sleeping Dogs Lie

Bryan Gunnar Cole

A farm girl refuses to choose between her brother and her lover. (20:00)



Buck Fever

Charles Cooper

When Ray and Bea Walker's country house becomes a shooting gallery, Ray does what a man has to do and confronts the problem...Too bad Buck Skinner has a different plan in mind. (30:00)

Toys & Small Offenses

Anne Dunham

Which is hotter: A lit firecracker? A little girl's first crush? Or Norm's barbecue sauce? (17:30)

Boom

Morgan Freeman

Three orphaned siblings living in a gas station are working to repair the truck which took their parents' lives so they can move to California. (12:00)



The Ways of Harmony

Christopher Grant

A tale of miscommunication between a husband and wife, both struggling with their identity in a modern interracial relationship.

★ ***Angels Don't Know***

Carlos Hagerman

Life in New York City as seen by ten characters who witness a murder.(16:30)



★ ***Stranger in the World***

Mitsuhiro Haraguchi

At the end of the 20th century, most of us are living in a desert called "city." Is there any way out? (16:00)

Mirar Mirror

Stacey Holman

An up-and-coming model struggles to maintain self-control with pressures from outside forces. (11:30)

GRADUATE FILMS

Stop It

Noel S. Honig

On a lovely day, in the middle of nowhere, ten people sit and wait for a traffic light to turn green. A comedy about being stuck in ruts, *Stop It* is a fable that shows the difficulty of forward progress. (25:00)

To Dye For

David Klein

To lift herself out of a mid-life crisis, Maddy visits her hairdresser. She takes his advice to "make a change," but in the end gets more than she bargained for. (11:30)

Morningside Prep

Malcolm Lee

A well-adjusted black prep student, Terrance, is asked to assimilate a brash yet intelligent and gifted inner-city athlete named D-Train to the norms of the predominantly-white private school, Morningside Prep. (23:00)



Tribes

Glenn McClanan

Princess Anne County, Virginia, 1919. When a young man discovers the secret of an African-American soldier who returned a hero from WWI, he is forced to choose between family loyalty and his own conscience. (35:00)



★ *Morning*

Dung Nguyen

Lien, a young Vietnamese immigrant, has a disturbing encounter early one morning on her way to school. Unable to tell anyone about the experience, she does her best to behave as if it were just any other day. (12:00)



Sweet Tooth

Ayana Osada

A young woman breaks into her estranged father's apartment during his absence. There she accidentally meets his male lover, who convinces her to see her father for the first time in years. (12:00)

★ *A Matter of Time*

Keir Pearson

An aging pensioner tries to rekindle his romance with his wife, while a lovesick neighbor flirts with him and thwarts his every effort. (12:00)

★ *Fruits and Nuts*

Catherine McCarthy

An East Village anti-romantic comedy about a young couple and their interactions, as seen via various vignettes capturing moments of tension in their relationship. (15:00)

★ **Semi-finalist**

Safe Storage

Andrew Peterson
(612) 648-0909

Mini-storage, porn, and an aversion to seeds make a dangerous cocktail. A black comedy - in color. (20:00)



Eyes Wide Open

Bill Platt

Portrait of a woman facing a deeply personal decision. (16:00)

Desire

I-fan Quirk

An inexperienced young man, tired of waiting, decides to take matters into his own hands and makes a trip to New York City. (11:00)

Nick and Rachel

Zalisa Rabin

A young Hasidic woman has a bit of trouble suppressing her curiosity about all those things that the rest of the world spends 80-90% of their time thinking about. (57:00)

Warm Tide

James Richards

A young man tries to come to grips with his attraction for another man and what that means to his homeboys and his girlfriend. (12:00)

★ *Mermaids, Fish & Other Non-Bipeds*

Ginger Rinkenberger

Nikki is in love with her roommate, Lauren, a former dancer. But Lauren is seeing J.D., an exotic tropical fish store owner. A fishy tale of lesbian love and lust. (15:00)

Games

Stephanie Ripps

A scruffy little kid, his overbearing older brother, and a pair of broken binoculars go on a ride. (13:30)



Turn-ups, Collars & Ties

Benedict Romer

A story about a man, his son, and their dog. This particular family's attempt to find a new home brings about unusual discoveries, disclosures, and allegiances. (25:00)



A Drowning

Brian Rudnick

The story of one woman's journey "home." (13:00)

Drive

Rich Schmitt

An afternoon drive turns into a disastrous predicament for two actors for which no director could prepare them. Written and produced well before the theatrical release of a popular motion picture similar in idea. (15:00)

GRADUATE FILMS

Downtown Diva

Carey Schonegevel

Somehow, the girl's got to learn to go get it for herself. (10:00)

Heartspace

Carey Schonegevel

The story of three young strangers on the move in the new South Africa. A story of wounds slow to heal, the unspoken, and the unspeakable. A story of trust, fear, and sheer curiosity. (28:30)

Comatose

Doug Scott

The story of an old, lonely man in a hospital attempting to put his demons, past and present, behind him. (13:30)

Love Child

Patrick Sisam

Disco, leisure suits, "Love American Style," and a kid with two first names. (23:00)



★ ***Cell #724***

Karl Staven

A man sits in a room. Things happen. (6:45)

Silence

Karl Staven

A statement against the Serbian siege of Sarajevo. (5:30)

★ ***Wild to be Wreckage Forever***

Cindy Stillwell

Love, lust, innocence, danger, and doom whisper in the ears of three teenagers born to the fertile hills of Sevier County, Tennessee. (12:00)

Who's Lamponing Napoleon Burrows?

Mark Summers

An unknown assailant is lamponing Napoleon Burrows. A documentary filmmaker learns of his plight and decides to make a film about the search for the lamponer. (15:00)

★ ***Darkness***

Folco Terzani

A client makes a request he cannot meet. A prophetess speaks of a spring she cannot see. The architect has spun a cocoon of darkness, waiting to become a butterfly. (10:00)

Death in the Forbidden Zone

Emory Van Cleve

While residing at the East Hampton get away of his producer, a screenwriter struggles to finish a low-budget, post-apocalyptic screenplay. (15:00)



★ **Semi-finalist**

In the Bag

Amy Veltman

Pegeen O'Donnell labors in a grocery store with the expectation that she'll be promoted and have enough cash to move her brain-dead mother to a facility capable of reviving her. What happens when reality intervenes? (10:00)



Fragments from the Lower East Side

Stina Werenfels

How does a Hasidic rabbi feel about women's lib? How does a born Catholic woman feel in a synagogue's women's section? How does an orthodox man tempted by modern life cope with the Sabbath? Members of a community give an account of their lives. (24:00)



VIDEOS

VIDEOS

Abdul

Diego Abad UG

Hiper-Kore's first music video. Shot on location on the dangerous plains of the Maharui Desert. (3:30)



Romance Under the Covers

Maya Blume UG

This documentary introduces viewers to the authors, readers, reviewers, editors, and critics of the romance novel; it looks at the allure of romance and the continuing consumer demand for this controversial form of fiction.

(28:00)

The Inner Tube

Nicholas Stevens, Daniel Bova,

and John Gebbie UG

A half-hour of satires, parodies, and laughs on TV, film, and American pop culture. (29:30)

★ Semi-finalist

50,000,000 Joe Franklin Fans Can't Be Wrong

Joshua Brown GR

Joe Franklin reigned as New York's king of television talk shows from 1950 until 1993. How was he able to endure where countless others have failed? By believing in everyone's inherent talent—no matter how nonexistent it might be. (52:00)



Raygun

Anne Gillmore UG

A look back at a childhood experience. (8:00)

★ *Private Shows*

M. Blaine Hopkins UG

Stephen Winter GR

A docu-narrative feature about a week in the life of a Times Square hustler as seen through the eyes of his ex-lover. (58:30)

Growing Up, Growing Old, Growing Together

M. Blaine Hopkins UG

Our oldest and youngest generations may appear to have little to offer one another, but their experiences are surprisingly similar. (7:30)

★ *Chameleon*

Andrew Milkis UG

Dash built "V-Lab," a gateway into and out of virtual reality. Howie and his cyber-creation "D.D." want it for themselves. Only one problem - Dash has "changed." (30:00)

★ *Ollie's Army*

Brett Morgen GR

"Ollie's Army" captures the fanaticism and passion that drove Oliver North's 1994 Senate campaign. Ultimately, the film offers more than a traditional political documentary; it is the story of young men coming of age, and their need for role models. (59:00)

Medicine in the Cloud

Kohei Murano UG

A story of a poet trying to find the absolute truth and a Mephistophelean character who tries to ruin the poet with relative values. (9:55)

★ *The Future Nostalgia*

Kohei Murano UG

A story of a man who tries to change the perception of time and space. (7:10)

★ *Dress Me*

Barbara Nuddle UG

The mother-daughter relationship. The struggle for independence colliding with the desire to be nurtured. (7:00)

VIDEOS

I Wish You Would Ask Me

Susan Phuvasitkul UG

A young and beautiful Chinese-Japanese-American woman tells those who are willing to listen, see, and feel her words and movements. (20:00)

Paul Gemignani: Behind the Music

Cynthia E. Roman UG

This documentary about successful musical director Paul Gemignani describes exactly what goes on behind the scenes of a Broadway musical. It focuses on the important but "low profile" role the musical director plays in its production. (11:30)

The Last Leaf

Evann Siebens UG

Johnsy, a sculptor, wants to die. Yet her decision is swayed by Sue, her lover, and the final painting of Old Behrman. A multi-media adaptation of O'Henry's story, *The Last Leaf* was performed at NYU in May 1994. (40:00)

★ *When I Take Comfort*

Karl Staven GR

A meditation on the destructive creative process. (1:10)

The America...I Never Knew

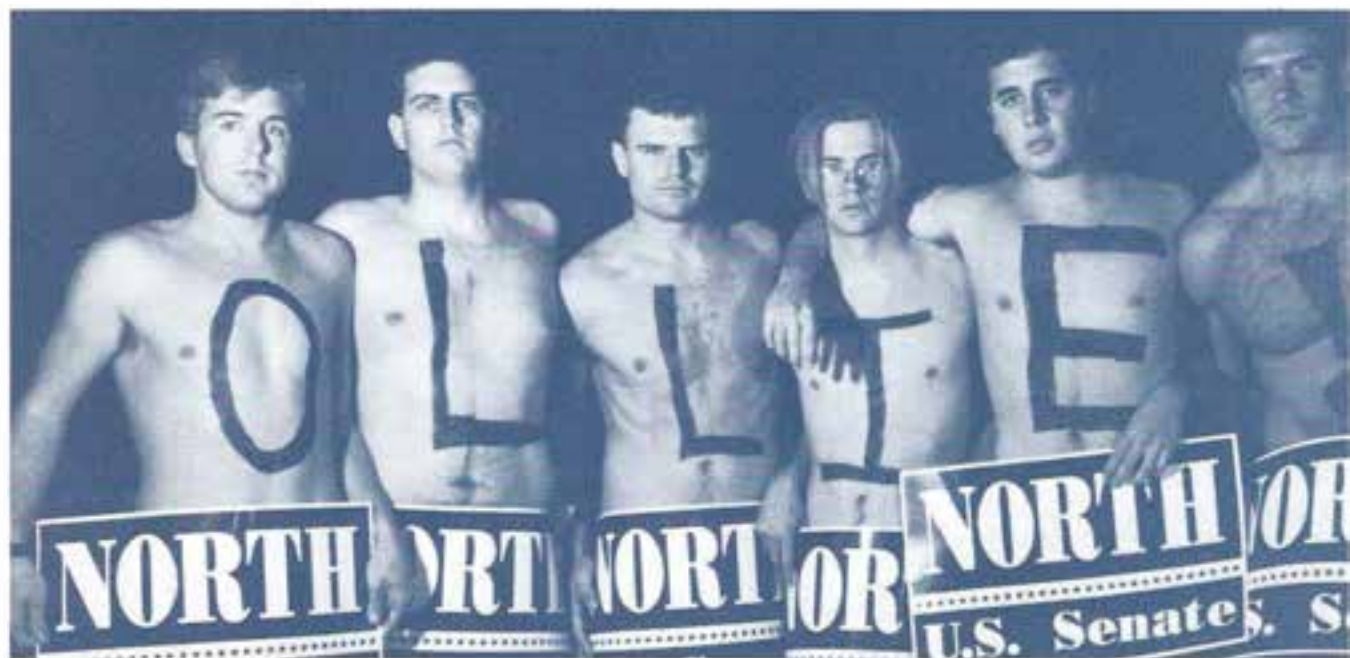
Wing Tat Yeong UG

A documentary that examines the experiences of two foreign students on their stay in America as exchange students. (20:00)

Love Burns

Jay Alan Zimmerman UG

Past, present, reality, and fantasy blur together in this passionate, Twilight Zone-ish musical. In the center of the storm, Zack struggles with his desires and tries to remember how he ended up with a bloody knife in his hands. (18:00)



Ollie's Army

Brett Morgen GR

★ Semi-finalist



THE WASSERMAN AWARDS

The Tisch School of the Arts is deeply grateful to Edie and Lew Wasserman for their devoted friendship and outstanding generosity.

The Wassermans' ongoing support has enabled hundreds of talented students to pursue an education in the media and performing arts that might otherwise not have been available to them. Through the Wasserman Scholarships, these young artists were given the opportunity to fulfill their educational and artistic goals.

It is an honor for the Tisch School to name its prestigious film awards for Edie and Lew Wasserman.

1996 AWARDS PRESENTATION

Saturday, March 30

Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center

West 65th Street and Broadway

6 p.m.



Tracey Bartels

*still life*

Tracey Bartels received her B.F.A. from NYU with honors. *still life* is her second film. It received both the Warner Bros. Production Award and the REI Media Group Production Grant. *still life* is currently screening in festivals in the United States and Europe.

Matt Mailer

*Money Shot*

A horror film devotee, Mr. Mailer first sought a career as a special effects artist. Self-taught, he found work on low budget and off-off Broadway productions. While he was still in high school, Matt had his directorial debut — a feature splatter flick, which he wrote, directed, and played a starring role in. Having decided to put away his makeup box for the director's chair, he wrote and directed his second project, *Last Testament*, an independent horror film.

Michael Dougherty

*Crayons*

Michael Dougherty (shown at left age 4) is an aspiring young animator whose work tends to be a bit darker than typical Saturday morning cartoons, but is still entertaining and enjoyable by a wide audience. Michael hopes to eventually work in animated feature films to help tell stories that appeal to more adult audiences. He is also heavily involved in the growing multimedia industry, creating computer animation for CD-ROMs and creating Internet websites for both commercial and non-profit organizations.

Liselle Mei

*Ana: A Portrait in Days*

Raised within the cultural and artistic fabric of London, Liselle Mei was constantly involved in the arts. While completing advanced level courses in fine arts and art history, she became increasingly interested in film. This interest eventually attracted her to New York, to explore and experiment with the medium. Graduating with honors in 1995, Liselle has directed several short films prior to *Ana* and is currently involved in the development of other independent projects, both in the U.S. and Europe.

Elke Rosthal



My Name is Rabbit and I Don't Know Why

Elke Rosthal grew up in Germany where she graduated from the School of Photography in Berlin. She moved to New York City in 1991 to study photojournalism, on full scholarship, at the International Center of Photography. She began her film studies part time at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. After receiving the W.T.C. Johnson Fellowship, she enrolled full time and completed her two short films *Gantenbein* and *Across the Big Water*. Upon graduation, Ms. Rosthal received the Tisch School's Continuous Excellence in Filmmaking Award. At that time, *My Name is Rabbit and I Don't Know Why* was in full production. Ms. Rosthal plans to remain in New York City to continue her filmmaking career. She is currently raising funds for her first feature film.

Jason Ruscio



eclipse

This is Jason Ruscio's second time as a semi-finalist at the First Run Film Festival. *eclipse*, which he completed this past summer, premiered at the Telluride Film Festival and has since been shown at a number of festivals throughout the country. Jason is currently directing music videos and writing scripts.

**Phil Bertelsen*****Around the Time***

After five years of producing public affairs television, Phil realized he wasn't learning anything about film. So in 1993 he began studies in NYU's Graduate Film program, with the intention of portraying the drama of real life. A proponent of the belief that life is stranger than fiction, Phil hopes his films "touch people in a way that entertains them thoughtfully." Born in Newark, New Jersey, Phil received his bachelor's degree in political science from Rutgers University in 1988. He is a 1995 Spike Lee Fellow.

Carlos Hagerman***Angels Don't Know***

Carlos earned a B.A. degree with honors in communication studies from Iberoamerican University, Mexico City, and also studied film direction and cinematography at UCLA. In 1991 he started research on conceptual art in Mexico that concluded in the documentary, *The Concept's Manifestation*, directed and produced with Claudia Madrazo. This film was selected to be part of the 1992 International World Fair in Sevilla. From there, the film traveled through South America and Europe, including the exhibition "Ecrans du Mexique" in Paris, France. Twice, Carlos has been awarded the Grant for Foreign Studies by the Mexican Endowment for the Arts (FONCA). He studied graduate film at NYU as a Fulbright scholar.

Daniel W. Carey***Memorial Day***

Daniel Carey was raised in Bethesda, Maryland. His last film, *Road Dreams*, was a Mobil semi-finalist in 1995. Daniel now lives in New York.

Mitsuhiro Haraguchi***Stranger in the World***

Mitsu Haraguchi was born in Tokyo, Japan in 1965. After completing his master's degree in biochemistry, he came to America to enter the graduate film program at New York University in 1991.

His first animation film, *Synchronization*, with which he applied to NYU, won the Hiroshima City Educational Board Award at the Hiroshima International Amateur Film & Video Festival. Mitsu is currently working for a tiny TV production company as a producer. His thesis film, *Stranger in the World*, is an experimental short which was shot on both video and 35mm film.

Catherine McCarthy



Fruits and Nuts

Over the past nine years, Catherine McCarthy has worked in various capacities on numerous film productions including features, TV movies/series, music videos, commercials, and educational films. In 1991-92, she carried out a Fulbright Scholarship to study filmmaking in Greece and the former Yugoslavia. Catherine has directed/produced three films: *Don Vello's Appointment*, *Two Ply*, and most recently, *Fruits and Nuts*, which received a Lagniappe Award for Excellence in Filmmaking at the 1995 New Orleans Film Festival. Catherine plans to continue directing short and feature length narrative films as well as documentaries.

Dung Nguyen



Morning

Dung Nguyen was born in Vietnam and raised there until 1975. Since then, she has lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan; Lewiston, Maine; and New York City, and has discovered that there are Vietnamese people living in all of these places. She received her B.S. in cellular and molecular biology at the University of Michigan and is currently a third-year graduate student in the film program at New York University.

Keir Pearson



A Matter of Time

Keir Pearson grew up in Portland, Oregon. He received a B.A. with honors from Harvard College, concentrating in East Asian Studies. His thesis was on Chinese film. He spent many years competing internationally in crew (rowing), including representing the United States in the 1991 World Championships and in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

**Ginger Rinkenberger*****Mermaids, Fish & Other Non-Bipeds***

In her youth, Ginger Rinkenberger was enormously inspired by black-and-white horror films like *Frankenstein*. While this initially led her to pursue a career in medicine, she eventually decided that her true calling was filmmaking. Ginger is currently in post-production on her thesis film. She is also writing a feature-length script which she hopes to direct within the next 18 months.

Cindy Stillwell***Wild to be Wreckage Forever***

Cindy Stillwell was born and raised in Southern Illinois. When she was sixteen, she moved to East Tennessee. One is heavy metal; the other, bluegrass.

Karl Staven***Cell #724***

Karl Staven was born in San Francisco but raised in Georgia.

Folco Terzani***Darkness***

M. Blaine Hopkins and Stephen Winter



Private Shows

Andrew S. Milkis



Chameleon

Chameleon, Andrew's senior project at NYU, is the first student production to incorporate Hollywood-style with quality 3D animation and digital effects, and the first to have its own site on the World Wide Web. Andrew's single motivation is the awesome experience of the movie: the sharing of common feelings of joy, sadness, excitement, or fear with every other moviegoer in every corner of the world. In 1993, Andrew started his own 3D animation company, Digital Euphoria, with clients ranging from various New York editing facilities to Scholastic, Inc., and Warner Music.

Brett Morgen

Ollie's Army

Brett Morgen graduated from Hampshire College in 1992 with a B.A. in American History. His thesis film, *Blessings of Liberty*, won a 1993 CINE Eagle award and has been screened on PBS regionally.

Kohei Murano

Future Nostalgia

Barbara Nuddle

Dress Me



Karl Staven

When I Take Comfort

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