

Terri Sarris

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PROFESSIONAL/ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Senior Lecturer/Lecturer IV - University of Michigan Department of Film, Television, and Media (until 2018, Department of Screen Arts and Cultures and formerly the Film and Video Studies Program), 1996 to present.

Created and taught 15 new courses in Television, Video, and Film Production: FTVM/SAC 190: (Experimental Film and the Ann Arbor Film Festival), SAC 190: (Documentary and Social Change), SAC 190: (Media on the Margins), SAC 290: (Introduction to Production), SAC 301: (Video Art), SAC 302: (TV Production I), SAC 304: (WOLV TV), SAC 304: (Experimental Media Production: Ann Arbor Film Festival), SAC 401: (Documentary II: Experimental Documentary), SAC 401: (Documentary II: Direct Cinema and “The Big House”), SAC 402: (TV Studio Production II), SAC 402: (TV Production II: Situation Comedy), SAC 403: (Sketch Comedy – renumbered from SAC 423), SAC 404: (EFEX Project: feature film, *Bilal’s Stand*), SAC 404: (EFEX Production: short film, *Taffy Cigarettes*), SAC 405: (Screendance, renumbered from SAC 404). Organized and hosted numerous guest artists and applied for and received numerous Arts At Michigan Grants in connection with my courses. Produced 15 years of Dance on Camera Festivals in Ann Arbor in connection with Screendance courses.

Associate Chair, SAC 2013-16: As the first Associate Chair in the Film and Video Studies Program (in a previous term), I created many protocols still in use in the SAC Department: on-line internship information, independent study information, the Honors handbook, exit surveys, SACapalooza, internship panels, faculty mentorship to FVSA.

Accomplishments in my most recent term as Associate Chair included:

- Undergraduate advising, including all transfer and special advising
- Moving the student endowments, grants, and honors applications to on-line application.
- Organizing and conducting SACapalooza mass declaration events each semester.
- Conducting monthly “Tea with Terri” sessions to meet with students for advising outside of appointments.
- Organizing and conducting internship panels and Skype sessions with alumni in L.A.
- Acting as a faculty liaison to the FVSA and to the campus group REACT to Film.
- Mentorship of Lecturer colleagues Dawn Hollison and David Marek
- An invited member of LSA’s advisors working group, which met monthly.
- Internship faculty sponsor for numerous students each semester.

- Chair, undergraduate Studies Committee: organized and conducted exit survey sessions with graduating seniors every December and May, and attempted, via the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, to address student concerns expressed in those surveys. Addressed on-going concerns from SAC production and office staff about logistics of class enrollments and curriculum.

- Served on numerous committees, including the Department Executive Committee, Honors and Awards committee, the production faculty committee, Curriculum revision committee, Ad-Hoc committee on tenure for artists, and others.

- Primary faculty adviser for SAC Honors students, meetings weekly or bi-monthly, from development of their initial applications through their Honors defenses:
 - 2016-17: Abby Buchmeyer and Emily Browning: TV pilot, both awarded High Honors
 - 2015-16: Joe Biglin: Experimental production project, awarded High Honors
 - 2014-15: Perry Janes: narrative , awarded Highest SAC Honors, the Goldstein Prize for Honors, and the winner of a student Academy Award from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.
 - 2013-14: Wes Schwarz: Experimental production project awarded Honors.Previous Honors students included LiAnn Kaye, Jacqueline Wood, Alex Ebel, Ryan Carmichael (winner of the DGS Minority Student Film Award), and many others.
- Honors defense panels for SAC students, including Vesal Stoakley (2018) and others.

- Faculty advisor for SAC independent study projects in production and screenwriting. Student work awarded Student Academy Award and screened nationally and internationally at numerous festivals, and chosen as finalists in Final Draft Big Break Screenwriting Contest (Graham Techler, 2016).

-Thesis committees for MFA students in the Department of Dance (Robert Maynard, Brittany Whitmoyer) and as an informal adviser to MFA students in the Stamps School of Art and Design (Hayden Nichol, Carissa Bledsoe and others).

AWARDS AND HONORS

Bentley Library Fellows Program – (2016-17): Invited by Director Terry McDonald to be one of five faculty fellows (the only Lecturer to date) in the second cohort of Bentley Historical Library Fellows, University of Michigan.

Sundance Intensive Screenwriting Program in Detroit (2015): one of 12 southeast Michigan screenwriters selected.

College of LSA Excellence in Education Award (2010)

College of LSA Excellence in Advising Award (2003)

Senior Lectureship, University of Michigan College of LS&A, 2002-present. One of five lecturers in the College of LS&A to be awarded this distinction in the first year of this program.

GRANTS

UM Bicentennial Theme Semester Grant (2016-17) for development of course on experimental film, the Ann Arbor Film Festival, and its connections to the University's history.

Third Century Screens Project (3CS)– UM Bicentennial Committee Grant (2016-17). A collaboration with tenured faculty colleagues Peter Sparling (Theater and Dance), Robert Adams (Taubman School of Architecture) and Cynthia Pachikara (Stamps School of Art and Design), the project involved both a colloquium and artistic competition. At my suggestion, scholar Allison Griffiths was a keynote speaker at the September 2017 colloquium.

Graham Foundation Project Grant (2012) - Finishing Funds, *The Radiant Sun*

Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation Grant (2008) – *The Radiant Sun*

Institute for Research on Women and Gender Project Grants – (2012) – *The Radiant Sun*, Finishing Funds, (2009) *loose threads*, (2008), *The Radiant Sun* production grant (2007)

Faculty Development Grant - (2007) – for further development of the EFEX project into a course and program.

National Center for Institutional Diversity Faculty Fellow (NCID) – 2007/08 and 08/09 –fellowship at the NCID to develop the EFEX project toward sustainability.

Public Goods Council Grant – 2006 – to support community filmmaking class and the EFEX project, bringing together University students and southeast Michigan high school students, followed by production of the feature film *Bilal's Stand*.

University of Michigan Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT):

Lecturer's Professional Development Grants

2014, 2013, 2011 – Travel Grant: UFVA conference

2010 - "loose threads" – documentary project

2008 – "The Radiant Sun" – documentary project

2006 – "The Mobility Project" – Community filmmaking workshop/ production of the feature film *Bilal's Stand*

2004 - Robert Flaherty Seminar, Film hand-processing workshop.

2002 - Robert Flaherty Film Seminar, New York.

2000 - International Film and Television Workshops, Maine.

Faculty Interdisciplinary Associates Program (fall 2001- winter 2002) Course development grant with Professor Peter Sparling to develop and teach an interdisciplinary Screen Dance/Dance Video course.

Course Development Grant (fall 2001) with Professor Bambi Haggins, to develop an intra-disciplinary course in the history, theory and production of the television situation comedy. Spent a week observing the production of the situation comedy "King of Queens" in Los Angeles, November 2001.

Artserve Michigan Creative Artist's Grant (Media Arts), 2003

Michigan Roads Scholars Tour Program, 2003

University of Michigan Arts of Citizenship Program Grants:

Fast Forward/Playback (fall 2001) Media installation project grant with Choreographer Peter Sparling and Architect Ronit Eisenbach, Detroit Institute of Arts "Artist's Take on Detroit" exhibit. A component of this project included workshops with elementary school students at Dossin Elementary School in Detroit.

Personal Narrative Through Dance and Video (spring 2001) collaboration with Carina Yervasi. Taught dance video production to the Detroit All-City Men's Dance Company, a young men's dance company at Cass Tech high school in Detroit, Michigan. Assisted students in editing short projects.

University of Michigan Office of the Vice President for Research:

...small comforts - short 16mm dance/film adaptation, choreography by Peter Sparling, March 1999.

Video documentation of the Martha Graham residency, University of Michigan Department of Dance, 1997.

Video adaptation of the play "Remnants" by Hank Greenspan from memories of Holocaust survivors, 1996.

Arts Foundation of Michigan Creative Artist Grant

loose threads (1995) project grant for an evening-length performance piece integrating dance, original and found film, music and text.

"Annie Award" - "outstanding contribution to the arts" in Individual Performing Arts, Ann Arbor Arts Council, 1995.

INVITED CURATORIAL, ADVISORY, AND ADJUDICATION

Invited presenter and moderator - Bentley Historical Library National Symposium on Teaching and the Archives. November 2018.

Invited member – Ann Arbor Film Festival Advisory Board, Summer 2016 to present.

Invited adjudicator for the Detroit Screen Dance Film Festival, summer 2016.

Invited curator and presenter, Cincinnati "Mini-Cine," 2017, "Animalia, and 2015, "Screendance from the Flyover Zone."

Invited curator, Echo Park "Marvelous Movie Mondays" on-line series, 2014, Dance on Screen program.

MEDIA/CREATIVE PROJECTS

VIDEO/FILM

St. Mary of the Oaks (2018) – Super 8 experimental film short, inspired by Derek Jarman and Nathaniel Dorsky.

The Big House (2017) digital, feature length direct-cinema style documentary co-directed with Kazuhiro Soda, Markus Nornes, and the students of SAC 401, Fall 2016. Official selection Berlin Critics' Week, Ann Arbor Film Festival, FREEP (Detroit), Cinteopia (Ann Arbor/Detroit), 2018, Image Forum (Tokyo), June 2018 (and throughout Japan), Saginaw Film Festival (2018) and many others.

Program of short films (*Circular, Ziegler, Clowning Around, Gish*) screened at the "7th Floor," Tokyo and "Hopken," Osaka (2018).

Circular (2016) 16mm experimental short based on "The Circular Ruins," by Jorge Luis Borges. Selected for screening, 55th AAFF, 2017.

Clowning Around (2016) short music video selected for screening, 55th AAFF, 2017

Evidence (for Irena) (in progress) Super 8mm, experimental short.

Jeweler's Daughter (2016) Super 8mm, hand-processed experimental short.

Flower Field (2016) Super 8mm experimental short.

Langlade County Fair (2016) Super 8mm experimental short.

Tulip Time (2016) 16mm experimental short.

Feathers (2016) 16mm experimental short.

La Chambre Claire (2015) Super 8mm experimental short.

Drive In (2015) Super 8mm, experimental short, selected for opening night screening, AAFF 2015, and selected for inclusion on the festival DVD.

Our Last Hurrah (2015) Super 8mm, experimental short, selected for screening, AAFF 2015, and selected for inclusion on the festival DVD. Awarded “Best Regional Film.”

Ziegler (2014) Stop motion animation based on a story by Hermann Hesse. Selected for screening, opening night Ann Arbor Film Festival, 2015, Cincinnati Mini-Cine, July 2015, screened in Cologne, Germany, with live score by Musique Fabrique (2017).

loose threads (2012) 13-minute experimental documentary. Curated exhibition: “I Know You’re There But Where Am I?” – Work Gallery, Ann Arbor, September 2012.

Creatureville (2012) 8 minute experimental digital video documentary. Curated exhibition: “Creature” at Gallery Project, Ann Arbor, Michigan, July 2012.

GISH (2012) 6 minute, recut, inspired by Lillian and Dorothy Gish and Erin Brannigan’s writing on gesture and dance, *Dancefilm: Choreography and the Moving Image*. (2011). Screened at Work Gallery, Detroit, December 2013.

Bobblehead, Dead Man’s Clothes, Sparkle, Glitch, First Niece – PXL 2000, short films, screened at “PXL This” Festival, 2010. Included in festival tour, 2011/2012, San Francisco, Oct, 2012, Echo Park Film Center LA, May 2012, Experiments in Cinema, UNM Cinematic Arts, May 2012

The Radiant Sun (2010) 60-minute portrait of modernism designer Ruth Adler Schnee, (selected as the Kresge Eminent Artist 2015) Invited screenings:
 Architecture Conference, Winnipeg, Canada, April 2018
 Palm Springs Modernism Week, February 2018
 Lawrence Technological University, Southfield, Michigan, November 2016
 Public Library – Guelph, Canada, Fall 2016
 Denver Museum of Art, Denver, Colorado, March 2016
 Carr Center, Detroit: September and October 2015. Kresge Arts.
 “Designing Home: Jews and Midcentury Modernism” – San Francisco Contemporary Jewish Museum, April 24-October 6, 2014
 “Michigan Modernism; Design that Shaped America”- Cranbrook Academy - June 2013
 The Building Museum, Washington D. C. – October 2012
 Palazzo Mocenigo, Textile Gallery, Venice, Italy - June 2011
 Long Boat Key, Center for the Arts – January 2011
 University of Michigan Museum of Art – October 2010
 Cranbrook Academy of Art – May 2010
 Ringling College of Art and Design, Sarasota Florida – February, 2010
 University of Maryland – October 2009

knafelc (2009) 3 minute experimental short. Curated “Artifact” exhibition – Gallery Project, Ann Arbor, January, 2011

taffy, cigarettes (2008) producer – low budget short narrative film written and directed by Marty Stano. Part of the EFEX project (“Encouraging the Filmmaking Experience”).

buzzards steal your picnic (2007) - director, producer, editor – 42 minute documentary portrait of composer and artist Frank Pahl. Screenings/awards:

Work Gallery – Detroit, Michigan December 2013

Sound Symposium – St. John’s, Newfoundland, July 2010

Ann Arbor Film Festival, 2008 - Awarded “Best Michigan Film”

Detroit Docs. International Film Festival, October 2007 - Awarded “Best Michigan Film”

Bilal’s Stand (2006-2008) – producer – low budget independent feature film written and directed by Sultan Sharrief. Part of the EFEX project. Official Selection, 2010 Sundance Film Festival. <NEXT> category. Extensive Screening Schedule, including New Directors’ MOMA, New York, and the Berlin Film Festival. Extensive screenings nationally.

lift (2005) - director, editor - experimental digital video dance. Winner - short video Imago Film Festival, 2006.

MULTI-MEDIA PERFORMANCE AND INSTALLATION

The Suitcase Project - (2017) invited collaborator in the Interlochen Arts Academy’s Comparative Arts Program - theatrical performance with original film.

forward/back – “Capturing Motion” exhibit, Gallery Project, Ann Arbor, November 2009

Go West - “Landscape and Memory” exhibit, Gallery Project, Ann Arbor, October 2009

Phantom Theater “Forage” exhibit, Paint Creek Center for the Arts, Pontiac, Michigan, September 2009

Slavemoth (2004, 2005) - Duderstadt Center, U. M. - Video designer for multi-media elements of evening length dance performance choreographed by Robin Wilson (Department of Dance), based on a novel by Thylia Moss. Revised, performed again at the Charles Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, Michigan, March 2005.

My Master Is A Collector (March, 2004)- premiered at Ann Arbor Film Festival. A multi-media collaboration with Cynthia Pachikara and Marianetta Porter (School Of Art and Design) based on *Slave Moth* by Thylia Moss (English).

Dossin Variations (2002) - videographer, video director, editor for the video elements of a performance piece with the Peter Sparling Dance Company.

Fast Forward/Playback (2001) - video designer, videographer and editor, video installation collaboration with Architect Ronit Eisenbach and Choreographer Peter Sparling. Premiered in the "Artist's Take on Detroit" exhibition in the Detroit Institute of Arts "Detroit 300" Celebration.

Performances with the musical trio “Little Bang Theory” - original live scores to silent films:

- *A Page of Madness* – Cincinnati, Ohio, May 2018, AAFF, March 2017, Michigan Theater, with Benshi Ichiro Kataoka, and Detroit Film Theater, June 2017.
- *Laugh Clown, Laugh* - Toledo Peristyle Theater, January 2016, *Lelanau Uncaged* September 2016, Milwaukee Dance Theater, March 2017.
- Welles’ *Too Much Johnson*, June 2015, Detroit Film Theater.
- Hitchcock’s *The Lodger*, Detroit Film Theater, November 2014.
- *I Was Born But* and *Inn At Tokyo*, silent films by Ozu, accompanying Benshi performer Ichiro Kataoka. UM, September 2012, Detroit Film Theater, January 2013.
- Ladislav Starewicz’ program, including the classic 1934 film, *The Mascot*, Performances at Ann Arbor Film Festival, (2009) Glen Arbor Arts Collage, 2010, Projectorhead Film Series (2011), Detroit Film Theater (November 2013), The Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh, December 2013, Toledo Museum of Art, January 2015, Milwaukee Dance Theater, July 2015.

SCREENPLAYS (Feature length)

Loon Lake (2018), ***The Undergrounds*** (in progress), ***House on Fire*** (2007- 2105, Selected for the Sundance Detroit Intensive Screenwriting Workshop, Detroit, Fall 2015), ***Meryl the Feral*** (2013), ***Nain Rouge*** (2012), ***Death of Beauty*** (2011) ***Sanctuary*** (2010 – Quarterfinalist in the 2010 Cynosure Writing Awards, ***Sarah’s Answer*** (2002), ***The Right Shoe*** (1998), ***Lily’s Heaven*** (1998)

(Short script): ***Photo*** (2016)

EDUCATION

Master of Arts, Communication Arts and Film, Graduated with very high honors, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1985.

Bachelor of Science, Phi Beta Kappa, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, 1979.

SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION/WORKSHOPS

Sundance Writers Workshop – Detroit – Two-day workshop with screenwriter Joan Tewkesbury (*Nashville*), 2015

Film hand-processing workshop - Squeaky Wheel Media Collective, Buffalo, NY, July 2004

Robert Flaherty Film Seminar - June 2004, June 2002, June 1999, June 1996

International Film and Television Workshops, Rockport Maine, Screenwriting Workshop, 2002

Cranbrook Writer's Retreat - Screenwriting Workshop, Bill Philips, summer 1998

Ohio State Dance and Technology Workshop - Multi-media, summer 1998

Southeastern Media Institute workshops with filmmakers Alan Berliner and Cecelia Condit, 1993