

Terri Sarris

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ACADEMIC/TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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

Developed/created and taught original courses/curriculum in media production: FTVM 190: (Various topics: Writing Sketch Comedy, Experimental Film and the Ann Arbor Film Festival, Documentary and Social Change, Media on the Margins), FTVM 203 (Sketch Comedy Writing, Experimental Film and the Ann Arbor Film Festival), FTVM 290: (Introduction to Production), FTVM 301: (Video Art), FTVM 302: (TV Production 1), FTVM 303 (Sketch Comedy Writing), FTVM 304/FTVM 317: (WOLV TV), FTVM 304: (Experimental Media Production: Ann Arbor Film Festival), FTVM 401: (Documentary II: Experimental Documentary), FTVM 401: (Documentary II: Direct Cinema and “The Big House”), FTVM 402: (Topics: TV Studio Production II and Situation Comedy), FTVM 403: (Sketch Comedy – renumbered from SAC 423), SAC 404: (EFEX Project: feature film, *Bilal’s Stand*), SAC 404: (EFEX Production: short film, *Taffy Cigarettes*), FTVM 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 then Film and Video Studies Program I created many protocols still in use in the FTVM Department: internship information, independent study information, an Honors handbook, undergraduate exit surveys, Departmental Major Declaration events, internship panels, faculty mentorship to student organization Film Video Student Association.

-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 Department 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 FTVM/SAC Honors students, meetings weekly or bi-monthly, from development of their initial applications through their Honors defenses. Students mentored received the Arthur Miller Creative Arts Prize from LSA Honors, the Frank and Gail Beaver Prize, a student Academy Award from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and the DGS Minority Student Film Award).

-Faculty advisor for FTVM/SAC independent study projects in production and screenwriting. Projects mentored have been awarded Student Academy Awards, screened nationally and internationally at numerous festivals, and been chosen as finalists in Final Draft Big Break Screenwriting Contest.

-Thesis committees for MFA students in the Department of and an informal adviser to MFA students in the Stamps School of Art and Design.

Lecturer/Lecturer IV - University of Michigan Department of Communication: 1984-1996 (Faculty line moved to FV Studies in 1996)

AWARDS AND HONORS

Bentley Library Fellows Program – (2016-present): one of five faculty fellows in the second cohort of Bentley Historical Library Fellows, University of Michigan. Invited presenter, 2018 Conference on Teaching and the Archives.

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. Students in the course developed an exhibition staged during the Ann Arbor Film Festival, based on their Bentley Historical Library research.

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 Grants 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 co-curator: Ann Arbor Film Festival, Screendance program, AAFF 2020

Invited co-curator and presenter, Cincinnati "Mini-Cine," 2019, "Animalia 2," December 2019

Invited affiliated faculty member, Institute for Research on Women and Gender 2018 -present

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

Invited adjudicator for the Detroit Screendance 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**SCREENPLAYS**

Broken Faces (in progress)

Victoria (in progress)

Action Alley (2020) - Original situation comedy pilot, show "Bible" and 8 half-hour episodes

Norma (and Gerald) (2019)

Loon Lake (2018)

Photo (Short script - 2016)

House on Fire (2007/ rev 2015) 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)

VIDEO/FILM

The Scrivener Speaks (2022) – experimental film short adaptation of Herman Melville's *Bartleby the Scrivener*, Selected for screening, the Ann Arbor Film Festival, 2022, and the "Iffy" Festival in Ypsilanti, 2022

Save the Last Dance (in progress) Experimental film short.

St. Mary of the Oaks (2018): 12 minutes, Super 8mm experimental film short

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), Cinetopia (Ann Arbor/Detroit), 2018, Image Forum (Tokyo), June 2018 and throughout Japan.

Screening events at the UM Alumni Association, September 2018, Michigan Theater, and selected for the Saginaw Film Festival, November 2018.

Program of short films (*Circular*, *Ziegler*, *Clowning Around*, *Gish*) screened at the 7th Floor Club, Tokyo, and Hopken, Osaka, Japan, June 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) (2016) 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. Screened in Barcelona and Cuba in a compilation program curated by Bryan Konefsky of *Basement Films*, 2022.

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, October 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 Detroit Kresge Eminent Artist 2015)

Invited screenings:

Blankstein Architecture Film Series, Rady Center, Winnipeg, Manitoba, October 2018

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 Fran. Contemporary Jewish Museum, April –

October, 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

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 and 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.

EDUCATION

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

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

SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION/WORKSHOPS

“Comedy Knowledge School” – on-line course with writer Brent Forrester, June 2020
 Sundance Writer’s Workshop with 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.