

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

SALADIN AMBAR is professor of political science and senior scholar at the Center on the American Governor at the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. He is the author of six books and is a scholarly adviser to the Lincoln Presidential Foundation and Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum.

RUTH BIENSTOCK ANOLIK teaches in the English and Theology Depts at Villanova University. Her writing on Gothic literature focuses on the interchange between horror writing and the actual horrors of the real world.

DEREK ARNOLD has been a member of the Villanova Communication Department for over 15 years. He studied and made films as part of his Communication degree from LaSalle University. He studies the connections between persuasion and politics, and media and rhetoric.

MICHAEL BRADLEY is an Assistant Instructor at Villanova who has been part of the school's faculty for more than 10 years. His writing work has appeared in dozens of national and regional publications and online outlets, and he is the author of 33 books. He has also appeared on several TV and radio networks, including ESPN.

VALENTINA DENARDIS is the Director of the Classical Studies program at Villanova. Her research interests include Greek and Latin poetry, classical reception, and neoclassical architecture and design. She also teaches classes on Classical Mythology.

TRAVIS FOSTER is an Associate Professor and Academic Director of the Gender and Women's Studies program at Villanova. His research focuses on American literature and culture up to roughly 1910.

DAN JEFFERSON is a graduate of Haverford College and a lifelong cineaste. His love of film was nurtured by David Grossman, who headed Temple University's Center City Campus movie house and Philadelphia Film Forum.

HEZEKIAH LEWIS, a native Californian, has an MFA in directing from UCLA's film school. Lewis has directed and produced films that have been recognized with both domestic and international awards. He is a Professor in the Communication Department at Villanova.

SUSAN MACKEY-KALLIS is a Professor in the Communication Department at Villanova University. Her teaching and research are in the areas of rhetorical criticism of film, media, and popular culture.

SUSAN MARCOSSON works in education and is a self-taught film enthusiast. Her cameo in M. Night Shyamalan's Unbreakable was cut from the film but appears in the DVD version.

COLLEEN MITCHELL is an Assistant Teaching Professor and Associate Director of Outreach of the Augustinian Institute at Villanova. She is a scholar of the history of political thought, particularly the ancient, medieval, and early modern periods.

JOHN O'LEARY is the director of The Cultural Film and Lecture Series at Villanova University. He has co-written two chapters for books about situation comedies. He is also the co-founder of The Social Justice Documentary Program.

JOHN-PAUL SPIRO is a Teaching Professor in the Augustine and Culture Seminar Program. He also teaches courses on Shakespeare, political philosophy, and stand-up comedy.

BRIAN SATTERFIELD is a Teaching Professor in the Augustine and Culture Seminar Program, as well as a Lawrence C. Gallen Fellow in the Humanities at Villanova.

RICK WORLAND is Professor in the Department of Electronic Media and Film at Southern Methodist University. He has published many articles dealing with American popular culture in books and scholarly journals.

CULTURAL FILM SERIES COMMITTEE

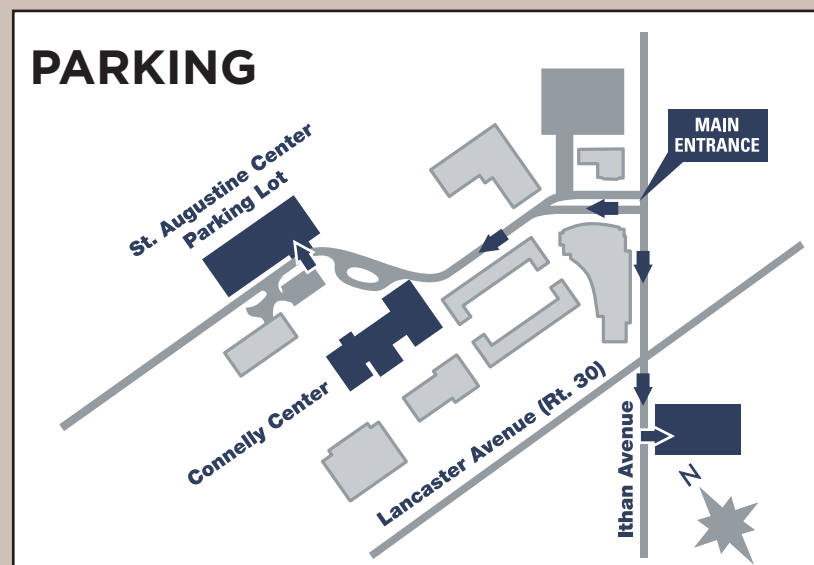
JOHN O'LEARY, Director
JARRYD KAINZ, Assistant Director
J.J. BROWN, Treasurer
TONY ALFANO, Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services

ADVISORS

DAN JEFFERSON, JOAN D. LYNCH, SUSAN MARCOSSON, JOHN-PAUL SPIRO, ELANA ROSE STARR

INFORMATION

CALL (610) 519-4454
EMAIL JOHN.OLEARY@VILLANOVA.EDU



All films are screened at the Connelly Center Cinema. Parking available in the St. Augustine (M2) lot behind the Connelly Center



VILLANOVA
UNIVERSITY

IGNITE CHANGE. GO NOVA.®

800 E. Lancaster Avenue
Villanova, Pennsylvania 19085

Nonprofit organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

CULTURAL
FILM
SERIES
2025 - 2026

CULTURAL
FILM
SERIES
2025 – 2026

The Cultural Film Series is proud to announce a partnership with the Augustine and Culture Seminar Program. This year’s film series explores two themes: representations of the ancient world and portrayals of American identity.

Films are screened in the Cinema of the Connelly Center on Villanova’s campus on Sundays at 3:30 and 7 p.m. and Monday evenings at 7 p.m.

The speakers who introduce the film and lead a discussion after the screening are only present for the Monday evening screenings.

As always, all screenings are free and open to the public.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact Dr. John O’Leary at john.oleary@villanova.edu, or by calling (610) 519-4454



FALL 2025
THE ANCIENT
WORLD

SEPTEMBER 21 – 22
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING
TO ST. MATTHEW

Italy, 1964 | 137 minutes

DIRECTED BY Pier Paolo Pasolini

This, “highly political interpretation of the passion,” (Jonathan Rosenbaum, *Chicago Reader*) follows the life of Jesus Christ according to the Gospel of Matthew.

SPEAKERS: Dan Jefferson and Susan Marcossan



SEPTEMBER 28 – 29
JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS

UK/US, 1963 | 104 minutes

DIRECTED BY Don Chaffey

Jason embarks on a mythic quest for the Golden Fleece in this, “stop-motion animation masterwork” (Soctt G. Mignola, *Common Sense Media*).

SPEAKER: Rick Worland



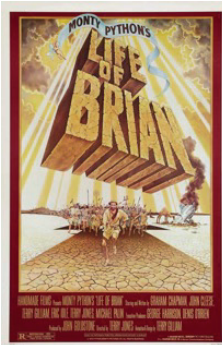
OCTOBER 5 – 6
THE PRINCE OF EGYPT

USA, 1998 | 99 minutes

DIRECTED BY Brenda Chapman, Steve Hickner & Simon Wells

This animated retelling follows Moses from palace to prophet in vibrant storytelling which Roger Ebert praised as, “one of the best-looking animated films ever made” (*Chicago Sun-Times*).

SPEAKER: Derek Arnold



OCTOBER 26 – 27

MONTY PYTHON'S LIFE OF BRIAN

UK, 1979 | 94 minutes

DIRECTED BY Terry Jones

Monty Python’s irreverent satire follows a hapless man mistaken for a messiah which Kevin Maher calls, “a relentless onslaught of consummate comedy” (*The Times (UK)*).

SPEAKER: John O’Leary



NOVEMBER 16 – 17

ANTIGONE

Canada, 2019 | 95 minutes

DIRECTED BY Sophie Deraspe

Set in modern Quebec, this retelling of Antigone explores racial and social division was described as, “a raw, electrifying study of race, poverty and indifference” (Richard Crouse, *CTV News*).

SPEAKER: Ruth Anolik



NOVEMBER 23 – 24

ELECTRA

Greece, 1962 | 110 minutes

DIRECTED BY Michael Cacoyannis

This depiction of Euripides’ classic Greek drama of family and revenge was described as, “a brilliant utilization of the cinematic device,” by Bosley Crowther of the *New York Times*.

SPEAKER: Brian Satterfield



DECEMBER 7 – 8

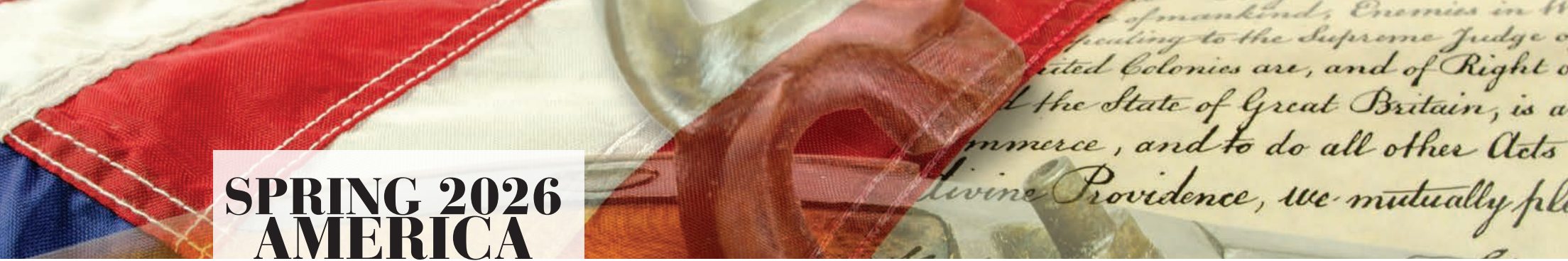
A FUNNY THING HAPPENED
ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

USA/UK, 1966 | 98 minutes

Directed by Richard Lester

This “flip, glib and sophisticated, yet rump-slappingly bawdy and fast-paced,” (*Variety*) Roman farce follows a cunning slave’s comic schemes for freedom and romance.

SPEAKER: Valentina DeNardis



SPRING 2026
AMERICA

JANUARY 25 – 26
MEET JOHN DOE

USA, 1941 | 122 minutes

Directed by Frank Capra

A down-on-his-luck man becomes a political symbol in this populist drama which Roger Ebert called, “a stirring tribute to the power of the common man” (*Chicago Sun-Times*).

SPEAKER: Michael Bradley



MARCH 22 – 23

PARIS IS BURNING

USA, 1990 | 78 minutes

Directed by Jennie Livingston

This landmark documentary on New York’s drag culture is, “explosive, raucous, moving and fiercely alive” (Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*).

SPEAKER: Travis Foster

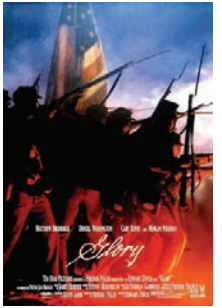
FEBRUARY 1 – 2
NOPE

USA, 2022 | 130 minutes

Directed by Jordan Peele

This film following siblings who discover something sinister in the skies is, “an almost perfect spectacle that dives into our obsessions with spectacles in our real life” (*Zach Pope Reviews*).

SPEAKER: Hezekiah Lewis



MARCH 29 – 30

GLORY

USA, 1989 | 122 minutes

Directed by Edward Zwick

Following the first all-Black volunteer Civil War regiment, Roger Ebert praised this film as, “an unforgettable lesson in courage” (*Chicago Sun-Times*).

SPEAKERS: Saladin Ambar

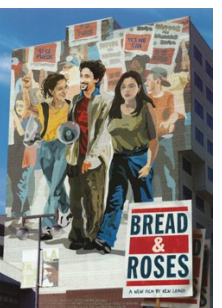
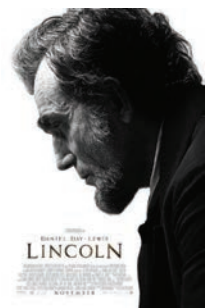
FEBRUARY 15 – 16
LINCOLN

USA, 2012 | 150 minutes

Directed by Steven Spielberg

Daniel Day-Lewis brings gravitas to a critical moment in U.S. history which Moira MacDonald of *the Seattle Times* described as “history coming to life, before our eyes.”

SPEAKER: Colleen Mitchell



APRIL 12 – 13

BREAD AND ROSES

UK, 2000 | 110 minutes

Directed by Ken Loach

This, “urgent and clear-eyed,” (Mick LaSalle, *San Francisco Chronicle*) film follows two immigrant sisters as they fight for workers’ rights in Los Angeles.

SPEAKER: Susan Mackey-Kallis

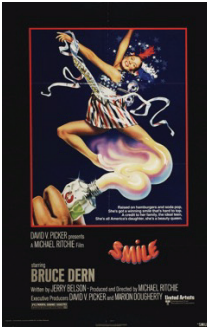
MARCH 15 – 16
SMILE

USA, 1975 | 117 minutes

Directed by Michael Ritchie

This dark comedy explores small-town America through a teenage beauty pageant is, “a biting satire of American values” (Vincent Canby, *New York Times*).

SPEAKER: John-Paul Spiro



APRIL 19 – 20

THE MAN WHO
SHOT LIBERTY VALANCE

USA, 1962 | 123 minutes

Directed by John Ford

This political Western described by Richard Brody as “the most romantic of Westerns and the greatest American political movie,” (*The New Yorker*) questions the myth of heroism.

SPEAKER: Rick Worland