



FILM STUDIES

Newsletter Fall 2026

Director's Statement

I'm tempted to complain about the heat and humidity, but September has brought us more than just sticky conditions; it's also brought us a great season of film festivals!

In this issue you'll find information about the upcoming 48 Hour Film Best Of Event, the Charlotte Film Festival, and our very own Film Club's 49 Hour Film Festival.

And there's more good news! The University has reached a milestone with more than 33,000 students enrolled this fall, marking UNC Charlotte's third straight record year and its largest-ever incoming class. We've also learned that, over the Summer and this Fall, Film Studies has had 19 new first-time-in-college students and 15 transfer students declare FILM as their concentration! That's on top of our Spring 2026 FILM enrollment of 80 majors, 137 minors, and 75 Video Production Certificate students.

Finally, in this issue, you will find illuminating profiles of Professor Eric Bader and alumnus, Thong Nguyen-Vu.

Take care - and go make a movie!



Rodney Stringfellow
Director of Film Studies

<https://filmstudies.charlotte.edu/directory/rodney-stringfellow/>

Faculty Spotlight / Eric Bader

Tell us a little bit about yourself and how you became interested in the world of film.

When I was in high school, I had an old VHS camera handed down to me. My friends and I would make silly videos, edit them using two VCRs, add music with a stereo cable, and then show them to our friends. When I reached college, it was the beginning of the digital revolution in filmmaking, with miniDV becoming a viable indie format and Final Cut Pro first coming into prominence. Taking my first production class in college, it felt like making the VHS movies with my friends all over again. I had never considered filmmaking to be a career path until a few fantastic professors lit that spark for me, and that is why I am at UNC Charlotte now.

What was your first job in the film industry?

My first job in the film industry was in the Set Lighting department. I've always been fascinated with how light can shape the emotion of scene, and working in the lighting department directly supported my goals of becoming a cinematographer. All the while, I was shooting my own projects, and when I could make the leap into working as a full-time cinematographer, I took it.

What do you teach here at UNC Charlotte - and what can students expect from your classes?

I teach Fundamentals and Music Video Production, and students should expect to leave my class as filmmakers, better prepared to bring their ideas to life.



Faculty Spotlight / Eric Bader

You've had an amazing career working in features, episodic television, music videos and commercial productions. Is there a particular area you prefer to work in?

While I do get a lot of satisfaction from finishing a long-form project, my number one will always be music videos. I grew up in the heyday of MTV as appointment television, and it's in my blood now. Music videos offer so much freedom creatively, and they are made in direct collaboration with an artist from another discipline (the musician), which makes it a very unique art form. Also, it's basically the only way you are going to get someone to pay you to make an experimental film.

What is your favorite project that you've worked on - and why is it your favorite?

Back in 2022, I filmed a series of six music videos for Panic at the Disco's final album "Viva Las Vengeance." The videos are all very different, both visually and conceptually, but they all tie together with central themes (namely, creative burnout and public scrutiny) and recurring characters. We filmed them all at the same time, treating the project more as a feature film than a music video shoot. I had write ups in Definition Magazine and British Cinematographer about my creative process for these videos, and two of the six videos were nominated for MTV Video Music Awards: "Viva Las Vengeance," the title track, was nominated in 2022 for Best Alternative Video and "Middle of a Breakup" was nominated in 2023 for Best Choreography.

What is one of your favorite films, and what does that film reveal about you?

One of my favorite films of all time is "The Saddest Music in the World." For much of my early film education, I tended to lean into more serious fare, believing that real art needed to be heavy and intense. When I saw "The Saddest Music in the World," a light bulb came on. An arthouse comedy? A hilarious experimental film? So many of my favorite artists toe the line between drama and absurdity, and I can directly attribute that love to director Guy Maddin.



Alumni Spotlight / **Thong Nguyen-Vu**

What was your major and minor at UNC Charlotte and when did you graduate?

My major was Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Film and Media Production with a minor in International Studies. I graduated Spring 2025.

What was your first professional gig after graduation - and how did you get it?

My first professional gig after graduation was a Dailies Operator position on The Hunting Wives Season 2. I got it through a referral from someone I met through working on creative projects in Charlotte. It was awesome because I got hands-on experience in post-production, of an actual tv show production!

Who are you currently working for?

I am currently working for a flooring company as a digital content creator. My work consists of generating industry relevant ideas, writing copy and directing company personnel in video shoots, and touring construction sites to document our progress.

What is your involvement with the Charlotte Asian American Film Festival?

With the Charlotte Asian Film Festival, I am part of the committee overseeing submissions and the festival programming. I filter through submissions that we receive and arrange the films viewing order at the festival.

What was the most valuable thing you learned or experienced at UNC Charlotte that helped you in your career?

The most valuable experience I had at UNC Charlotte was having the ability to shoot films and develop my different skills within the trade. I made so many friends that helped me to find my voice in writing/directing, acting and being a crew member on their/my film sets. This time was the peak of my ability to output and learn more about what I like/dislike about filmmaking.



Alumni Spotlight / **Thong Nguyen-Vu**

What advice do you have for students who want to follow in your footsteps?

My advice to students in film involves doing two things: Meet People, Go Create!

Getting out there and talking to new people allows you to learn about different walks of film life. One person may introduce you to a film/director you have never heard of, or there's someone that has a skill in editing that you'd like help learning. Even meeting other students gives all of you the ability to call upon each other for help or to share an opportunity that could benefit the both of you!

Having as much time as I did in college, I wish I had created more. Given most of my friends were within walking distance, with the campus being ripe for backdrop, I wish I had spent more time shooting films and getting involved with student films. I would have learned about my tastes in film sooner in practice, had I put it into practice and learned hands on. So getting out there to film some spur of the moment idea, or making that idea you have in the back of your head but never felt ready to.

A quote I think of often is "Good enough to publish, not perfect enough to admire.", which has motivated me to continue creating even in the tiniest of capacities. Being in post-grad, I am finding out quickly that time to create becomes very limited, very fast. So doing even a little effort to further my filmmaking goals will stack up in the long run.

What is the most interesting, wild, or exciting thing you've experienced as a professional filmmaker?

My current boss took us out to the sand dunes of California for a work retreat that involved high horsepower and off-roading in the blazing sun. I got to document the whole experience from hitting the road across the country to flying up the sand dunes.

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FILM STUDIES Film Club



UNC Charlotte's Film Club meets every Tuesday in CHHS 380 @ 7 p.m.

The 2026 Film Club Officers

Kilie Owenby, President
Mike Gomez, Vice President
Kate Yeisley, Secretary
Nicky Daggs, Treasurer
Viraj Gupta, Events Manager
Ella Evans, Social Media Manager

Film Club on Niner Engage

<https://ninerengage.charlotte.edu/organization/film-club>

Film Club at UNC Charlotte on Instagram

(@filmclub_uncc)

https://www.instagram.com/filmclub_uncc/?hl=en

Film Club on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-cW-1yMkSEjRFPYEzAKgDA/videos>

Upcoming Event: 49 Hour Film Festival

Friday, September 18 - 49 Hour Kickoff Event

Meet your team and get assigned your genre!

Friday, September 25 - 49 Hour Film Festival

View everyone's short films and receive awards!

Halloween Event

Tuesday, October 27

Rocky Horror Picture Show themed. And costume contest!

Hot Chocolate Fundraiser

Saturday, November 21

Join us to raise money for the Club and meet fellow students!



FILM STUDIES

Internship Opportunities

UNC CHARLOTTE FILM STUDIES

Experiential Learning & Internship Opportunities

Graduate with real-world, discipline-relevant film experience and career confidence.

The UNC Charlotte Film Studies program and the Career Center have partnered to ensure every student has the opportunity to graduate with hands-on, practical industry experience.

We offer film production internships, work on nonprofit media projects, and on-campus gigs.

EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST

Log into **Hire-A-Niner** and submit your resume for review. Once approved, add it to the Film Studies Program Resume Book shared with industry partners.

SECURE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Apply for postings on Hire-A-Niner, find opportunities independently, or request Career Center support. Submit your role into the Experience Portal.

EARN ACADEMIC CREDIT

(Optional) Register for UCOL 3410 (University Internship Course), offered every Fall, Spring, and Summer semester to earn credit for your work.

INTERNSHIP OPTIONS

Gig Internship Program

Short-term, flexible project opportunities posted on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

- Browse current postings on Hire-A-Niner
- Apply directly to project hosts
- Perfect for building portfolio

Group Internship Program

A 1-credit, 8 week cohort-based team project experience sourced each academic semester.

- Guided group collaboration
- Projects announced at the start of each term
- Earn structured academic credit

Film Studies Gig Cohort

Coming soon, a dedicated pipeline of paid, non-credit gig projects sourced exclusively for UNC Charlotte Film Studies students from university departments and local non-profits.

- Fully paid freelance project opportunities
- Micro internships up to 40 hours per project
- Direct discipline alignment & real client work

If you're ready to start building your film career, log into **Hire-A-Niner** or contact the **Career Center**.



FILM STUDIES

Film Opportunity



The
48 Hour
Film Project

48 Hour Film Project – Charlotte

Best of Screenings & Awards Ceremony

Fri, Sep 18, 2026 6:00 PM

Cone Center McKnight Auditorium
9025 University Rd, Charlotte, NC 28223

The 48 Hour Film Project is a global event that happens in more than 100 cities and takes place on different weekends in different cities throughout the year. In each city local Film Teams compete to make a short film in only a weekend.

This year's Project took place August 28-30. More than a dozen awards will be given out during this year's Best Of event—from Best Acting to Best Directing to the top prize: Best Film. The Best Film will screen at the annual international film festival—Filmopalooza.

And, for the first time, Charlotte's 48 Hour Film Project awards ceremony will take place on UNC Charlotte campus at the Cone Center, McKnight Hall on Friday, September 18 @ 6 p.m.

UNC Charlotte students with ID are invited to attend for the event free. Click on the link below and select the student option.

<https://www.ticketsource.com/charlotte-48-hour-film-project>



FILM STUDIES

Film Opportunities

THE INDEPENDENT PICTURE HOUSE

4239 Raleigh Street, Charlotte, NC 28213
<https://independentpicturehouse.org/>

CHARLOTTE FILM FESTIVAL

The Charlotte Film Festival celebrates its 18th year of bring the most innovative independent cinema to Charlotte.

The Festival runs from **September 22 - 27** at the Independent Picture House, 4237 Raleigh St. Charlotte, NC 28213. For schedule and ticket information, visit the CFF website:
<https://charlottefilmfestival.org/2026/>



CAROLINA INDEPENDENT FILM COLLECTIVE

Tuesday, October 6
@ 6:30 p.m.

This free monthly event at the Independent Film Society is a great opportunity to network with other area filmmakers and film enthusiasts.

Each month features a filmmaker who will screen and discuss their work.

On October 6, join us for a conversation with writer, producer, director **Doreen Spicer-Dannelly** exploring the craft of screenwriting for television and animation, with a focus on narrative structure, character development, and industry practice. The discussion will examine the evolving landscape of animation and how emerging technologies are reshaping creative possibilities and production workflows. Spicer-Dannelly will also reflect on the future of cinema in the age of AI, considering both the opportunities and challenges facing filmmakers. The event will include a Q&A and open and closing networking time.



FILM STUDIES / Spring 2027 Film Studies Classes

FILM 1502 001 Global Arts/Humanities: Introduction to Film Media Arts, Online Asynchronous, Prof. Will Davis
FILM 1502 002 Global Arts/Humanities: Introduction to Film Media Arts, Online Asynchronous, Prof. Will Davis
FILM 1502 003 Global Arts/Humanities: Introduction to Film Media Arts, Tuesdays, 2:30-5:15 p.m., Prof. Justin Evans
FILM 1502 004 Global Arts/Humanities: Introduction to Film Media Arts, Thursdays, 2:30-5:15 p.m., Prof. Rodney Stringfellow

FILM 3050 007 Topics in Film Theory/History: American Horror in Fiction & Film, Mondays, Online Asynchronous, Prof. Daniel Shealy
FILM 3050 008 Topics in Film Theory/History: Global Film, Mondays, Wednesdays, 4:00-5:15 p.m., Prof. Juan Meneses
FILM 3050 009 Topics in Film Theory/History: Chinese Film, Tuesdays, 2:30-5:15 p.m., Prof. Amanda Zhao
FILM 3050 010 Topics in Film Theory/History: History of Mafia Through Film, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:30- 12:45 a.m. p.m. Prof., Daniela Dal Pra
FILM 3050 011 Topics in Film Theory/History: Russian Film, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:00-5:15 p.m., Prof. Yekaterina Skorodinskaya
FILM 3050 012 Topics in Film Theory/History: Understanding American Culture, Mondays & Wednesdays, 8-8:50 a.m., Prof. Nick Canada
FILM 3050 013 Topics in Film Theory/History: Pro Wrestling & American Culture, Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:05-9:55 a.m., Prof. Nick Canada
FILM 3050 014 Topics in Film Theory/History: Motherhood in America, Online Asynchronous, Prof. Sandra Watts
FILM 3050 015 Topics in Film Theory/History: American Independent Cinema, Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 10:10-11 a.m., Prof. Nick Canada
FILM 3050 016 Topics in Film Theory/History: Race, Gender & Sexuality Through Film, Online Asynchronous, Prof. Sharon Hayes-Brown
FILM 3050 017 Topics in Film Theory/History: Beast-People in Theatre, Film, & the Brain, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:30-3:45 p.m., Prof. Mark Pizzato
FILM 3050 018 Topics in Film Theory/History: Black Images in Media in the US, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10-11:15 a.m., Prof. Debra Smith

FILM 3051 001 Topics in Film Production: Podcasting and Audio Storytelling, Mondays, 5:30-8:15 p.m., Prof. Sidney Beeman
FILM 3051 002 Topics in Film Production: Intermedia in Film, Wednesdays, 10:10-12:55 p.m., Prof. Justin Evans
FILM 3051 003 Topics in Film Production: Acting & Directing for Film, Mondays, 10:10-12:55 p.m., Prof. Will Davis
FILM 3051 004 Topics in Film Production: Introduction to Animation, Wednesdays, 10:10-12:55 p.m., Prof. Will Davis
FILM 3051 005 Topics in Film Production: Editing, Online Asynchronous, Prof. Adrienne Ostberg
FILM 3051 006 Topics in Film Production: Camp Aesthetic and Sensibility in Film, Wednesdays, 2:30-5:15 p.m., Prof. Justin Evans

FILM 3120 001 Fundamentals of Film & Media Production, Wednesdays, 2:30-5:15 p.m., Prof. Sidney Beeman
FILM 3120 002 Fundamentals of Film & Media Production, Tuesdays, 10:10-12:55 p.m., Prof. Adrienne Ostberg
FILM 3120 003 Fundamentals of Film & Media Production, Thursdays, 2:30-5:15 p.m., Prof. Eric Bader
FILM 3120 090 Fundamentals of Film & Media Production, Wednesdays, 5:30-8:15 p.m., Prof. Sidney Beeman
FILM 3120 091 Fundamentals of Film & Media Production, Thursdays, 5:30-8:15 p.m., Prof. James Zollicoffer

FILM 3220 090 Intro to Screenwriting, Tuesdays, 5:30-8:15 p.m., Prof. Justin Evans
FILM 3220 091 Intro to Screenwriting, Online Asynchronous, Prof. James Zollicoffer

FILM 4120 001 Production & Directing, Hybrid, meets in-person Tuesdays, 2:30-5:15 p.m. on 1/26, 2/16, 4/6, 4/27, and online other dates, Prof. Adrienne Ostberg
FILM 4122 001 Music Video Production, Thursdays, 10:10-12:55 p.m., Prof. Eric Bader
FILM 4220 090 Film Festivals: Theory & Practice, Thursdays, 5:30-8:15 p.m., Prof. Rodney Stringfellow
FILM 4690 001 Capstone in Film & Media Production, Tuesdays, 2:30-5:15 p.m., Prof. Rodney Stringfellow



FILM STUDIES Faculty

ERIC BADER

Adjunct Lecturer in Film Studies
Interdisciplinary Studies

SIDNEY BEEMAN

Adjunct Lecturer in Film Studies
Interdisciplinary Studies

NICK CANADA, PH.D.

Assistant Teaching Professor
Americana Studies

CARLOS M. CORIA-SÁNCHEZ

Professor of Spanish
Languages, Cultures, and Translation

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Teaching Professor, Coordinator of Italian & Undergraduate Film Studies
Advisor
Languages, Cultures, and Translation

DAVID DALTON

Associate Professor of Spanish & Director of Latin American Studies
Languages, Cultures, and Translation

WILLIAM S. DAVIS

Lecturer in Film Studies
Interdisciplinary Studies / Communication Studies

JUSTIN EVANS

Adjunct Lecturer in Film Studies
Interdisciplinary Studies

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Biological Sciences

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Theatre

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Africana Studies

KATE SKORODINSKAYA

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Languages, Cultures, and Translation

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Director of Film Studies
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SANDRA WATTS

Teaching Professor of Spanish | Academic Director, B.S. in Professional Studies
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Associate Professor
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JAMES ZOLLIECOFFER

Adjunct Lecturer in Film Studies
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FILM STUDIES

Newsletter

The Film Studies Newsletter is published three times a year and is designed to inform and celebrate the people and projects being created within UNC Charlotte's Film Studies department.

In order for the Newsletter to promote student and faculty achievements and activities, we have to hear from you!

Tell us about the research you're doing, the films you're producing, the festivals you're attending, and the internships you've undertaken.

If it concerns you and filmmaking, we want to know about it!
We also want to hear updates from our UNC Charlotte Film Studies alumni.

Please send your information to me, **Rodney Stringfellow**, @ rstringf@charlotte.edu.

Write. Shoot. Edit. Watch. Discuss.