ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Now in its eleventh year, the Tri-Co Film Festival showcases exemplary film and media work by students at Haverford, Bryn Mawr, and Swarthmore colleges. Highlighting the diversity of media production within the Tri-Co, the program seeks work that demonstrates creativity, craft, and intentionality across a variety of genres and aesthetics. The Festival culminates in a night of selected film screenings on Thursday May 5th at the Bryn Mawr Film Institute. Films will also be made available through an online portal for those that cannot attend the in-person event.

JURORS

Selena Yip is a second-generation, Chinese American child of Hong Kong immigrants and was raised in the Philadelphia area with strong familial and community ties to Philadelphia’s Chinatown. After graduating from university in 2017, they moved back to Philadelphia with a desire to be more involved in their community. In 2018, they joined Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation and produced a short documentary called Staying Put: Stories of Chinatown’s Resistance as part of Scribe Video Center’s Precious Places project. The film tells the story of Philadelphia Chinatown’s historic struggles with inequitable urban development and their advocacy towards a better future. Selena continues their advocacy for Chinatown as a PCDC Equity Champion and occasionally co-leads community tours of Chinatown. Selena joined PAAFF in 2018 and became the Festival Director in 2020. They hope to lead PAAFF to becoming a nourishing and creative space that fully represents the diversity of the Asian and Pacific Islander diaspora. Selena spends most of their free time training Muay Thai and is learning to crochet.

Vernon Jordan, III is a Philly-born ‘n raised writer, filmmaker, and poet. As an Afrofuturist, he reflects and expands upon African American memories, dreams, hauntings, queer kinship, and intimate fluidity; his priority is the merging of the visual and the musical: a Visual Lyricist. Vernon is currently the Assistant Director of programs at cineSpeak, a Philadelphia-based cinema and film publication. Additionally, he works as a teaching artist in-person at a Germantown homeschool and virtually through a PBS’ Media Lab program. Vernon is a professional script reader, with scripts placing high at Sundance and SreenCraft Screenplay competitions, a signed model with WeSpeak Models, and his latest short film, ONE MAGENTA AFTERNOON, is touring the film festival circuit.

FESTIVAL STAFF

Teddy Ogborn (HC ’19) is back for a third time as a director of the Tri-Co Film Festival. They are thrilled for another year of brilliant Tri-Co work! Teddy enjoys exploring the possibilities of experimental filmmaking in their own work and they’re currently the lead editor for The Woman Who Poked the Leopard, a documentary about Ugandan activist Stella Nyanzi. Teddy also works as a video production Fellow at the Brooklyn Museum.

Ruby Bantariza is excited to be joining the team this year as the festival’s Associate Director. She loves taking photos, exploring new places, and working on creative projects with friends. Ruby is currently working on a project that explores self-documentation and its relationship to family archives. Some of her favorite memories from her time at Swarthmore are attending and submitting to the Tri-Co Festival. Ruby is looking forward to viewing this year’s submissions and engaging with the Tri-Co film community.

Sponsored by the John B. Hurford ’60 Center for the Arts and Humanities, the Film and Media Studies Department at Swarthmore College, and the Film Studies Program at Bryn Mawr College.

With generous support from Bryn Mawr Film Institute.

The Tri-Co Film Festival thanks the following for their continued partnership and support: The Gotham Film and Media Institute, Philadelphia Latino Film Festival, Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival, Cinespeak, PhillyCAM, Lightbox Film Center, and Blackstar Film Festival.
Shared Feelings - Selma Wu (Swarthmore '25) - 2:56
In a Chinese tutoring session, two students engage in a journey of memories evoked by vocabulary in a language familiar or foreign to them. Two individual worlds clash, merge and create truthfulness and possibilities or the opposite.

Toward the Stage - Arya Ying Yue (Bryn Mawr '24) - 4:15
The film explores the preparation work that leads to a successful dance performance, which includes the processes of choreography, learning, practice, and choosing costumes and props. I interviewed dancers of different styles (hip hop, Afrobeats, ballet, and Chinese dance) to capture the diversity of dance.

The Next Day - Benelli Amosah (Swarthmore '24) - 9:56
A college senior is stuck reliving the same day one week before graduation as she refuses to face the inevitable next day of her father’s deportation back to his home country.

Quince + 5 Years Later - Jazmin Osario-Rodriguez (Bryn Mawr '24) - 5:48
Nelid, Veronica and Romelia explain the meaning that a quinceañera holds for them and their experiences. The importance of family and why the tradition is a significant part of their culture. Romelia gets to live her childhood dream.

guāng - Alice Hu (Haverford '20) - 6:19
On light, brightness, shine, luster, and honor. Xing Xing wears a suit and works a light switch as her grandma’s voice speaks with both pride and longing. Masks are required.

(P)URGE - Chili Shi (Swarthmore '22) - 8:20
Girls give in to the urge. No one said girl world is fun.

sick with covid, i dream of birds - Jake Rothman (Bryn Mawr '23) - 5:36
After testing positive for COVID, a young man begins to dream.

Nomad - Reesha Gandhi, Aby Isakov, Faryal Khan (Haverford '24) - 9:49
Nomad is an anonymous artist in Germantown, Philadelphia, whose artwork has been stirring up important conversations in his neighborhood. Follow along on his journey as his art becomes more widespread and get to know more about the community with Matthew George (founder of ilovethyhood) and Rasheed Ajamu (@phreedomjawn).

Aloha ‘Āina: Pathways to Healing - Aliana Ho (Haverford '22) - 9:48
Completed for the anthropology thesis, “Aloha ‘Āina: Pathways to Healing” explores the links between health & wellness and relationships to ‘āina, land. The film centers around Mālama Hulē‘ia, a nonprofit organization doing cultural and natural restoration work at ‘Alakoko fishpond on Kaua‘i, HI. Through restored connections to land and community, see how this site has become a symbol of hope on the path to sovereignty for Kanaka ‘Ōiwi communities in Hawai‘i.

Wuss - Rubing Zhang (Swarthmore '22) - 10:00
Nine-year-old tomboy Xiaoyu always wants to hang out with a group of boys in her neighborhood, but when her chance to join the "boys squad" would be at the cost of a girl that she just made friends with, Xiaoyu has a hard decision to make.

Love Collaged - Lucca Guzman-Gieseken & Isabelle Buchanan (Haverford '24, '25) - 7:31
Interviewees describe people they love in abstract terms, which are incorporated into both video and physical collages.