

**Issue n. 5 -Spring 2023**

# INTERDISCIPLINARY FILM MINOR (IFM) Newsletter

**Department of English**

**-Western Illinois University -**

Edited by Dr. Roberta Di Carmine,  
Professor of Film Studies &  
Coordinator of the Interdisciplinary  
Film Minor. With the collaboration  
of Film Minor Ainsley Eskridge.

**We are glad to be back  
after the last IFM  
Newsletter issued in  
2021! The pandemic is  
over, and we are excited  
to be back with amazing  
news about the WIU film  
program, successful  
events organized by the  
film students, and  
Spotlights on WIU  
alumni, film minors, and  
their achievements!**



## **EVENTS!** *Fall 2022 and Spring*

**2023:** Professor Roberta Di Carmine, together with Film Minor Joi Lee and English Graduate Student Mark Brown, participated at two Writing Festivals organized by the English Education program and led Workshops with Middle and High School students on Writing Scripts and Animated Film!

## **NEWS!** **The Film Club**

continues to screen and discuss a wide range of films on the Macomb campus! **New** President, Matthew Gedraitis, **New** Advisor, A.J. Rocca, and **New** Location, 109 Morgan Hall! Check out the Film Club events and accomplishments

<http://www.wiu.edu/cas/english/filmclub.php>

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**Fall 2022: FILM CLUB** presented, “The Rocky Horror Picture Show.” **A successful event with the Theater and Unity Student Organizations!**

**Spotlight!** What are our Alumni doing?

**Kaylee Gundling** (SP 2019, film minor) and **Kevin Titus** (SP 2020, film minor) speak about their accomplishments and tell us what they are doing today.

**Kaylee Gundling:** Kaylee, currently a high school art teacher in Rock Island, says: *“I love finding ways to incorporate films into my classrooms! Often I find that my students understand visual storytelling on screen better than on paper, so taking time to look at film goes a long way to bridge that gap. Recently, when teaching surrealism, I showed my students a short film I first encountered as a film minor. They had an amazing discussion on the film!”*

Kaylee also published an article on the 2007 *Bee Movie*, you can read it here:

[https://www.cbr.com/bee-movie-jerry-seinfeld-apologizes-for-sexual-subplot/?fbclid=IwAR0aLSb47kHRNyoYvjCUaKkP4cZxPXPLGO1-5u5DDD\\_suWuZ8uOVOxuihmU](https://www.cbr.com/bee-movie-jerry-seinfeld-apologizes-for-sexual-subplot/?fbclid=IwAR0aLSb47kHRNyoYvjCUaKkP4cZxPXPLGO1-5u5DDD_suWuZ8uOVOxuihmU)

Besides teaching and writing on films, Kaylee is working on her Master’s in Education.

**Kevin Titus:** after receiving his BA in English (Film Minor), Kevin spent a year in the UK to study World Politics and Popular Culture at Newcastle University. About his experience abroad, Kevin says: *“It was really nice to be able to see so much more of the world, and navigating it on my own was a bit of a confidence boost. Ultimately, studying abroad is an awesome experience, the time spent there is enriching enough to make it worth it.”*

Since he got back to Illinois, Kevin has been involved with the Burlington’s Players Workshop Community Theater and works as a substitute art teacher in local schools.

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# SPOTLIGHT!!

## CLASS OF 2023!

Congratulations to our FILM MINORS, [Billie Chadderton](#) and [Jarrett Brown](#).

Billie speaks about her experience as film minor at WIU:

### **BILLIE CHADDERTON (BCJ Major/Film Minor):**

#### **1. Why did you choose the film minor?**

*"I chose to pursue a minor in film after I took Intro to Film my freshman year. The class made me realize how much I enjoyed watching and analyzing films."*

#### **2. How do you think you've benefited from choosing the film minor?**

*"The film minor has greatly helped me understand the fundamentals of storytelling and has helped me develop my own technical skills. The correlation between my major (BCJ) and my film minor has definitely benefited me while working on projects outside of the film department."*

#### **3. What advice would you give to a student who is interested in films?**

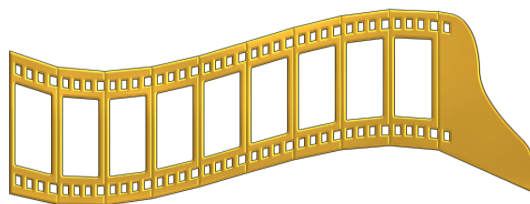
*"If you would like to learn more about films and have a deeper understanding of them and their connection to the world I would highly recommend students interested in film pursue the film minor."*

#### **4. What plans do you have after graduation?**

*"I have accepted a position as a News Producer at WHBF-TV in Rock Island, IL and will be starting my training there in June!"*

**CONGRATULATIONS, BILLIE!**

**And CONGRATULATIONS to JARRETT BROWN (BCJ Major/Film Minor)!**



## SPOTLIGHTS!!!

We asked Ainsley Eskridge, a newly declared Film Minor, why she decided to minor in film:

*“I have always loved watching movies, but over the past few years, I found it was becoming more and more of a personality trait. Therefore, when I heard about the film minor at WIU, it was like a puzzle piece falling into place. I hope to gain a deeper understanding of the film industry and of the films I already enjoy. I also think that there is a lot of knowledge to be gained that can contribute to my creative writing major and my dream of becoming an author.”*

“Casa del Cinema,” Rome (Italy)



## COMING SOON!

### Fall 2023 FILM COURSES

GH 101 FILM AND POPULAR CULTURE (Dr. Di Carmine)

ENG/BCJ 290 INTRODUCTION TO FILM (sec. 01, Dr. Ness)

ENG/BCJ 290 INTRODUCTION TO FILM (ONLINE, Dr. Di Carmine)

ENG 392 NATIONAL CINEMAS (AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND CINEMAS, Dr. Di Carmine).

## TAKE A FILM CLASS IN ITALY! -SPRING BREAK 2024

SPRING 2024 - ENG/BCJ 290 or ENG 379/679 -“Exploring Italy Through Film,”- a *study abroad* film course led by Dr. Di Carmine (r-dicarmine@wiu.edu).

### Some of the Most Anticipated Movies, Summer and Fall 2023!

*Asteroid City* (Wes Anderson); *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* (Mangold); *Barbie* (Greta Gerwig); *Dune: Part Two* (Villeneuve); *The Marvels* (DaCosta); *The Color Purple* (Bazawule); *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom* (Wan)