

B. Departments and Programs in Film, Television, Video, Still Photography and Electronic Music at State University of New York Campuses

Arts-Oriented Departments and Programs in Film, Video, Photography and Electronic Music

In the areas of film, video, photography and electronic music, a number of arts-oriented departments and programs in the State University of New York system offer a variety of curricula models.

For film study, there are presently: one Department of Cinema (*University Center at Binghamton*), one Program in Media Study (*University Center at Buffalo*), and three Programs in Film Study (*University Center at Albany*, and *University Colleges at Cortland and Purchase*) with a fourth Film Program in the preparatory stages at *University College at Brockport*. Among the two-year colleges, *Community College of the Finger Lakes* has offered a *Concentration in Cinema Studies* (although this program has recently been discontinued), and *Mohawk Valley Community College* is considering an AA degree-granting Option in Photography and Cinematography.

Although there are no departments or programs dedicated to video, Center for Media Study at *University*

Center at Buffalo offers video as a strong area of concentration, and the Department of Cinema at *University Center at Binghamton* has recently included video in its activities.

Programs concentrating primarily on photography as a means of artistic expression have been developed at *University Centers at Albany, Buffalo and Stony Brook*, *University Colleges at New Paltz, Oswego and Potsdam* and *College of Ceramics at Alfred University*, in addition to a graduate Program in Photographic Studies, also at *University Center at Buffalo*, which is offered through the *Visual Studies Workshop* in Rochester.

Electronic music is the least developed, in terms of academic curricula, of the arts under consideration. There is, however, a formal Program at *University Center at Albany* and an informal program offering no major but a concentration for graduate students at *University Center at Stony Brook*.

Film and Video

University Center at Binghamton

The philosophy of the *Cinema Department* is described in the following way:

The Department of Cinema is devoted to the development of artists and creative thinkers in cinema. It aims at a unified sense of cinema, providing a basis for new insights and works. Specific skills of analysis and production, including those of video, are taught, but not as ends in themselves. The major program aims to produce not narrow specialists in lighting, cinematography, or film editing, but rather broadly trained artists and thinkers sensitive to a whole range of cinematic values.

Students who major in cinema bring together the techniques they have learned and the values to which they have been made sensitive, in a senior thesis which consists of an independent film work or a writing about film, demonstrating creative insight and ability.

The Department encourages studies in the theories and techniques of other art disciplines such as music, painting, theater, and literature.

Now in its sixth year, the Department began as a cinema course taught by Professor Larry Gottheim, now Chairman, through the English Department in 1968. The film curriculum expanded to a "program" of two faculty in 1969 and gained full status of an undergraduate Department offering a B.A. degree in 1970. It has since grown to the extent of having six full-time faculty and one visiting professor offering sixteen courses each year in film production, film analysis and paracinema to more than thirty majors and about six hundred total students.

The most important recent developments in the Cinema Department are plans for an M.A. degree and the expansion of activities to include video. Ralph Hocking, a faculty member, offers two courses each year in video as an art, utilizing the extensive facilities of the *Experimental Television Center*, where he is Director. (Further information about the Experimental Television Center, a not-for-profit educational corporation separate and distinct from the State University of New York system, accompanies the *Academic Courses in Video* chart.) Students have constructed majors in video art through the Innovational Projects Board; they may also receive credit for independent work in still photography.

Other faculty are Ken Jacobs, Daniel Barnett and Saul Levine.

Facilities in film include 8 and 16mm production and projection equipment with synchronizers, horizontal and vertical editing machines, magnasync and interlock projectors and processing equipment for black-and-white film. There is also limited 35mm production equipment. Video facilities at the Experimental Television Center include black-and-white and color cameras, 1/2-inch and 1-inch decks, video projection, keyers, special effects generators, a colorizer, a synthesizer and a spatial and intensity digitizer; much of this equipment is owned by the Center, some is on loan from the University.

The Department screens hundreds of primarily art and feature-length narrative films each year, the Department's \$2000 rental budget supplemented by the more than seventy-five films in the SUNY/Binghamton Film Archives and the screenings of the Harpur Film Society, an extra-academic organization.

Along with arrangements for regular visiting professors, the Cinema Department also sponsors one-day to one-month programs with several dozen visiting film and video artists each year. The Department hosted the first University-wide conference on Cinema in 1972. Professor Gottheim reports that most of the interaction of the Cinema Department with other departments in the University occurs at an informal level, with students taking a variety of other courses and faculty giving lectures in other departments. The planned M.A. Program calls for greater interrelationships of this type. The Cinema Department lists an increase in faculty/personnel as its most basic need at present.

University Center at Buffalo

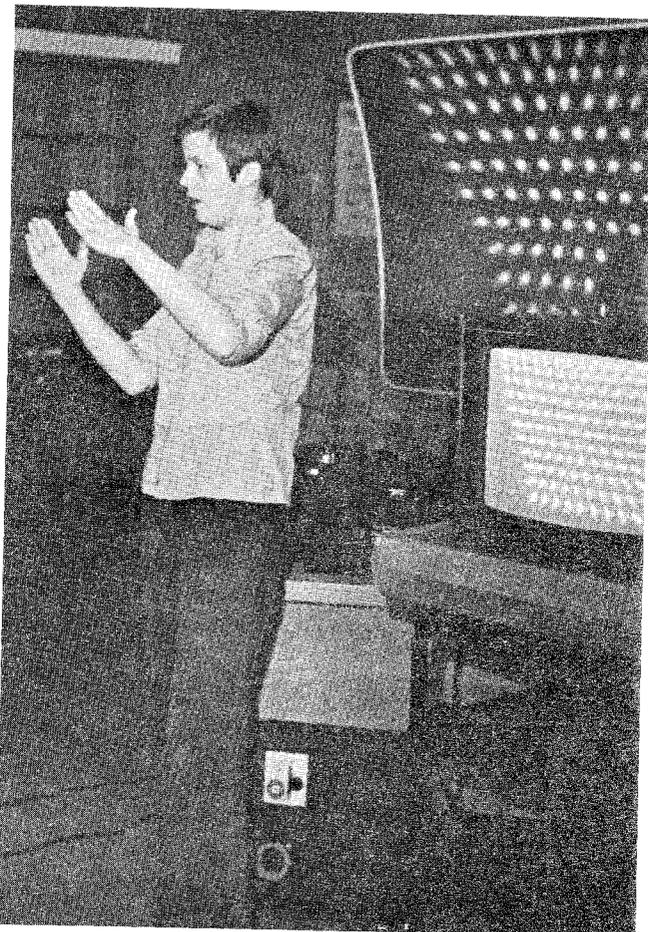
The *Center for Media Study* currently offers courses in film and video making and interpretation, in its development of "three areas of coursework which will lead to undergraduate and graduate degrees: 1) the making of films, videotapes and other media; 2) the history, theory and analysis of media forms; 3) the psychic and social effects of media." Gerald O'Grady, the Program's Director since its inception in 1972, defines the Center's philosophy in the following way: "Media mean all of the symbolic codes of human culture, and their study involves all of the ways in which they interact with and influence each other in constructing human consciousness. The informing insight of the Program is that all citizens should have an understanding of and access to all of the codes of expression, communication and information-transfer of the culture in which they live."

The other full-time faculty—Hollis Frampton, Paul Sharits, Bohuslav Vasulka, Brian Henderson and James Blue—and one teaching assistant offer about twelve undergraduate and six graduate courses in filmmaking, history and analysis and four courses in videomaking and theories of electronic media each year to over three hundred undergraduate and about sixty-five graduate students. The Program is open to double majors, joint majors and a variety of ad-hoc majors with departments concentrating on other codes, and awards approximately ten undergraduate

degrees to "Special Majors" and a dozen Master of Arts in Humanities degrees each year, as well as directing film dissertations by PhD. candidates in the English and French Departments. Over four hundred independent, documentary and feature narrative films and one hundred and fifty experimental videotapes are screened in the Program's courses each year.

Facilities in film include super-8 and 16mm production and projection equipment, full 16mm editing facilities, an optical printer, and sophisticated 16mm sound-sync equipment, including synchronizer, double system interlock projector and a recorder/reproducer for 16mm edge track. Center for Media Study also has the use of the permanent 35mm projection facilities at University Center at Buffalo. Video facilities in the Center's Experimental Video Laboratory include black-and-white cameras, 1/2-inch and 3/4-inch color editing decks, special effects generator/switcher, colorizer, synthesizer, color video projector and sophisticated electronic and test equipment.

Seeing itself as a catalyst, helping to define and advance the new field of Media Study, the Center for Media Study has been active in sponsoring or co-sponsoring five consecutive Summer Institutes in the Making and Understanding of Film/Media, numerous regional, national and international conferences (on Teaching Resources in Film and Media, Autobiography in the Independent American Cinema, Teaching Making, Women in Film and Video,



Steina Vasulka, Center for Media Study, University Center at Buffalo.

Electronic Arts), over fifty visiting lecturers on film and the electronic arts yearly and series of recent Chinese, Polish, Soviet and Egyptian films. As part of a major research project of the Center, the Oral History of the Independent American Film, more than five hundred hours of interviews with fifty independent filmmakers have been recorded which, along with an expanding collection of films, experimental videotapes and printed materials, comprise the Center's research resources.

Center for Media Study has submitted a "Letter of Intent" to offer A.B., M.A., M.F.A. and Ph.D. degrees. As part of its function as a dynamic and integrative agent "which would interact with many other departments and units in the University and the community," the Program has plans to make joint appointments with other faculties and to develop curricula with the Department of Instruction in the School of Education to prepare media teachers for elementary and high schools, and with departments in the social sciences to establish programs in cultural documentation and investigation. Present needs are an increase in faculty and personnel, graduate lines for fellowships, teaching assistants and research assistants as well as more equipment and dedicated space.

University Center at Albany

A *Film Program* as an area of concentration in the Art Department, now in its eighth year, surveys the development of filmmaking through the technical and aesthetic evaluation of film, according to the Department Chairman, Professor Richard Callner. Professor Arthur Lennig, sole faculty member in the Program, offers six courses yearly to six hundred students, emphasizing primarily film theory, history and aesthetics, and screening nearly one hundred feature films as well as offering some film production in 8 and 16mm. There is little Art Department equipment for this production, and the students provide much of their own; editing facilities, however, are available through the Program.

Under discussion are plans to develop an undergraduate (and later, a graduate) *Program in Visual Studies* which will incorporate the Film Program courses, film courses now taught in other departments, and courses in a Photography concentration in the Art Department; this concentration of film/photography activity constitutes a basic need of the Program at present.

University College at Cortland

The *Cinema Studies Program* has offered an interdisciplinary non-production major toward a B.A. degree since 1972, under the direction of Professor Robert Hammond. The Program is organized with the intention of providing numerous perspectives toward film appreciation with sound analytical and critical methods within the full range of the liberal arts. Faculty from eight departments apply their area of discipline to film with the hope, according to Professor Hammond, that this multiplicity of approaches will provide the student with a broader awareness of the possibilities of cinematic expression than any single viewpoint would afford. Participating in the Program are Professor Hammond, Franklin Waltman and Victoria Stiles (Foreign Languages), Patricia Connor (Art), Donna Anderson (Music), John Willmer (Geography), Eberhard

Alsen (English), Gordon Beadle (History), Henry Steck (Political Science) and, in the past, Marc Lowenstein (Philosophy).

Although there are very few majors as yet, the eight to ten courses offered in the Cinema Studies Program each year attracts an enrollment of about five hundred students. Seventy-five to one hundred films, predominantly English and Foreign Language feature length narratives, are screened each year.

Present Program activities include the attempt to form a Student Cinema Studies Club to sponsor visiting lecturers, and strengthening of support of the participating departments. Although initial objections to equipment costs in forming a film program were overcome by formulating a non-production interdepartmental appreciation and analysis major, Professor Hammond and other faculty feel they need larger film rental and purchasing budgets, an expansion of symposia and guest speakers, and the possible hiring of a coordinator or advisor to better focus the Program's activities.

University College at Purchase

The *Film Program* major leading to a B.F.A. degree is offered through the Division of Theater Arts in the School of the Arts. Established concurrently with the College in 1971, the Film Program is organized, according to its Director, Willard Van Dyke, to provide preparation that would qualify students, after four years of training, to enter the profession. The emphasis, however, is on training individual film artists rather than commercially-oriented technicians, with the hopes of putting more broadly prepared individuals into the field.

The Program presently has two full-time faculty, Professors Van Dyke and Richard Rogers, and two part-time faculty, Miriam Arsham and Ronald Mottram, offering about twelve courses each year in film production (cinematography, editing, sound, directing and script-writing) and film analysis/theory/history, most of which are open only to the forty film majors. This policy, along with the unusual structure of the School of the Arts, requiring majors to complete ninety credit hours in their area of concentration, provides a more intensive training/learning experience for a limited number of gifted undergraduates than is generally available. The Program emphasizes independent film projects and the concept of master/apprentice relationships between faculty and the relatively few majors. Students are also required to study the art of the actor and urged to investigate other visual arts (especially photography, in which the Program offers tutorial work) and the liberal arts.

The Film Program screens more than two hundred films each year, primarily feature-length narratives and documentaries, and sponsors numerous visiting filmmakers. A small film library is in the process of being expanded.

The fact that University College at Purchase has not yet completed construction of its Theater Arts Instructional Facility which will house a two hundred-seat auditorium, a large film studio, cutting rooms, a sound transfer studio and facilities for processing 16mm reversal film, has created the Film Program's current need for dedicated space. As the Theater Arts Instructional Facility will also house a color television studio, the planned Program in Television has not

yet begun; similarly, the Visual Arts Instructional Facility, with its extensive darkrooms, is not yet complete, limiting current photography activity.

Professor Van Dyke also expresses the need for more rapid acquisition of equipment essential to an expanding program. A two hundred percent increase in facilities is expected in the next two years that will provide the Film Program with highly sophisticated super-8 sound sync and editing capabilities, very good facilities in all aspects of 16mm as well as processing of both formats, advanced lighting, optical and audio equipment.

University College at Brockport

A proposal to begin an interdepartmental *Program in Studies in Film and Society* is being discussed. The Departments of English, History, Theater, Communications, Psychology and Sociology will participate in the Program, organized around principles of humanities and social culture study. The Program will offer at least nine film courses each year to about six hundred students, this being the extent of present activity. Among participating faculty will be Professors McCreary (History), Rubin (English), Reynolds (Theater), Powell (Communications) and Lindauer (Psychology). No further information has been provided.

Community College of the Finger Lakes

The *Concentration in Cinema Studies* toward an A.A.

degree, offered since 1972, has recently been phased out of a program. It was conceived by the administration when English Professor Gary Goodno received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to study cinema for a year with the purpose of extending the visual literacy of his students. Designed to teach history and aesthetics as well as the technical aspects of cinema through production courses, the Concentration originally offered seven courses each year, all instructed by Professor Goodno, to approximately two hundred students. Quality super-8 cameras and editing facilities for twenty students were purchased. The Program sponsored monthly film programs and had strong interaction with the English, Social Studies and Fine Arts Departments.

Five courses are currently offered as Humanities electives—film history and aesthetics are taught by Professor Goodno through the English Department, and film production coursework is offered through the Department of Art.

Mohawk Valley Community College

Initial steps have been taken to institute an A.A. degree granting *Option in Photography and Cinematography*. Although it is as yet too early to speculate on the development of the curriculum, both in terms of size and emphases, the Program will undoubtedly offer more than the four courses in theory and super-8 production presently taught.

Photography

University Center at Albany

A *Program in Photography* as an area of concentration in the Art Department is directed by Professor Melanie Walker, who offers six courses to about one hundred and twenty students each year. According to Professor Richard Callner, Chairman of the Art Department, the Program covers both traditional and experimental techniques in photography, encouraging strong aesthetic input in the growth of technical skills. Interpretation, criticism and the history of photography are also important concerns. Emphasis is on black-and-white photography, the Program using one community darkroom with fourteen places. The Program is strongly interactive with the Graphic Arts concentration, also in the Art Department, and special workshops are being developed in the making of books and paper and the use of special papers. Professor Walker is presently developing a student and faculty teaching exchange program with photography curricula at other State University of New York campuses, and visiting lecturers are frequent. Also under consideration are plans for a *Program in Visual Studies*, previously mentioned in relation to *University Center at Albany's Film Program*, which would incorporate the courses in the Photography Program with film courses campus-wide.

University Center at Buffalo

A *Program in Photography* as an option or area of concentration is offered in the Art Department. Professor Donald Blumberg, Director of the Program since 1965, describes it as having a broad range of concerns, from

structured introductory courses to completely self-determined seminars, in which all significant aspects of the aesthetic and technical history of photography are considered. Two full-time faculty, Professors Blumberg and Tyrone Georgiou, along with several teaching assistants offer over two dozen sections per year in silver and non-silver processes to four to five hundred students. There is, in addition, much graduate tutorial work. The Program's coursework concerns itself with such techniques as extended and sequential imagery, fabricated images, and applied color. Showings of student work are continuous.

Along with its granting of B.F.A. and M.A. degrees, the Photography Program is the only area of concentration in the Art Department to grant a B.A. degree which, Professor Blumberg states, opens photography to the entire University on the undergraduate level and allows graduate students in the Program to provide an invaluable educational opportunity as a stimulus to the growth of undergraduates. Facilities are primarily for black-and-white photography, with one color enlarger for special use, in two darkrooms with forty places. Although there is no budget for visiting lecturers or travelling exhibitions, Professor Blumberg notes adequate budgeting for materials and supplies.

Visual Studies Workshop with University Center at Buffalo

A *Program in Photographic Studies* at the *Visual Studies Workshop* in Rochester offers an M.F.A. degree through *University Center at Buffalo*. The Program differs from