

DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA ARTS 2025 FILM SYMPOSIUM  
RUE AUDITORIUM (SWEIGART / BRODSKY ROOM 115)  
WEDNESDAY MARCH 5 AND THURSDAY MARCH 6, 2025

A low-angle shot of Michael Myers from the Halloween franchise. He is wearing his iconic white mask and a dark, button-down shirt. He is holding a large, curved knife in his right hand. The background is a dimly lit hallway with wooden trim and a doorway in the distance. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights.

**THE HORROR FILM  
&  
MODES OF MONSTROSITY**

# THE HORROR FILM AND MODES OF MONSTROSITY

Media Arts Department Film Symposium  
Wednesday, March 5 and Thursday March 6, 2025  
Rue Auditorium (Room 115 Sweigart/Norm Brodsky College of Business)

Wednesday, March 5

1:10 p.m.-2:40 p.m.

## **Student Panel: Monsters, Slashers, and the Female Body**

Dr. Cynthia Lucia, Moderator, Department of Media Arts (FMS/FTV)

*Scream* (1996): Ryann Reich, Acting major; Film & Television minor

*The Substance* (2024): Lilly Trace, English Writing major; French minor  
and Ashley Morales ('24): Film & Television and English Writing majors;  
Film & Media Studies minor

*Jennifer's Body* (2009): Michaela Smith ('24), Communication Studies  
major; Arts & Entertainment Industries Management minor

2:50 p.m.-4:20 p.m.

## **Student Panel: Family, Repression, and Monstrosity**

Dr. Cynthia Lucia, Moderator, Department of Media Arts (FMS/FTV)

*Halloween* (1978): Sean Higgins, Film & Television major; Marketing  
minor

*A Nightmare on Elm Street* (1984): Aiden Baginski, Elementary  
Education and English Literature majors

*Men* (2022): Sasha Flowers, Film & Television major, English minor

*The Purge* (2013): Ryan Fogel, Film & Television major

4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

## **Student Panel: How "It" all Happened**

Dr. Cynthia Lucia, Moderator, Department of Media Arts (FMS/FTV)

*In a Quiet Place* (2018): Katie Carlisle, Film & Television major; Political  
Science minor

*It* (2017): Sabrina Gipple: Film & Television and English majors

6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

## Featured Speaker, Dr. Barry Keith Grant

Professor Emeritus of Film and Popular Culture, Brock University, Ontario

# The Fear of Found Footage: Understanding a Recent Cycle of the Horror Film

Dr. Grant will talk about the merging of documentary-like qualities with horror in docu-horror films like *The Blair Witch Project*, *Cloverfield*, *Cannibal Holocaust*, *The War Game*, *Man Bites Dog* and *Paranormal Activity*, among others.

Dr. Barry Keith Grant is Professor Emeritus of Film Studies at Brock University, Ontario. Among his dozens of books, Professor Grant most recently authored *Voyages of Discovery: The Cinema of Frederick Wiseman* (Wallflower Press, 2023); *100 American Horror Films* (BFI/ Bloomsbury, 2022); *The Twilight Zone* (Wayne State University Press, 2020); *Monster Cinema* (Rutgers University Press, 2018); *100 Science Fiction Films* (BFI/Palgrave Macmillan, 2013); and *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (BFI/ Palgrave Macmillan, 2010). His edited volumes, including the four editions of *Film Genre Reader* (University of Texas Press), two editions of *The Dread of Difference: Gender and the Horror Film* (University of Texas Press), and two editions of *Documenting the Documentary: Close Readings of Documentary Film and Video* (Wayne State UP), have been used widely for years as university course texts. Professor Grant was the first cinema studies scholar to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.



Thursday, March 6

11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

### **Student Film Festival**

Dr. Jay Stern, Moderator, Department of Media Arts (FTV)

#### ***The Girl in the Grove***

Written and directed by Charlie Dubendorfer, Acting major; Dance minor

Cinematography and editing by Zander Blickley, Film & Television major

#### ***Two Moves Ahead***

Co-written and directed by Reylan Alexis, Film & Television and Finance majors; Film & Media Studies minor

Co-written and directed by James Felcon, Film & Television major; Philosophy minor

Assistant Director Ashley Morales ('24), Film & Television and English majors; Film & Media Studies minor

#### ***The Bride of Grominator***

Directed and edited by Sean Higgins, Film & Television major; Marketing minor

Cinematography by Sean Higgins and Reylan Jay Alexis

#### ***Dear Vivian***

Directed by Faith Robinson-Hughes, Film & Television major

Produced and edited by Nat Kapustin, Film & Television major

1:10 p.m.-2:40 p.m.

### **Student Panel: Monstrosity from Within**

Dr. Cynthia Lucia, Moderator, Department of Media Arts (FMS/FTV)

*Alien* (1979): Richard Seib, Film & Television major

*Night of the Hunter* (1955): Reylan Alexis, Finance and Film & Television majors; Film & Media Studies minor

*Nope* (2022): Sam Oberg-Flood, Film & Television major

3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

### **Student Panel: Horror and Reflexivity**

Dr. Cynthia Lucia, Moderator, Department of Media Arts (FMS/FTV)

*I Saw the TV Glow* (2024): Adrienne Bishop, Psychology major; Business minor

and Lex Wright, Psychology major

*Interview with the Vampire* (1994): Nat Kapustin, Film & Television major; Film & Media Studies minor

5:45 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

### **Symposium Reception**

Enjoy Interesting Conversation and Delicious Treats

All are Welcome!

6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

## Featured Speaker: Dr. Ashley R. Smith (Rider '09)

Adjunct Professor, DePaul University;  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago

### Scream Queens: The Expanding World of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Female Directed Horror

Dr. Smith will talk about how the horror film is being revised and expanded by an increasing number of female directors working globally within the genre. Tracing narrative, aesthetic, and affective trends within female-helmed horror films across the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Dr. Smith will examine how female authorship is expanding female agency in the horror genre, while unlocking horror's greater expressive potential in the process.

Dr. Ashley R. Smith is a 2009 graduate of Rider University and recently received her Ph.D. in Screen Cultures from Northwestern University. Her current book project, *White with Terror: Monstrous Figurations of Whiteness in Post-Studio American Horror*, examines how the "hillbilly," serial killer, and "yuppie," surfaced as incarnations of monstrous whiteness stratified by socioeconomic difference in postwar American horror. Dr. Smith has published on topics related to horror in *Serial Killers in Contemporary Television: Familiar Monsters* (Routledge). She is an editorial board member of the "21<sup>st</sup> Century Horror" series from Edinburgh University Press, an incoming advisory board member for the *Horror Studies* journal (Intellect), and serves as the academic consultant and an advisory board member for the digital humanities database *Cut-Throat Women: A Database of Women Who Make Horror*. Dr. Smith teaches courses on film history and theory, representation in media, and horror cinema at DePaul University and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and has previously served as the Adjunct Assistant Professor of Instruction in Northwestern's Department of Radio/ Television/ Film.





**Special Thanks to:**

**Dean Kelly Bidle, College of Arts and Sciences  
Dr. Shawn Kildea, Chair, Department of Media Arts  
Dr. Barry Janes, Department of Media Arts (FTV)  
Dr. Jay Stern, Department of Media Arts (FTV)  
Scott Alboum, Video Technologies Coordinator  
Saadiya Alidina, Department of Film and Television  
Administrative Associate**

**All Rider Symposium Participants**

**Rachel Stengle, Rider University Marketing &  
Communications**

**Sarah Oskay, Rider University Marketing & Communications**

**Natalie Andreyev, Rider University Marketing &  
Communications**

**Dr. Jackie Incollingo, Faculty Advisor, The Rider News**

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