

Thomas Farrenkopf
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Communication and Media Studies, 2030 (in progress), University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Institute of Communication Research, Department of Media and Cinema Studies

Advisor: Dr. Angela Aguayo

M.A., Cinema and Media Studies, 2025, University of Southern California, School of Cinematic Arts, Division of Cinema and Media Studies
Capstone Project: *Patriotic Propaganda: Warner Brothers' Response to Growing Nazi Ideology in the United States of America*

Advisor: Dr. J.D. Connor

B.S., Cinema Studies, 2023, University of Oregon, Department of Cinema Studies,
Honors: Magna Cum Laude, Cinema Studies Departmental Honors
Honors Thesis: *Indigenous Voices Reshaping Cinema: Native American Representation in Dances with Wolves (1990) and Montford: The Chickasaw Rancher (2021)*
Advisor: Dr. Ari Purnama

A.A.S., Video Production, 2022, Portland Community College, Multimedia Department,
Honors: Highest Honors

RESEARCH INTEREST

My research explores the intersection of cinema, media studies, and sociology, with a focus on how film reflects, reinforces, and resists cultural and political narratives. I'm especially interested in Third and Fourth Cinemas as sites of resistance to dominant cinematic forms and colonial ideologies. Broadly, I examine how cinema shapes power, memory, and social change—and how emerging media forms engage audiences with historical and political issues in innovative, relevant ways.

PUBLICATIONS

Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal (OURJ)

Farrenkopf, Thomas. "Indigenous Voices Reshaping Cinema: Native American Representation in *Dances with Wolves* (1990) and *Montford: The Chickasaw Rancher* (2021)." *Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal: McNair Special Issue* 21, no. 3 (August 2023): 29–45. <https://doi.org/10.5399/uo/ourj>.

PUBLICATIONS (continued)

Farrenkopf, Thomas. "The Quiet Edit: Adult Framing and the Politics of Visibility in Youth Storytelling Spaces ." Article manuscript in progress (Expected submission Fall 2025)

Farrenkopf, Thomas. "Patriotic Propaganda: Warner Brothers' Response to Growing Nazi Ideology in the United States of America." Article manuscript in progress, adapted from M.A. Capstone (expected submission Fall 2025).

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

- Graduate Student Representative, Society for Cinema and Media Studies (2025-)
- Lead Steward (Humanities), GSWOC-USC, UAW Local 872 (2025)
- Trio New Transfer Student Mentor, University of Oregon (2022-2023)
- Director of Legislative Affairs, Associated Students of Portland Community College (2020-2021)
- Chapter President, Phi Theta Kappa, Portland Community College (2020-2021)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Southern California

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Television and Video — Dr. Nitin Govil

Spring 2025

- Led two weekly discussion sections
- Facilitated small group analysis of television genres and narrative strategies
- Provided written feedback and evaluated weekly reflection assignments.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Cinema — Dr. George Carstocea

Spring 2024 & Fall 2024

- Led a total of three discussion sections over two semesters
- Supported instruction in film history, genre theory, and narrative form
- Graded papers, individual responses, and exams

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Billy Wilder's Hollywood — Dr. Luci Marzola

Fall 2023

- Assisted in a lecture-based undergraduate seminar
- Provided office hour support and graded all written assignments

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (continued)

University of Southern California

Course Reader

Theatrical Film Symposium — Leonard Maltin

Fall 2023, Spring 2024

- Provided logistical and administrative support for lectures and guest Q&A sessions
- Read and evaluated responses, quizzes, and exams

CREATIVE MEDIA & VIDEOGRAPHIC SCHOLARSHIP

Videographic Essay Series

Tom Talks Film (2022-Present), Creator, Writer, Editor, and Producer

A scholarly video essay series examining media history, aesthetics, and sociopolitical themes through critical videographic practice. Released and hosted on YouTube.

- EP. 11 *Written Out of the Frame: How IATSE Local #600 Fails Underrepresented Cinematographers* (2025)
- EP. 10 *From Hitchcock to Campion: In the Cut & The Gaze* (2024)
- EP. 9 *Televised Catharsis: How Late-Nite Comedy Responded to 9/11 and 1/6* (2024)
- EP. 8 *Pandemic Parables: Analyzing Netflix's To the Lake and The Barrier* (2024)
- EP. 6 & 7 *Patriotic Propaganda: Confessions of a Nazi Spy* (Parts 1 & 2, 2024)
- EP. 5 *Rhythms of Revolution: Soviet Montage Theories Dissected* (2024)
- EP. 4 *Lights, Camera, Comedy: Mabel Normand's Directorial Legacy* (2024)
- EP. 3 *Slapstick Surrealism and the Photo Trickery of the Three Stooges* (2022)
- EP. 2 *House of Wax: The Rise of Vincent Price* (2022)
- EP. 1 *Cinematography Techniques in the Golden Age of Slasher Flicks (1978–1984)* (2022)

Links available upon request or at www.createplus.org/tomtalksfilm

Interactive & Experimental Media Projects

86 The Zone (2024)

Designer, Writer

- Created for CTCS 505 Interactive Media at the University of Southern California
- A branching-choice digital game set in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, exploring ethical voyeurism, Cold War aesthetics, and procedural rhetoric.
- www.createplus.org/86thezone/

CREATIVE MEDIA & VIDEOGRAPHIC SCHOLARSHIP (continued)

Short Films & Educational Media

Recipe for Revenge (2024)

Cinematographer, Producer, Editor.

48-Hour Film Project, Los Angeles. Directed by David Adam Ettedgui.

McNair Scholars Program Promotional Video (2023),

Director of Photography, Editor

Produced for the University of Oregon's Ronald E. McNair Achievement Program

How-to Series on the Canon C100 (2023)

Director of Photography, Editor (Directed by Kevin May)

Educational Content for University of Oregon, Department of Cinema Studies

How-to Series on the Canon 90D (2023)

Director of Photography, Editor (Directed by Kevin May)

Educational Content for University of Oregon, Department of Cinema Studies

The Walk (2022)

Director of Photography, Editor, Director

30-Second Horror Film, Released on YouTube

Chornobyl and the Exclusion Zone (2021)

Director of Photography, Editor, Documentary Filmmaker

Shot in Kyiv Oblast, Ukraine. Released on YouTube

Portland's Disappearing Art (2020),

Documentary Filmmaker

Explored vanishing art in Portland, Oregon. Released on YouTube

Discordance (2020)

Director of Photography, Editor, Portland Community College.

Cascade Paragon Arts Gallery Release 2020, YouTube Release: 2021

Performing Arts Project

INDUSTRY & FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE

Documentary Film Editing Intern

Into the Sun Entertainment, Beverly Hills, CA — 2024

- Assisted with editing rough cuts and assembling archival footage for long-form documentary content

INDUSTRY & FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE (continued)

Film Festival Jury Intern

Student World Impact Film Festival (SWIFF) — 2023

- Reviewed and scored films across multiple categories for a global student competition
- Contributed written evaluations used in jury deliberations

Preliminary Screener

Big Apple Film Festival — 2022/2023

- Screened and evaluated hundreds of short film submissions for programming consideration
- Contributed written feedback for filmmakers

Social Media Post-Production Video Editing Intern

Oakland Amalgamated, Naugatuck, CT (Remote) — 2024

- Gained hands-on experience processing footage into social media content.
- Worked closely with the post-production team, learning workflow and trade skills.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

The Quiet Edit: Adult Framing and the Politics of Visibility in Youth Storytelling Spaces

Illinois Summer Research Symposium, July 2025, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Oral Presenter

Indigenous Voices Reshaping Cinema: Native American Representation in Dances with Wolves (1990) and Montford: The Chickasaw Rancher (2021)

University of Oregon's Undergraduate Research Symposium, May 2023, University of Oregon, Oral Presenter, Poster Presenter

Indigenous Voices Reshaping Cinema: Native American Representation in Dances with Wolves (1990) and Montford: The Chickasaw Rancher (2021)

Alpha Kappa Delta Undergraduate Research Symposium, April 2023, Oral Presenter

Indigenous Voices Reshaping Cinema: Native American Representation in Dances with Wolves (1990) and Montford: The Chickasaw Rancher (2021)

University of Buffalo's Undergraduate Research Conference, August 2022, Oral Presenter

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

2024, **Society for Cinema and Media Studies**, Guest Services Volunteer, Boston, Massachusetts

2024, **American Film Convention**, Los Angeles, California

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- Summer Pre-Doctoral Research Fellowship (2025, \$4,500)

University of Southern California

- Shriram Family Graduate Student Support Fund (2024, \$10,000)
- Ricky Lynn Blustein Scholarship (2024, \$3,100)
- Shriram Family Graduate Student Support Fund (2023, \$10,000)

University of Oregon

- Robert E McNair Scholarship(2022, \$7,098)
- TRIO SSS Scholarship (2022, \$6,500)
- TRIO SSS Scholarship (2022, \$2,167)
- Osher and Crankstart Reentry Scholarship (2022, \$4,200)
- College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship, UO (2022, \$2,650)
- General University Scholarship, UO (2022, \$3,600)
- Diversity Excellence Scholarship, UO (2022, \$6,500)
- Oregon Opportunity Grant, UO (2022, \$4,692)
- University Transfer Scholarship, UO (2022, \$2,000)
- Joseph K Starr Scholarship, UO (2021, \$3,000)
- General University Scholarship, UO (2021, \$3,000)
- University Transfer Scholarship, UO (2021, \$2,000)
- All-Oregon Academic Team Recognition Scholarship, UO (2021, \$1,000)
- Federal SEOG, UO (2021, \$1,450)
- Oregon Opportunity Grant, UO (2021, \$3,612)

Portland Community College

- Gilman International Scholarship, US State Department (2021, \$4,000)
- Robert O Wimmer Scholarship (2021, \$2,625)
- Phi Theta Kappa New Century Scholar (2021, \$2,250)

AWARDS & HONORS

Academic Honors

- Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, Alpha of Oregon, 2023
- Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society, 2022
- Golden Key Honor Society, 2022 Induction, Member
- Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, 2020 Induction, Former Chapter President

Distinctions & Recognitions

- Magna Cum Laude, Institutional Honors, University of Oregon (2023)
- Cinema Studies Departmental Honors, University of Oregon (2023)
- Dean's List, University of Oregon (Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022)
- All Oregon Academic Team (2021)
- Phi Theta Kappa New Century Scholar, Oregon (2021)
- President's List, Portland Community College (All Terms 2019-2021)
- Eagle Scout, Scouting America (2001)

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Southern California

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Cinema & Media Studies, School of Cinematic Arts

2023-2025

- Supported instruction for multiple undergraduate courses, including:
 - Billy Wilder's Hollywood (Dr. Luci Marzola)
 - Introduction to Cinema (Dr. George Carstocea)
 - Introduction to Television and Video (Dr. Nitin Govil)
 - Theatrical Film Symposium (Leonard Maltin)
- Led weekly discussion sections, graded written work, and collaborated with faculty on instructional strategy.

University of Oregon

Student Manager

Cinema Production Equipment Lab, Department of Cinema Studies 2021-2023

- Supervised student checkouts, trained users on industry-standard equipment, maintained inventory, and assisted in technical troubleshooting and instructional support.
- Contributed to the design, production, and creation of instructional media tutorials.

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (continued)

Portland Community College

Director of Legislative Affairs

Associate Students of Portland Community College 2020-2021

- Drafted policy proposals, advocated for student interests in educational access, equity, and digital infrastructure, and served on multiple institutional committees, including:
 - Educational Advisory Council (Student Representative)
 - Degrees and Certificates Committee (Student Representative)

Independent Contractor

Project Manager

Retail Merchandising & Construction (2006-2019)

- Oversaw logistics, personnel, and installations across 2,000+ projects in 44 US states and territories.
- Developed skills in budgeting, coordination, and visual presentation that now support large-scale media production planning.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Black Rock Ranger — Shift Lead

Black Rock City LLC, Burning Man — 2010-Present

- Serve in rotating leadership and support roles, including crisis response, peer mediation, and shift coordination for large-scale temporary city operations.
- Provide emotional support and logistical management in high-stress environments with 80,000+ participants.
- Train new Rangers in safety, consent culture, communication, and de-escalation protocols.

Event Director — Boise Burner Community Day

Boise, ID & Surrounding Areas — 2011-2015

- Organized multi-city community service events, coordinating volunteers and logistics across five Idaho towns.
- Developed promotional media, coordinated with local governments and nonprofits, and documented outcomes through video and photography.

Additional Experience

Lab Technician — Multimedia Department

Portland Community College —2020

- Supported technical instruction in video editing, audio mixing, and digital imaging.
- Maintained lab equipment and assisted students with project execution and software troubleshooting.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Academic & Scholarly Associations

- **Society for Cinema and Media Studies**
 - Graduate Student Representative (2025-2027)
 - Member since 2022
- **American Studies Association (ASA)**
 - Student Member since 2024
 - Interdisciplinary engagement in American cultural studies, with particular interest in media, memory, and critical theory.
- **American Sociological Association (ASA)**
 - Graduate Student Member Since 2023
- **International Visual Sociology Association (IVSA)**
 - Graduate Student Member since 2023

Creative & Industry Organizations

- **Society of Camera Operators**
 - Student Member since 2024
 - Collaborating with professional camera operators and cinematographers to enhance technical expertise and refine creative production practices.

Honor Societies

- **Phi Beta Kappa**, Alpha of Oregon Chapter
 - Inducted 2023
- **Alpha Kappa Delta**, International Sociology Honor Society
 - Inducted 2022
- **Golden Key International Honor Society**
 - Inducted 2022
- **Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society**
 - Inducted 2020 | Chapter President (2020-2021)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS (continued)

Labor Organizations

- **Graduate Student Workers Organizing Committee (GSWOC-USC), UAW Local 872**
 - Member & Lead Steward, Humanities Division (2023-2025)
 - Active in academic labor advocacy, contract negotiations, and member organizing in support of equitable working conditions in higher education.

LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS

Avid Media Composer Certified Specialist

Issued by AVID Technology via University of Oregon — 2022

- Completed training in non-linear editing workflows using Avid Media Composer.
- Demonstrated proficiency in timeline editing, media management, effects, and multi-track audio/video integration.
- Certification reflects industry-standard competence in one of the most widely used professional editing platforms.