



MFA SOCIAL DOCUMENTARY FILM DEPARTMENT FACT SHEET

The MFA Social Documentary Film Department provides students with a solid foundation in the fundamentals of non-fiction filmmaking and an immersion into the critical and analytical processes necessary to conceptualize and develop film projects with content of significant social relevance. The program, which represents the convergence of journalism, social activism and the art of filmmaking, prepares students to find and capture stories that raise social, political and cultural consciousness on issues of public concern.

In the first year, students study the history of filmic practice as it relates to documentary, and master the necessary tools and techniques of the social documentary form, while creating two short films. In the second year, students receive advanced instruction in directing, producing and editing, as they focus on completing an individual thesis film, which will be suitable for broadcast and meet festival standards.

2009 – 2010 Student population (inaugural year)

23 matriculated students

Department chair

Maro Chermayeff, producer, director and author

Faculty members

Matthew Akers (*Heir to an Execution*), Axel Baumann (*Carrier*), Peter Chelkowski (*Carnival Roots*), Ann Collins (*Sound and Fury*), Deborah Dickson, (*Lalee's Kin: The Legacy of Cotton*), Maryann DeLeo (*Chernobyl Heart*), Michael Epstein (*American Masters: Hitchcock, Selznick and the End of Hollywood*), Micah Fink (*PBS/Wide Angle – H5N1 Killer Flu*), Tom Hurwitz (*The Last Emperor*), Robyn Hutt (TruTV), Michael Kantor (*Make 'Em Laugh: The Funny Business of America*), Mark Mandler (*American Experience: New York, a Documentary Film*), Michel Negroponte (*Jupiter's Wife*), Sam Pollard (*Four Little Girls*), Bob Richman (*My Architect*), Jerry Risius (*The Devil Came On Horseback*), E. Donna Shepherd (*PoweR Girls*), J.T. Takagi (*North Korea: Beyond the DMZ*)

Some notable guest lecturers

Kathy Brew, Mark Daniels, Jeff Dupre, Alice Elliott, Suzy Elmiger, Jeffrey Friedman, Susan Froemke, Roberto Guerra, Glenda Hersh, Beth Hoppe, Yves Jeanneau, Jay Keuper, Christine LeGoff, Paco de Onis, James Redford, Amy Schewel, Pamela Yates

Student exhibitions

There will be a screening of student films in the late spring of each year. First year students will present their short films and second year students will present their thesis films.

For further information, please visit <http://mfasocdoc.sva.edu>.