

C H A R L E S * M E R Z B A C H E R

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WORK EXPERIENCE

- 1997 — Associate Professor, 1998 – present; Visiting Associate Professor, 1997 – 1998. Department Chair, 2004 – 2009; Acting Chair, 2003-2004. Department of Film & Television, BOSTON UNIVERSITY, Boston.
- Duties: As a professor, in recent years I have revamped the directing curriculum and developed a course focused on production management and spearheaded the incorporation of DSLR cameras into our production curriculum. During my time as Chair, I oversaw the administration of a department of roughly 400 students, 17 full-time faculty members and dozens of part-time instructors. Spearheaded departmental projects, including a new campus-wide cable TV channel, two television pilot productions, a program for visiting artists and professionals and a course dedicated to producing content for cell phones and other mobile devices. Was actively involved in fundraising, including securing donations to support public relations outreach and student film production grants.
- 1995 - 2000 Executive Vice-President, ALTAR ROCK FILMS, INC., New York.
- Duties: Participated in the administration of this independent production company. Aided in the development of a number of shorts and features. Reviewed scripts, schedules and budgets for proposed productions.
- 1993 - 2005 Instructor and Member of Master Faculty, INTERNATIONAL FILM & TELEVISION WORKSHOPS, Rockport, Maine.
- Duties: Taught workshops in film production and directing. Also involved in developing syllabi and course materials.
- 1993 Co-Director, Scriptwriting Summer School, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, Dublin, Ireland.
- Duties: Taught screenwriting and helped develop the curriculum for the budding film program at UCD.
- 1987 - 1993 Assistant Professor & Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Undergraduate Film & Television, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, New York.
- Duties: Full-time appointments, 1990-1992. Taught courses in Introductory Film Production, Narrative Filmmaking and Cinematography. Served for three years as Area Head of Beginning Film Production.
- 1985 - 1987 Producer, Writer and Director, WALTER J. KLEIN COMPANY, Charlotte, North Carolina.
- Duties: Produced and directed numerous educational and promotional shorts. Also served as cinematographer, art director, screenwriter and/or production manager on various productions.

EDUCATION

- 1982 - 1985 THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
SCHOOL OF CINEMA-TELEVISION, Los Angeles.
Master of Fine Arts, Film Production.
- 1976 - 1980 WILLIAMS COLLEGE, Williamstown, Massachusetts.
Bachelor of Arts, English and Comparative Literature,
Magna Cum Laude.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Gold Medal, 2000 New York International Film & Video Festival; Award for Special Artistic Merit, 1998 Huntington International Film Festival; selected for 1993 Sundance Film Festival; Honorable Mention, 1993 San Francisco International Film Festival; Silver Plaque, 1992 Chicago International Film Festival; Finalist, 1992 USA Film Festival; Gold "Chris" Award, 1989 Columbus International Film & Video Festival; Silver Star, 1987 Houston International Film Festival; Bronze Apple Award, 1987 National Educational Film & Video Festival; Bronze "Chris" Award; Toby and Leon S. Gold Award for Screenwriting, 1985; Exchange Fellow, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 1980-82; Phi Beta Kappa, 1978; Academy of American Poets Prize, 1978.

PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE - A SAMPLING**FEATURE FILM**

DADDY LONGLEGS (2009): *Daddy Longlegs* is the second feature production from Josh and Benny Safdie. Both of the Safdies studied with me while in our program at BU, and I am gratified to have played a small supporting role in their speedy ascent into the firmament of international cinema. *Daddy Longlegs* had its world premiere at the Directors' Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival and US premiere at the Sundance Film Festival. Position: Associate Producer

JANE STREET (1996): The pressure cooker environment of Manhattan makes for strange bedfellows. *Jane Street* is a comedy about the rocky relationship between a straight young man and two lesbian roommates who are trying to conceive a baby. Following its premiere at The British Film Institute's National Film Theatre in 1997, *Jane Street* has gone on to play at festivals from Finland to Australia. Positions: Writer and Director.

SHORT SUBJECTS

PERFORMANCE ANXIETY (2011): A wry documentary about my conflicted response to my young son's desire to seek fame and fortune by playing his violin on the street. Currently playing on the film festival circuit, screening at the Newport Beach, Fargo, Woods Hole and Williamstown Film Festivals. Positions: Producer, Director and Editor.

LIGHTING THE FLAME (2000): This lyrical portrait of the Triform Camphill Community in upstate New York offers a window on an unusual world: a place where people with and without disabilities live, work and learn in a communal environment. Positions: Producer and Director.

DON'T BE ALARMED (1994): A comic short about a street musician whose performance is interrupted by a chorus of car alarms. Led off the first episode of Comedy Central's *Musical Shorts* series. Positions: Writer and Director.

SUBWAY MAP (1992): A short film that applies the language of experimental films and music videos to the documentary form. A graffiti-ridden poster in a subway station becomes a bulletin board where strangers leave messages debating the issues of the day. Positions: Producer, Director, Cinematographer and Editor.

GET FIT! (1987): An educational short that uses the conventions of teen comedy to teach kids about the importance of fitness. Position: Director

I WONDER AS I WANDER (1985): An animated short that brings John Jacob Nyles celebrated carol to life. Position: Writer, Director and Animator.

NEW MEDIA

Owner/Operator, *www.secondcousincurlly.com*, a website devoted to bluegrass music. We produce approximately twenty-five "issues" a year. Each new post features at least one video that we produce, showcasing a band or individual.

FEATURE SCREENPLAYS

'77 (1992): A teen drama set in the funky haze of the late 1970's.

HURRICANE TRAIL (1990): A western about the Oregon Trail and the ideology of Manifest Destiny.

ULTIMATE HIGH (1989): A mystery about what happens when ideals get corrupted.

RECENT LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND REVIEWS

The SHORT! Guide to Production Management: Paper delivered, University Film & Video Association Conference in Orange, CA, August 2013.

Using Video for Academic Analysis: The Medium is the Medium: Paper delivered as part of a panel, "Roles in Production – Historical and New" which I also moderated, University Film & Video Association Conference in Chicago, August 2012.

Using Digital SLRs in Production Curricula: Panel Organizer and Moderator, University Film & Video Association Conference in Burlington, VT. As a participant in the panel, I also delivered the paper, *Learning from the Digital SLR: Camera and Production Fundamentals Revisited*. August 2010.

First Principles: The Fundamentals of Media Literacy: Paper delivered, University Film & Video Association Conference in Burlington, VT, August 2010.

Visual Literacy: A Love Story: Lecture presented as a faculty colloquium at the College of Communication, Boston University, December 2009 and as a public lecture at Carol Woods Retirement Community, Chapel Hill, NC. April 2010 .

Film Education in the U.S. and Europe, Participant in panel discussion organized by the Goethe Institut – Boston at the Harvard Film Archive. December 2010.

Directing: Best Kept Secrets: Panel Organizer and Moderator, University Film & Video Association Annual Conference; New Orleans, August 2009. As a participant on the panel, also delivered a paper entitled *Using Improvisation as a Directing Tool*.

Learning from the Extremes: Line Producing the Student Film: Invited lecture, University of Nevada – Las Vegas, March 2009.

Zhang Week: Helped organize a week-long examination of the career of director Zhang Yimou; Boston University, April 2009. Introduced two screenings and participated in post-screening discussions with other Zhang scholars.

Master Class with Michael Haneke: Moderated an in-depth examination of the directing techniques of noted European director Michael Haneke; Boston University, October 2007.

To What Extent Should Hollywood Inform Film Education? Organized and participated in this panel for the University Film & Video Association Annual Conference; Chapman University, Orange, California, August 2006.

The Aura of Authenticity: Invited lecture, Ohio University; Athens, Ohio, January 2006.

Learning from Film in a Digital Age: Paper delivered, University Film & Video Association Annual Conference; Columbia College, Chicago, August 2005.

Review of THE FILM DIRECTOR'S INTUITION by Judith Weston, *Journal of Film and Video* 57.1-2 (Spring/Summer 2005): 92-93.

Brief Introductory Lecture on the Cinema of Jean-Luc Godard, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, January 2005.

Stylistic Control in JU DOU: A brief introductory lecture as part of the Zhang Yimou retrospective at the Coolidge Corner Theatre; Brookline, Massachusetts, May 2004.

The Art of Casting: Paper delivered, University Film & Video Association Annual Conference; University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, August 2003.

The Evolution of Cinematic Language: Paper delivered, University Film & Video Association Annual Conference; University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, August 2003.

MISCELLANEOUS

Board of Directors, Massachusetts Production Coalition.

Advisory Board, Women in Film & Video – New England.

WGBH Community Advisory Board, 2007 – 2010.

Moderated numerous Q & A sessions with visiting filmmakers (Jason Reitman, Alejandro González Iñárritu, Alexander Payne, Adrian Grenier, Nick Cassavetes, Mike White, Jim Sheridan, Gary Fleder, etc.).