



NEWSLETTER



Behind the Lens with Jim Gilmore

An interview with Flagler College film professor

Written by Camille Crawford

As professor, filmmaker, and director of over 20 documentary films, Jim Gilmore uses his many talents to educate others about the power of film. His journey began when he was traveling between the suburbs of Chicago and southwest Michigan while attending Kalamazoo College, majoring in theater, communication arts, and political science. After dipping his toe into filmmaking, Gilmore pursued a master's degree in broadcasting and film at the University of Iowa, which, as he says, "is ultimately what allowed me to teach, though I actually had no desire to do so." This distinction arose from some bad experiences he had with teachers, so rather than calling himself one, Gilmore claims, "I've always seen myself more as a filmmaker than a teacher."

Because Gilmore's approach to education is not traditional, his specific outlook on the subject led him to institutions such as St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and now, Flagler College. He now passes along his experience in cinematography as a visiting filmmaker for Flagler's new cinematic arts major. Gilmore believes strongly that film has the power to open people to different world perspectives.

He explains his thinking by analogy, "Why do you try foreign food you've never tried before? Because it's good to try new things, right? Then sometimes you find you really like something you hadn't thought you would, and it becomes a passion." Distinguishing "film" from "movies," he views film as a distinct art form meant to affect people as individuals rather than appeal to the masses. As a member of the St. Augustine Film Society, Gilmore reflects on its importance, saying, "There's no cinema here in St. Augustine, so the Film Society fulfills a need people have for independent, foreign, and documentary films with important messages and thought-provoking perspectives." Challenging perspectives is what Gilmore believes a film society is equipped to do, and in his eloquent words, he conveys that it can be a showcase for meaningful films here in our small town.

Critique Corner

The Last Tourist By Camille Crawford

The Last Tourist directed by Tyson Sadley is a complex documentary that sheds light on the hidden, dark side of mass tourism. It explores the many environmental, social, and cultural impacts of the travel culture, illuminating the generational harm done to local communities, wildlife, and ecosystems. Through stunning visuals and touching interviews with tourism industry experts, activists, and locals.



The film raises viewers' awareness on their impact and urges them to reform their travel habits and consider more ethical travel. While this film can at times feel hard-hitting, overall it addresses a necessary message about responsible tourism in the modern world.

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FILM TRIVIA

1. Which actor famously ad-libbed the line "Here's Johnny!" in *The Shining*?
2. What was the first feature-length animated movie ever released?
3. In which 1993 film does Tom Hanks play a lawyer diagnosed with AIDS?

last months answers:
1. *Pulp Fiction* 2. *The Matrix* 3. *Finding Nemo*

NOVEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

DRIVING MADELINE NOVEMBER. 3

Unitarian- Universalist Fellowship | 7:00pm

Driving Madeline or *Une Belle Course* is a French drama that follows a sentimental journey between an elderly woman, Madeleine, and her taxi driver, Charles, as he drives her across Paris. During the ride, Madeleine recounts key moments from her life, revealing profound and sometimes painful memories. Through their conversation, both characters form an unexpected bond, making the trip transformative for them both.

St. Augustine Yacht Club | 6:30pm

The Last Tourist is a documentary that explores the damaging impact of mass tourism on global communities, wildlife, and the environment. It sheds light on exploitative practices in the travel industry, such as the mistreatment of animals and the commodification of local cultures. The film also offers a hopeful vision for responsible tourism, emphasizing the need for more ethical and sustainable ways to explore the world.

THE LAST TOURIST NOVEMBER. 19

THE SALT OF THE EARTH NOVEMBER. 22

Waterworks | 7:00pm

The Salt of the Earth is a documentary that chronicles the life and work of Brazilian photographer Sebastião Salgado. The film explores Sebastião's decades-long career, capturing powerful and often haunting images of human suffering, displacement, and the impact of industrialization on the environment. Through stunning visuals and reflective narration, the film is a meditation on humanity, resilience, and environmental responsibility.

The Temple Bet Yam | 7:00pm

The historical drama, *The Promised Land*, set in 18th-century Denmark, follows the determined soldier Ludvig Kahlen as he attempts to cultivate barren land and build a prosperous life. Facing harsh natural conditions from local landowners, Kahlen's pursuit of success tests his resilience and integrity. The film explores themes of survival, power, and the human will to overcome adversity in a rugged, unforgiving landscape.

THE PROMISED LAND NOVEMBER. 24

Film Society Highlights

SAFS HALLOWEEN PARTY

Only hours before halloween night, the St. Augustine Film Society celebrated with some spooky fun. All those that came had a fun filled time with friends enjoying delicious mulled wine. In the spirit of halloween two cult classic films were displayed, *A Birthday Horror* Directed and Filmed by our intern Kasey Valentine and a korean monster film; *The Host*, directed by same director who produced "Parasite".



Thank you to all of our wonderful Advisory Board who made this evening possible; Cathy, Ginny, Vic, Karla, Bill, Gail, Rosie, and Ruth.

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A BIG THANKS TO OUR NEWSLETTER STAFF!

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