

**THE DIRECTOR, THE PRODUCER, THE EDITOR, AND THE CRITIC:
FOUR DOCUMENTARIES ABOUT FILM
OLLI at Illinois – Fall Semester 2020**

Mondays, 3:30-6:30 p.m. – August 31 through September 28 (4 weeks; no class meeting on September 7-Labor Day)

**Instructor: Christine Catanzarite
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Format: This course will be offered online-only via Zoom.

The introduction, lecture, and film screening will be conducted as a Webinar. Following the film, students will log out, and sign in to the Meeting for the post-film discussion.

The world of film has given us magic at 24 frames per second - and delving into the histories behind the silver screen and its legendary figures can be a fascinating story in its own right. This 4-week course will present four documentary films that provide a very different look at the world of motion pictures: a career biography of one of Hollywood's most successful and recognizable directors; a stylish look at the improbable career of one of the most influential producers of the 1970s and 1980s; an examination of the history and impact of the "invisible art" of movie editing; and the illustrious life and career of one of film criticism's towering figures. Each class period will include an introductory presentation about that week's film, followed by a screening of the film and a lively, interactive discussion.

COURSE SCHEDULE

August 31 – *Directed by John Ford*

Directed by Peter Bogdanovich; originally released in 1971; re-released in 2006 with additional footage (1 hour, 50 minutes)

Legendary director John Ford is profiled by director and film historian Peter Bogdanovich in this film that includes an overview of Ford's influential films and interviews with the actors who starred in his films, including Henry Fonda, James Stewart, Maureen O'Hara, and John Wayne, as well as Ford himself.

September 7 – Labor Day – No class meeting

September 14 – *The Kid Stays in the Picture*

Directed by Nanette Burstein and Brett Morgen; 2002 (1 hour, 33 minutes)

This film chronicles the rise of Robert Evans from radio and film star to production chief of Paramount Pictures to independent producer. The film is narrated by Evans, a colorful Hollywood figure whose films include *Love Story*, *Rosemary's Baby*, the first two *Godfather* films, *Chinatown*, and *Urban Cowboy*.

September 21 – *The Cutting Edge: The Magic of Movie Editing*

Directed by Wendy Apple; 2004 (1 hour, 38 minutes)

Note: This film is a substitution from the title listed in the original course description.

This film examines the history and craft of one of the most important – yet overlooked – aspects of filmmaking. It traces the origins and influences of various editing styles, the close relationship of the editor and director, and the editing techniques that can be employed to create meaning and time and

space within the finished film. The documentary features interviews with important figures as well as clips from groundbreaking films to illustrate the impact of editing throughout film history.

September 28 – *Life Itself*

Directed by Steve James; 2014 (1 hour, 58 minutes)

A biographical documentary of Roger Ebert, including interviews with him during the final months of his life interspersed with interviews with friends, family, and colleagues including Martin Scorsese, Werner Herzog, Errol Morris, and Ava DuVernay. They reflect on his Urbana origins, his influence as a film critic who was often more popular than the subjects he wrote about, and how his life and career were changed by illness and disability.