



OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

Department of Communication and Theatre Arts

WELCOME NEW FACULTY & STAFF

August 26, 2019

D'An Ball - Marketing Specialist



Ms. Ball earned a B.F.A. in Graphic & Multimedia Design from Appalachian State and her M.A. in Humanities from ODU. She's currently a Ph.D. candidate in the

English Department at ODU, completing her dissertation on the rhetorical appeals of immersion in multi sensory extended reality environments. D'An has earned the 2018 Phi Kappa Phi Endowed Scholarship as well as Graduate Research Assistantship & Fellowship awards from ODU's English Department. She was the Marketing & Communications lead at VMASC for 8 years. Prior to coming to ODU, she worked in marketing & design for government, industry, and advertising agencies. Her and her husband live in Suffolk with their 2 kids and enjoy 3D modeling and making video games together.

marketing communications is used for community and social benefit, as well as research in popular and visual media, ranging from advertising on social media to portrayals of disability in theater. He sees his 2013 TED Global talk on the language of digital culture as a career highlight, along with his new book, *Doing Academic Research*, which is written to assist students in creating publishable research, which came out this summer. He is an avid animal person (raising two demons that are currently pretending to be dogs) and art/music/food lover.

Brittney Harris, MFA - Visiting Assistant Professor, Theatre



Ms. Harris earned a Master of Fine Arts in Acting with an emphasis in Cultural Enrichment from the University of Georgia, 2018. She earned a Bachelor of Fine

Arts in Acting, Minor in Communications from Old Dominion University, 2011. Prior to joining our faculty, she was a Post MFA Teaching Fellow/ Instructor of Theatre in the Department of Theatre at Virginia Tech School of Performing Arts. Brittney's research efforts are supported and documented by the practices of PaR (Performance as Research). Her areas of expertise are in Activist Theatre, Solo Performance Development, Diversity/Inclusion, and youth-based Cultural Enrichment programming. Currently, she is workshoping/touring two independent projects exploring the effects of social media on the personal psyche of POC (People of Color) millennials. Specific topics explored, but not limited to, are Race and Gender, Domestic Violence Awareness and Diversity/Inclusion. In 2018 & 2019, she was invited,

as a presenter and artist, to workshop two solo performance projects, *The Intersection* and *Being B.A.D.*, at several national interdisciplinary conferences, including the Black Theatre Network Conference, NC Women's Theatre Festival, Annual African, African American, & Diaspora Studies (AAAD) Conference and 2019 Gender, Bodies & Technology Conference: TechnoLogics: Power and Resistance. Her personal aesthetics for performative and outreach initiatives is creating an open creative forum for individuals that is free from racial or gender predispositions and limitations. She frequently refers to Theatre for the Oppressed Practitioner Augusto Boal saying, "We are all actors: being a citizen is not living in society, it is changing it."

Dr. Victoria Jennings - Visiting Assistant Professor, Lifespan Communication



Dr. Victoria Jennings earned her PhD from The Pennsylvania State University's Department of Communication Arts & Science in 2017. Prior to joining our faculty, she

was a World Campus Instructor for PSU's COMM department. Generally, Victoria's research interests focus on applying a lifespan perspective to understanding the social support processes that occur within and among networks of families who endure non-normative stressors, as well as how those processes affect relational, physical, and mental well-being. Victoria's forthcoming publications specifically examine how individuals within wounded warrior military families emerge as resilient

Dr. Ted Gournelos - Associate Professor of Strategic Communication & Executive Director of Digital Strategies firm



Dr. Ted Gournelos received his Ph.D. from the Institute of Communications Research at the University of Illinois in 2008. He also holds an

MFA (Sculpture) from the University of Illinois and an MBA from the Crummer Graduate School of Business at Rollins College, where he was previously an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Studies. His research interests include studying how integrated

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in order to clarify how the communication of support within and among social networks influences resilience in the face of extreme adversity. She was a July 2018 Graduate of Presidential Leadership Scholar program, wherein she was selected as one of 59 scholars in the fourth annual class after a rigorous application and review process. The PLS program is a collaboration among the presidential centers of George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Lyndon B. Johnson. Scholars are selected based on leadership growth potential and personal leadership projects aimed at improving civic engagement or social good by addressing a problem or need in their community, the country, or the world. Dr. Jennings is also One of the founding organizers of "Run to Remember- VB" - an annual Memorial Day race in Virginia Beach that honors our Nations fallen service members and donates 100% of proceeds to nonprofit organizations that support families of fallen service members. Since it's origination 7 years ago, Run to Remember VB has raised over \$140,000 to support these efforts. Most importantly she is the mother of 2 wild and sweet little girls. Her oldest is 3 years and 8 months, and youngest just turned 2 last week.

Dr. Annemarie Navar-Gill - Visiting Assistant Professor, Digital Strategies



Dr. Annemarie Navar-Gill earned my PhD in Communication Studies from the University of Michigan in 2019. Her research focuses on intersections and flows between the media and tech industries. Her current book project focuses on the US television industry's adoption of surveillant data collection and social media technologies. She is also in the very early stages of some work about Silicon Valley companies' strategic communication practices and what they draw from the logic of entertainment. She was a 2018-2019 University of Michigan Predoctoral Fellow in Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences and has published research in a variety of venues including the journals *Television and New Media* and *Popular Communication*. In her free time she likes to play video games and hang out with her ill-behaved cat, Mabel.

Priya Vashist, MFA - Assistant Professor of Film



Ms. Vashist earned her MFA from San Francisco State University in Cinema Production in 2019. Her research interests include Representation of queer people of color on screen - especially queer South Asian women in films. A film she edited called *3 short stories of Pain and Glory* directed by Ronald Burgess, has been selected as a semi-finalist at South Shore Film Festival. She partially paid for her graduate education through monies she earned as an architect in India designing a community hall.

FISCAL TECH POSITION

Goodbye to Kristen Sahut

It is with no small degree of sadness that we will be saying our farewell to our fiscal technician, **Ms. Kristen Sahut**. Ms. Sahut has accepted a position working for Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Her last day will be September 24. Kristen was integral to our department's successful recovery from a crippling audit and with helping us gain a stronger understanding of our budget and how to stay fiscally compliant and responsible. We wish her well in her new position. The job ad went live on Monday, August 19 and will run through August 30. We will look to review applicants and settle on an interviewee list during the first week in September. We will hopefully conduct interviews the week of September 9 and make an offer to someone during that week. Kristen's last day is September 24. I hope to have someone on board by September 17 so that there can be a proper hand off. That said, there are no guarantees that things will go according to plan, so I thank you for your patience as we figure things out.

Please share accomplishments such as publications, awards, conference and festival acceptances, reviews, and other recognitions, and we will publish them in future bulletins:

[Submit content here.](#)

Overall, in 2018-2019, faculty had 11 works published and 12 more accepted for publication, presented work at 36 conferences, performed in 37 juried or invited competitions and festivals, and received 22 grants and awards totaling \$44,740.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

DAVID MALLIN received the University's 2019 Teaching with Technology.

TOM SOCHA received the College of Arts & Letters' Burgess Award.

ANDREA BATTLE-COFFER received the College of Arts & Letters' Staff Member of the Year award.

KATHERINE HAMMOND was selected by the University as one of the seven SCHEV Outstanding Faculty nominees for 2019.

AVI SANTO was awarded the 2019 President Broderick Diversity Award.

KATHERINE HAMMOND and **AVI SANTO** were awarded 2019 President John R. Broderick Diversity Champion Awards.

GARY BECK, CARLA HARRELL, DANIELLE JACKSON, and **ALISON LIETZEMAYER** won the Effective Practice award at the 2019 Online Learning Consortium's Accelerate conference.

KATHERINE HAMMOND received two Meritorious Faculty Awards from KCACTF for her work on *Anon(ymous)*: one for Excellence in Directing and one for Excellence in Sound Design.

CARLA HARRELL won the Excellence in Advising—Faculty Advisor award for NACADA at the local, regional and global levels.

DAVID MALLIN received two awards from the 2019 BEA Film competition. *18 Mornings* received an Award of Excellence in the Narrative Category of the Faculty Film & Video Competition and *Hurricane Roads* received an Award of Excellence in the Narrative Scriptwriting Competition for Short Subjects.

GRANTS

ALLISON PAGE was awarded a \$10,000 PURS grant from the Honors College at ODU for her collaboration with undergraduate Carmen Jones on researching policing technologies accompanied by a panel discussion on prison reform and recidivism.

GARY BECK received a \$3500 grant from the University of Arizona Social & Behavioral Sciences Research Institute for proposed research in collaboration with our ex-colleague Dr. Maggie Pitts focused on Communication Pathways to Relational Resilience among Military Spouses.

AVI SANTO received a \$5600 grant from Tidewater's Children Foundation for a collaborative project with ForKids to develop a STEAM and resiliency program for children experiencing homelessness called Resilient Robots.

CREATIVE RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

The **DANCE PROGRAM** hosted Li Chiao-Ping's Dance Company for a performance of *Landed: A Multimedia Exploration of Immigration, Identity, and Finding Home*.

The **THEATRE PROGRAM** performed *Anon(ymous)* by Naomi Iizuka, accompanied by a panel discussion on immigration and refugees in Hampton Roads.

The **THEATRE PROGRAM** put on a production of *Getting Out* from February 20-March 3 directed by **DR. CAROLINA CONTE**.

American Dreamer, directed by Derrick Borte and produced by the Film Program, premiered at the Los Angeles Film Festival and screened at the Richmond International Film Festival before being acquired by Saban Entertainment.

STEPHEN CAMPBELL, cinematographer for *The Walking Dead*, participated in a screening of the Season 9 finale and Q&A at University Theatre.

DR. ELIZABETH ELLCESSOR, Assistant Professor of Media Studies at the University of Virginia and author of *Restricted Access: Media, Disability, and the Politics of Participation* (NYU, 2016) and co-editor of *Disability Media Studies* (NYU, 2017) gave a talk on her research and hosted a workshop on how to incorporate disability studies into classroom curriculum.

DR. VINCE WALDRON of Arizona State University visited our campus thanks to **DR. SOCHA** and the LSDC program.

DUANE CYRUS was in residence at ODU from February 23-March 1. During that time he taught classes and developed a new work with students for the Spring Dance concert in April.

Theatre students **BLAIR HEINZ** and **JEFFREY HADDOCK** made it to the finals in Partner Acting at the KCACTF competition in Spartanburg, SC, with **KATHERINE HAMMOND** as part of the recognition they received for *Anon(ymous)* made it to the finals (Top 16 out of 190) of the partner acting competition.

Our Dance students were selected to perform *NONFICTION*, choreographed by **JAMES MORROW**, at the Gala Performance of the ACDA festival in March - one of seven dances chosen from among 23 universities and over 300 students.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DAVID MALLIN and **MEGAN THOMPSON** were awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor.

KYLE NICHOLAS advanced to Master Lecturer.

ALISON LIETZEMAYER was recognized as a University Distinguished Teacher.

KONRAD WINTERS retired from our Department in May.

SEAN SADRI left our department to join the faculty of the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa.

After November, the Department successfully completed an audit. Thanks to **KRISTEN SAHUT** for getting us back into compliance.

SUMMER KUDOS

CARLA HARRELL won the Global Outstanding Advising Award - Faculty Academic Advising - Certificate of Merit from NACADA. She had previously won in this categories at the State and regional levels.

TED GOURNELOS' book *Doing Academic Research* came out this summer. Also, he was granted tenure at ODU.

MEREDITH MAGOUN was asked the chair a session on "Designing for Plus Sized Bodies" at the 2020 USITT Conference.

DAVID MALLIN'S *American Dreamer* will receive its official theatrical release on September 20, 2019.

KATHERINE HAMMOND served as Production Supervisor for Public Works Virginia/VSC on their production of *The TEMPEST* (playing Aug. 30-Sept 1). Puppets, Live Music, cast of 70!

JAMES MORROW had a busy summer: He performed the solo "I met the soul walking along the path" in Scotland as part of the juried Dance-Forms 76th International Choreographers' Showcase. He set a solo that was selected to perform at L.A.'s largest juried dance festival: Hart Pulse Dance Company's 12th Annual MixMatch Dance Festival! He was commissioned to choreograph work for Chicago Dance Crash's "Lil Pine Nut: The Learning Curve of Pinocchio." In late September, his choreographed piece, "We Don't Dig Holes to Bury Ourselves" will be performed by Rebecca Levy at the Harvest Chicago Contemporary Dance Festival.

ODU's first **PRE-COLLEGIATE SUMMER DANCE INTENSIVE** was a rousing success. 35 dance artists between the ages of 13-18yrs old participated in four dance classes a day taught by ODU dance faculty and alumni, watched two professional dance concerts and performed for a packed house of friends and family to demonstrate all they learned throughout the week. **JAMES MORROW** was the Intensive's director.

MEGAN THOMPSON performed in The Richmond Dance Festival May 10-11. She completed 70 hour Heritage Training Program in Pilates, Denver, CO on June 22nd.

ALLISON PAGE had two articles accepted for publication in *Communication, Culture, and Critique*, and in the *International Journal of Cultural Studies*.

CRYSTAL NOLEN received a Hampton Roads NAACP Award.

AVI SANTO joined the Board of Directors at the Hunton YMCA.

GARY BECK published a co-authored essay with **K.A. RAFFERTY**, "'You are not alone:' Advice giving for parents of children living with complex chronic conditions" in *Health Communication*. He and his wife **TORI** also welcomed twins **HOLDEN** and **HALEY** into their family. They were born on May 21st and have been lovingly demanding their attention ever since!

upcoming events



**OLD DOMINION
UNIVERSITY**

Department of Communication and Theatre Arts

PRESENTS

THURSDAY
September 26th
6:30-8:30 PM

MARJOUN & THE FLYING HEADSCARF

A film by **SUSAN YOUSSEF** Produced by **MARJOUN LLC** with **MAN KIT LAM** Screenplay by **SUSAN YOUSSEF**
With **DOMINIC RAINS, CLARA KHOURY, VERACITY BUTCHER, TAREK BISHARA** and **MARAM ALIAHMI**
Music by **MENNO CRUIJSEN** In association with **NORTH OF NOW** Executive Producer **ANDREW RENZI,**
SHARI SPRINGER BERMAN, DEAN CYCON, NOHA EL-SHAREIF, DEREK YIP, AMIR QURESHI, BASHAR ARAFEH,
THEODORE GILDRED, LUAI ABOU-EMARA, LAPIS MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA FZ-LLC
Co-Producer **HIRA JAFRI** Editor **SUSAN YOUSSEF, MAN KIT LAM** Production Designer **MAN KIT LAM**

WWW.MARJOUN.COM ODU FILM INSTITUTE



THIS EVENT IS GRACIOUSLY CO-SPONSORED BY:

The College of Arts & Letters, The Honors College, The Strome Entrepreneurial Center, The Women's Center, Student Engagement & Enrollment Services, The Department of English, The Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies, The Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice, The Department of Women's Studies, The Department of World Languages & Cultures, The Graduate Program in International Studies, The Institute for the Humanities, The Institute for Jewish Studies & Interfaith Understanding.

**UNI
VER
SITY
THEATRE**
47 hampton
blvd | norfolk

followed by
a discussion
with the
DIRECTOR



**SUSAN
YOUSSEF**

RSVP for this
Free Event at
ODUArtsTix.com
4 tickets max/person

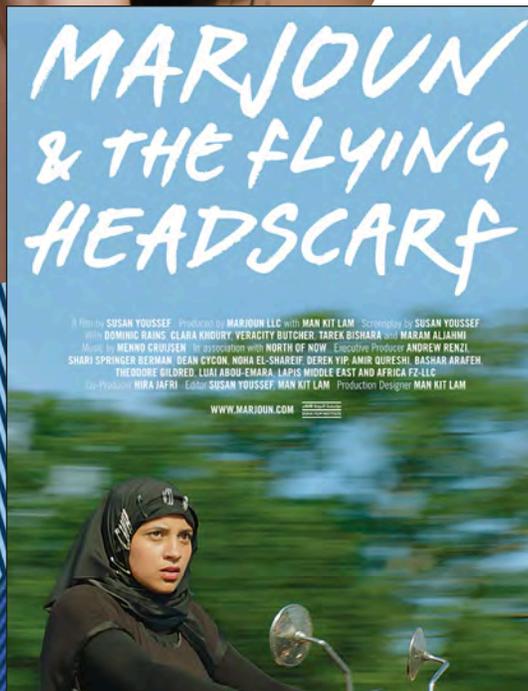
SUSAN YOUSSEF JOIN US



THURSDAY
September 26

12:30-1:30 PM

STROME
Entrepreneurial
Center



On Thursday, September 26 from 12:30-1:30 PM in the **Strome Entrepreneurial Center**, students can have lunch with acclaimed indie filmmaker, **Susan Youssef**, and talk about challenges and strategies for financing, producing, and distributing independent cinema.

Ms. Youssef will also offer her perspective as a woman of color in the film industry on how to make certain marginalized stories get told and seen by audiences. Pizza will be provided.



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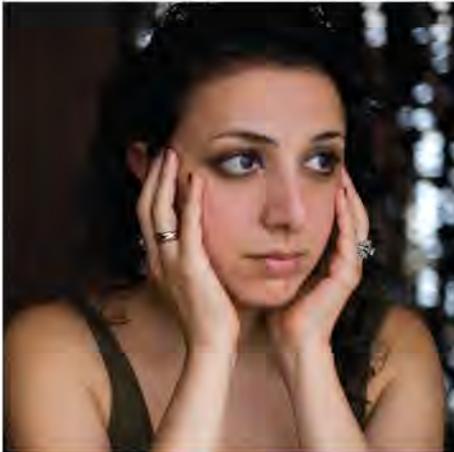
in contemporary US media



Arab American Representations

Friday, September 27

BAL 9024 from 2-4 PM



Susan Youssef is the writer/director of two dramatic features, a documentary, and seven shorts that have been official selections of film festivals such as Venice, Toronto International, and Sundance, as well as have been programmed in museums including Tate Modern, New Museum, and Museum of Modern Art – New York. She is a Fulbright Fellow, Princess Grace Award Winner, and 21st Century Fox Director Fellow. Youssef has been a Guest Speaker at Yale, Harvard, Princeton, the State Department, and many other institutions around the world. Prior to filmmaking, she was a schoolteacher and journalist in Beirut.



Dr. Kristian Petersen is Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies at Old Dominion University. His intellectual interests include Theory and Method in the Study of Religion, Islamic Studies, Chinese Religions, and Media Studies. He is host of the “New Books in Religion and New Books in Islamic Studies” podcasts. He is the author of *Interpreting Islam in China: Pilgrimage, Scripture, and Language in the Han Kitab* (Oxford University Press, 2017). He is currently writing a monograph entitled *The Cinematic Lives of Muslims* and working as part of the team developing De Gruyter’s new series, *Introductions to Digital Humanities: Religion*.



Shadi Bayadisy is a Lecturer of World Languages and Cultures at Old Dominion University. Mr. Bayadisy graduated from the University of Texas, Austin with a master’s degree in Second Language Acquisition. Later, he completed his Ph.D. classes at Indiana University, Bloomington with a focus on the Middle East and the study of women’s non-governmental organizations in Israel. His research explores the status of Palestinian women in Israel and their struggle against the patriarchal society and the state. The organizations researched, range from women’s, feminist and LGBT. These organizations receive their funding from international donors, which often times is faced with criticism and rejection from the local community. Another area of interest is socio-linguistics, in which the Palestinian dialect is analyzed within the Israeli context; interaction among Palestinians in Israel with speakers of Hebrew and its effects on their Arabic. Finally, Middle Eastern society, with its rich area of cultures and languages always adds to the depth and interest in continuing research of its varieties and contradictions.

HOMEsick

A world premiere, written and directed by
Deborah Wallace

Produced by ODUREp in conjunction with ODU's Literary Festival
Produced with generous support from the Hellenic Studies Endowment



ODUArtsTix.com
Goode Theatre, Oct 10-20

WENDELL
COOPER
AKA
MX. OOPS

-
ARTIST
IN
RESIDENCE
OCT 23-27

-
PRESENTATION
OCT 24,
12:25 PM
DIEHN 1202



"INTIMATE AND UNSETTLING...
SUPERBLY PLAYED"
SHERIDAN / HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"BORTE KNOWS HOW TO CREATE
NEAR-UNBEARABLE TENSION"
PATRICK BRADLEY / DAILY DEAD

"A STUNNER -
9 OUT OF 10 STARS"
JOSHUA SNEKOT / FILM THREAT

"DELIGHTFULLY BOLD"
A.W. KAUTNER / THE MOVIE FILE

"GAFFIGAN IS AMAZING"
DERRICK ANN STAB / BOUND THEOREM

JIM GAFFIGAN

ROBBIE JONES

ISABEL ARRAIZA

AMERICAN DREAMER

SABAN FILMS PRESENTS A STORYLAND PICTURES PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH XYZ FILMS, ODU FILM AND SUGAR STUDIOS LA A FILM BY DERRICK BORTE "AMERICAN DREAMER" STARRING JIM GAFFIGAN, ROBBIE JONES, ISABEL ARRAIZA, ALEJANDRO HERNANDEZ, ERIC D. HILL AND TAMMY BLANCHARD. COSTUME DESIGNER: JESSICA ZAVALA. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: MARY VERNIEV, JONATHAN GRAY, JUO REED, CHRISTOPHER RUSH, HARRINGTON NATE BOLOTIN, PIP NGO. PRODUCED BY SCOTT LOCHMUS. WRITTEN BY DERRICK BORTE AND DANIEL FORTE. DIRECTED BY DERRICK BORTE.



SABAN FILMS



XYZ FILMS

ODU FILM

SUGAR STUDIOS LA

SHOWTIMES

Naro Cinema
in Norfolk

Thursday, Sept 19
7:15pm

Sat, Sept 21
9:15pm

BROWN BAG
WORKS-IN-PROGRESS
LUNCH SERIES



09/24: Brittany Harris, MFA and Dr. Annemarie Navar-Gill (University Theatre 1002)

10/31: Priya Vashist, MFA and Dr. Ted Gournelos (BAL 9024)

11/26: Marilyn Marloff, MFA and Dr. Victoria Jennings (Diehn 1202)

01/30: Dr. Brendan O'Hallarn and Dr. Danielle Jackson (BAL 9024)

02/27: Jim Lyden, MFA and Dr. Fran Hassencahl (University Theatre 1002)

03/26: Dr. Carolina Conte and TBA (Diehn 1202)

04/23: Dr. Kyle Nicholas and Carla Harrell (BAL 9024)