ABOUT THE PROGRAM
The film, television and interactive media (FTIM) program exemplifies interdepartmental inquiry and multicultural exploration. The major and minor focus on analysis of film style and content, film history and the relationship between cinema and culture. Students will develop an awareness of cinema as a complex narrative form. The program teaches the aesthetic and syntactical conventions of moving images and how this language has developed over time. The curriculum provides a broad overview of the history of the moving image, develops analytical skill in cinematic style and cultural meaning, and ensures appreciation of the practical and technical side of motion-picture production.

What makes the program distinctive?
A field especially congenial to interdisciplinary study, film, television and interactive media is a practical complement to a range of established concentrations. Majors and minors will take the program’s core course, “Introduction to the Moving Image,” along with elective courses. Students get to meet with distinguished filmmakers and also undertake their own productions.

FAST FACTS

- Current number of majors and minors: 54
- Number of faculty: 14
- Can you minor in this program? Yes
- Emphasis within the major: The program stresses the study of film as a cultural and historical text; it also explores the medium today as the interface among connectivity, digital technology and creativity.
- Popular second majors: English, European cultural studies, theater arts
- Website: brandeis.edu/programs/filmstudies
ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

Course offerings
Recent courses include “Hitchcock’s Movies,” “Italian Films, Italian Histories” and “Bollywood: Popular Film, Genre and Society.”

Brand-new facilities
The Wasserman Cinematheque boasts state-of-the-art display technology, allowing for both 35mm projection and D-Cinema with DCP, as well as multiple formats of high-resolution video screenings. The Getz Multimedia Lab has 20 editing stations with Final Cut Studio and runs workshops on media literacy. The program has three-chip HD cameras that students can borrow after attending a training workshop.

Internships
Students can receive course credit for internships. Recent placements include positions at MTV, the Weinstein Company, the Mark Gordon Company, Bedford Falls Productions and Focus Features.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Jason Kohn ’01 won Best Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival in 2007 with his first film, “Manda Bala.” Jefferson Arak ’07 received a Project for Peace grant from the Kathryn Wasserman Davis Foundation to develop a media lab in Mexico. Avner Swerdlow ’10, among others, has graduated from the Peter Stark Producing Program at the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Student-run clubs
The Brandeis Film Collective is Brandeis’ outlet for aspiring filmmakers. BTV, the official student-run Brandeis television station, has aired original Brandeis student-produced programming 24 hours a day since 2007.

Study abroad
FTIM majors and minors are welcome to study abroad in any approved Brandeis program. They also may study through the CIEE Prague program and enroll in courses at FAMU, the renowned film and television school in the Czech Republic.

Film screenings and premieres
The program’s “Meet the Artist” screenings have enriched and expanded the experience of viewing each movie by having the actors and directors present. Screenings have included “Standard Operating Procedure,” with Oscar winner Errol Morris; “Tabloid,” the latest film by Morris; “Encounters at the End of the World,” with Werner Herzog, Oscar nominee for best documentary feature; “Frozen River,” with Melissa Leo, Oscar winner; “The Visitor,” with Richard Jenkins, Oscar nominee for best actor; and “Revolutionary Road,” with Michael Shannon, Oscar nominee for best actor in a supporting role. In September 2010, director Tony Goldwyn ’82 premiered “Conviction” with actor Sam Rockwell. Rod Lurie brought “Straw Dogs” to campus, and Cosima Spender debuted “Without Gorky,” a documentary film about her grandfather, Arshile Gorky.

AFTER BRANDEIS

Graduates of film, television and interactive media go on to study film at the University of Southern California, the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University and the London Film School. They also pursue graduate degrees in law, English and business.

“The film, television and interactive media program at Brandeis not only sparked my interest in the world of film and television, it also helped me discover what I want to make my films about. The program provided a nurturing environment where I could hone my producing and directing skills while still immersed in the academic environment of a highly academic liberal arts school.”

Avner Swerdlow ’10, FTIM major