

MOVIELAND

In the last ten years or so, the U of C has quietly become a contender in film.

The extracurricular film clubs have gotten stronger too. Abe Frank, a fourth-year, is the programming director of Doc Films.

The Committee on Cinema and Media Studies (CMS) is vibrant and highly regarded. Julia Gibbs runs the Film Studies Center for CMS.

This is our new, beautiful Kineton projector. Now we can project 35mm as well as 16mm.



This is a very big deal, because a lot of film programs don't screen on film. The expense is prohibitive. People are kind of wowed. This kind of space doesn't exist at other places. Harvard doesn't have it, Berkeley doesn't.

Associate Professor Jackie Stewart, AM'93, PhD'99

You get spoiled here, and then you can't leave!

Doc Films has been around for about 70 years. It started out showing documentaries, of course, a few times a week. Gradually it started showing more things, trying to make some more money.



We plan to build up Doc's collection. Every now and then you hear of a film distribution company going out of business and selling off films, and then we usually try to buy some. Once the big companies sell their prints, they just disappear into private collections, and you can't get them.

Compared to Doc, Fire Escape Films is a young group, but they have serious ambition. Their motto is "we make movies."

The group was founded in 1995 by two students with a good idea: to make feature films. But they didn't really know how to go about it. It went through a long *Lord of the Flies* period—including when I got here. Things are a bit more organized now.

Maria recently finished editing her first film.

I was editing for a week solid, and sleeping on an air mattress at Jeff's apartment. Then a panel of faculty screened the rough cut and gave suggestions for edits.

The faculty critique it as a serious film, comparing it to French directors. It's so weird! It's kind of fun.

Second-year Maria Cecire

Jeff Sousa, fourth-year, programming director, known to his colleagues as "grandfather and chief overlord of Fire Escape."

Second-year Julianna Chen

The University is great. There's a lot of support, and I'm very happy. I wouldn't want to go to film school. If I was at film school, I couldn't make film—because everybody would want to. At the U of C, we don't have technical equipment; all we have is our wits.