

Just for Laughs
A Mini-Course on Comedy in Film and on TV
(2013 Film and Media Studies/Cinema Studies Symposium)

February 27 and February 28, 2013
Sweigart Auditorium (Room 115)

Wednesday, February 27

When Boy Meets Girl, All Hell Breaks Loose (in Hollywood)

- 8:30-11:20 a.m.** **Screening and Student Presentations/Discussion:
The Newspaper Comedy and the Screwball Tradition**
- 8:30-10:30 a.m. Movie: *Woman of the Year* (1942, George Stevens, 114 min.)
- 10:10-11:20 a.m. Student Presentations/Roundtable: The Newspaper Comedy
- 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.** **Screening: Wilder Times in Movies—The Gender- and Genre-
Bending Movie of a Master**
- 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. *Some Like It Hot* (1959, Billy Wilder, 120 min.)
- 2:40-3:30 p.m.** **Student Paper Panel: What’s So Funny about Sex and Gender?**
- 4:00-4:20 p.m.** **Kick-off: Comedy in the Movies and on TV**
symposium overview and over-arching issues and themes
- 4:30-5:30** **Keynote Speaker: Acclaimed Comic Actor Tom Papa (Rider ’90)**
Tom will talk about his career as a writer and actor in film and television comedies. A veteran stand-up comedian, Tom will share his experience about how to prepare for a life in comedy and the media. Tom Papa hosted NBC’s “The Marriage Ref” (2010-2011), starred opposite Matt Damon in Steven Soderberg’s *The Informant* and opposite Paul Giamatti in the animated feature *The Haunted World of El Super Besto*.
- 5:30-5:55 p.m.** **Opening Reception for Students, Faculty, and Guests**
- 6:00-7:00 p.m.** **Featured Speaker: Kevin Lally—Running Wilder:
The Comedies of Billy Wilder**
Author of *Wilder Times: The Life of Billy Wilder* will speak about this master of the cinema and his comedies.
- 7:10-8:10 p.m.** **Roundtable: Classic and Contemporary Comedy in American Cinema**
With Kevin Lally, Dr. Vanita Neelakanta, Christopher Halliday, and Dr. Cynthia Lucia
- 8:15-10:00 p.m.** **Screening: Wes Anderson’s Quirky Humor**
Moonrise Kingdom (2012, Wes Anderson, 94 min.)

Thursday, February 28

It's All in the Timing: Comedy and Its Social/Historical Contexts

**9:30 a.m.-11:25 a.m. Screenings: Hollywood Comedy—
Silent and Pre-Production Code**

9:30-10:00 a.m. Silent Comedy: *Easy Street* (1917, Charles Chaplin, 24 min.)

10:00-11:25 a.m. Pre-Code Hollywood: *Red-Headed Woman* (1932, Jack Conway, 79 min.)

11:30a.m.-1:00 p.m. Faculty Presentations:

What Makes It Funny?

Dr. Miriam Mills, Department of Theatre and Dance; FMS Steering Committee

Gender and the Television Sitcom

Dr. Barry Janes, Department of Communication and Journalism

1:10-4:20 p.m. Student Presentations/Discussion:

1:10-1:50 p.m. **The Comic Hybrid: Cops, Spies, Shrinks, Kids, and Time Travelers**

2:00-2:50 p.m. **Over the Top: Satire, Parody, and Paranoia**

3:00-3:50 p.m. **In a Family Way: The Body, Heart, and Soul of Comedy**

4:00-4:30 **Comic Inflections in Drama and Tragedy**

**4:30-6:20 Screening: Hollywood Comedy After the Production Code
Shampoo (1975, Hal Ashby, 109 min.)**

6:30-7:00 p.m. Reception for Students, Faculty, and Guests

7:00-8:00 p.m. Featured Speaker: Dr. Thomas Doherty, Brandeis University

“Hollywood Comedy Before, Under, and After the Production Code”

Professor Doherty is a prize-winning author, noted scholar and lecturer specializing in multiple aspects of American film history. His books include *Teenagers and Teenpics: The Juvenilization of American Movies in the 1950s*; *Projections of War: Hollywood, American Culture, and World War II*; *Pre-Code Hollywood: Sex, Immorality, and Insurrection in American Cinema 1930-1934*; and *Hollywood's Censor: Joseph I. Breen & The Production Code Administration*.

8:10-9:00 p.m. Roundtable: Censorship, Audiences, and Comedy in Transition

With Professor Doherty, Dr. Richard Butsch, and Dr. Cynthia Lucia

**9:15-10:30 p.m. Student Film Festival and Competition
Awards for Best Student Paper and Best Student Screenplay**