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## Director Passes Institute Baton

I don't like using the first person singular very much. I know it's always there, implicit, behind every utterance or text or picture, but that's where I like to leave it, quiet, behind the camera, focusing on what's in front. Also, I'm aware of the fact that, as they like to say these days, it really isn't "all about" me, even when I'm doing the talking or writing or picture taking. But on this occasion, my last formal statement as Humanities Institute Director, I guess I have to acknowledge the I

behind the eye.

So: I want to thank Provost Wilcox and Dean Eisenberg for giving me the opportunity to serve as Institute Director. These have been among the most rewarding years of my career. Having the opportunity to arrange events—presentations, symposia, film screenings, and book readings—involving scholars, writers, and artists from

various fields of humanities and the arts, from both inside and outside USF, has been humbling, educational, and an honor. I have reaped the benefits of learning from established scholars and luminaries, and have had the great satisfaction of doing things to help bright and motivated young faculty get their scholarly  
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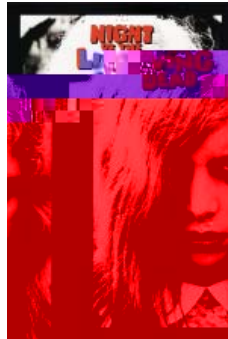
# Zombie Lore from the Best *Braaiins* in the Industry

What do Honda, Toshiba, and the Center for Disease Control all have in common? Zombies. Whether it's a new Civic, a laptop, or disaster preparedness plans, all three are capitalizing on our fascination with the living dead. On October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, the Institute will celebrate this fascination by hosting "Brain(s) Matter: Zombies in Contemporary Culture." This series of events will examine the evolution and enduring popularity of zombies from various academic perspectives. On Wednesday, Oct. 26th, Dr. Sarah Juliet



Lauro, Visiting Professor at UC Davis and coeditor (with Deborah Christie) of the book, *Better Off Dead: The Evolution of the Zombie as Post-Human*, (Fordham UP, 2011) will give a presentation entitled, "A Brief History of the Modern Zombie: Revolutionizing Resurrection in the Empirical Age." Lauro has published extensively on the cultural evolution of zombie lore in film and art, exploring their role as metaphors in industrial-

ized societies. Her lecture will take place in the Marshall Student Center (MSC) 3704 at 5:00pm. That night we will be showing two classic films in the MSC Oval Theater. *White Zombie* (1932) will begin at 7:00pm. This is the first full-length zombie film ever created and stars the legendary Bela Lugosi as the voodoo master "Murder Legendre," a plantation owner who uses his powers to create armies of zombie laborers. Immediately following *White Zombie* will be George Romero's classic *Night of the Living Dead* (1968). Still considered by many to be

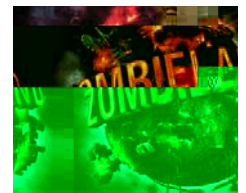


the ultimate horror movie, it charts the course for all modern zombie films.

The second day of "Brain(s) Matter" begins with a roundtable discussion at 5:00pm in

MSC 2709. The discussion group will include Dr. Amy Rust, a film scholar from the Department of Humanities and Cultural Studies, Marilyn Bertch, costume and makeup expert from the Department of Theater, Dr. Daniel Lende from the Department of Anthropology, and Communication doctoral student, Mark McCarthy. They are joined by Scott Swenson, Director of Production and Entertainment at Busch Garden's Tampa and coordinator of the park's annual Howl-O-Scream events.

The evening will end with an outdoor screening of *Zombieland* (2009) in the Marshall Student Center Plaza at 8:30pm. Woody Harrelson—a zombie slayer on a quest to find the last Twinkie in America—leads an outstanding cast in this contemporary classic.



Don't miss the opportunity to learn about the cultural phenomenon of the undead. Costumes are highly encouraged and technical theater students will be at the events to practice their stage makeup skills on audience members.

## One World, One Week, One Festival: *Manhattan Short Film Festival*

In September USF will host a screening of the Manhattan Short Film Festival, sponsored by the College of the Arts Student Council and the Humanities Institute. The Manhattan Short Festival is not a travelling show or an online series but the first global film festival, taking place in art houses, galleries, universities, museums, and cafés in 250 cities on six continents—including each of the 50 U.S. states. In this way, the festival retains the traditional communal aspect of the film experience, but expands that communal sense out from the individual screening



venue, merging it with similar venues and audiences across the world. The films screened are those submitted by finalists in an international competition of short films (maximum length,

18 minutes). Members of the audience (over 100,000 people internationally), have the opportunity to vote for the single film they regard as the best. Over the past ten years, six of the festivals films have been nominated for Os-

cars in the Short Film category. Films shown have been remarkably inventive, original, entertaining and, variously, serious and funny—or simultaneously serious and funny. Using as its slogan, "One World, One Week, One Festival," this screening and the audience vote will provide members of the USF Community the opportunity to experience and participate in the evolution of cultural globalization at its best. The September 27 USF screening will take place in the School of Music Concert Hall at 6:00pm.

The Humanities Institute, in collaboration with the Department of World Languages and the Florida-France Linkage Institute, is honored to bring USF and the Tampa Bay Community

# Spring 2011 Highlights



Dr. Roger Ariew (PHI) presents his research at the Early Modern Symposium



## **National Poetry Month 2011:** *Recap from a Reluctant Convert*



