

Maillim (May) Santiago

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Employment History

Spring 2019 - present	Adjunct Professor, Film and Video Studies - George Mason University PhD candidate, Cultural Studies
Fall 2023 - 2024	Film archivist & curation assistant, Tola's Room, Baltimore, MD
Summer 2021 - 2024	Board co-director, Women in Film and Video DC (WIFV-DC)
Fall 2020 - Fall 2024	Adjunct Professor, Film Studies - Northern Virginia Community College
Fall 2019	Adjunct Professor, Media Studies - Catholic University
Summer 2018 - 2020	Spanish Teaching Fellow - Global Language Network
Fall 2015 - 2016	Adjunct Professor, Film Production - University of Central Florida

Education

PhD (in progress)	Cultural Studies, George Mason University Graduate Inclusion & Access Scholarship	Fairfax, VA
MFA (2016)	Entrepreneurial Digital Cinema, University of Central Florida Provost Fellow	Orlando, FL
BFA (2013)	Film Production, University of Central Florida Honors in a Major Fellow	Orlando, FL

Film Work / Accolades

Bmore Boricuas

Role: Filmmaker / Archivist

Bmore Boricuas is a documentary short I produced that documents the community-driven archival work of Tola's Room, a Puerto Rican home museum and cultural space in Baltimore City. The film follows the Bmore Boricuas Project, an initiative launched in 2021 to document and celebrate the histories of Baltimore's Puerto Rican diaspora—from the 1800s to the present—through oral histories, personal artifacts, and creative expression. Bmore Boricuas offers a powerful reflection on migration, identity, and the enduring legacy of Puerto Ricans in Baltimore, using storytelling as a means of both preserving history and honoring the contributions of Baltimore's Boricua community. I have done the archival and preservation work for the cultural project itself, as well as filming and conducting each interview.

Sight & Sound's Emerging Voices Recognition 2024 & Best Video Essay 4x **Role:** Filmmaker
“May Santiago’s video essay on Aubrey Plaza is a sharp, beautifully edited piece that pulses with energy and thoughtfulness. Santiago’s intelligence and skill are unmistakable, and not only in this piece. Santiago’s work is vital in amplifying Puerto Rican film and media production, contributing significantly to its visibility and cultural recognition. “ From:

<https://www.bfi.org.uk/sight-and-sound/polls/best-video-essays-2024>

Sight & Sound's Emerging Voices Recognition 2023 **Role:** Filmmaker
“A queer Puerto Rican feminist filmmaker, May Santiago’s unique voice and perspective makes her a video essayist to watch out for. She will have new work in Alison Peirse’s Doing Women’s (Global) (Horror) Film History (DWGHFH) project which will be featured in a special issue of MAI Feminism & Visual Culture in 2024. I was lucky enough to see May’s practice first hand at *Embodying the Video Essay*, a videographic workshop in Maine this summer and was blown away by May’s spectacularly intricate and layered work. She crafts soundtracks to complement a unique and riveting visual language, combining archive and horror while using herself as narrator and performing subject in front of the camera.” From:

<https://www.bfi.org.uk/polls/best-video-essays-2023>

Tola's Room Film Archivist & Curation Assistant **Role:** Archivist / Curator
Tola's Room is a home museum located in Northeast Baltimore, Maryland that focuses on exhibiting Puerto Rican culture and artwork through the lens of the local diaspora community in Baltimore. I introduced film programming into the space during my tenure there.

BoriCine archival work **Role:** Archivist / Curator
As part of my dissertation, I have compiled a centralized, accessible, and inclusive archive of Puerto Rican cinema. I have digitized many colonial films about Puerto Rico that have been neglected over the years in many US government archives. I have also collected rare films made by Hollywood, foreign, and “native” production companies. The digital archive that is still in progress can be accessed here: <https://www.youtube.com/@boricine/videos>. I am currently programming many of these films for a groundbreaking film series on Caribbean cinema that will be held at Old Major in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dissertation film series**Role:** Director / Editor / Writer / Curator

As part of my dissertation, I am in the process of creating essay films that directly tie to my dissertation topic, which explores the content of Puerto Rican films, their identity, and the archive of films overall. Three films have already been made: *Ausencia*, *Desidentificación*, and *Agencia*. Links can be provided upon request. *Ausencia* has exhibited at film festivals worldwide, including Ax Wound Film Festival (Boston, Massachusetts, 2023), Final Girls Film Festival (Berlin, Germany, 2024), Wench Film Festival (Mumbai, India, 2024) Panama Horror Film Festival (Panama City, Panama, 2024), and The New Avant-Garde at the Museum of the Moving Image (New York, NY, 2025).

Various video essays from 2020-2023**Role:** Director / Editor

As part of my doctoral track, I have created 6 video essays that explore philosophical theories and work. They can all be viewed at <https://www.maillim.com/films>. The titles included are *A Tempest*, *On Spectacle*, *Social Control*, *Transculturation*, and *Severance: The Political Economy Cut*.

Afterlives*, feature film, 2024*Role:** Line producer (Washington, DC)

Feature-length documentary currently in production in Germany, DC, and Egypt. Directed by Kevin Lee, a longer adaptation of his project, *Bottled Songs*

<https://youtu.be/FoB2BfYYJtw?si=GkFQ9llLZG5hEbIN>

Nightgaze*, feature film, 2013*Role:** Screenwriter / Editor / Director / Cinematographer

Experimental narrative feature film. A visual album that explores a young woman's visceral experience with depression.

<https://vimeo.com/141059176> (trailer)

Super'mance*, short film, 2012*Role:** Producer

Thirty-five minute fantasy-action short. A superhero romance surrounding a war waged between Capes and Masks.

Exhibitions: Tampa Bay Underground Film Festival, Comic-Con International

<https://vimeo.com/132900476> trailer

Little Girls*, short film*Role:** Screenwriter / Editor / Director

Two teen girls encounter the gritty realities of life among a world conditioned to abandon them.

Exhibitions: Brooklyn Women's Film Festival, Palm Beach Film Festival

<https://vimeo.com/105511161>

Media Work

Horrorspiria, podcast

Role: Creator / Host / Editor / Sound Design / Composer

A film academic and a curious movie fan dissect the most evocative and innovative international horror movements from the last century. <https://www.horrorspiria.com>

Second Nature, podcast

Role: Creator / Host / Editor / Sound Design

Second Nature explores issues related to culture, identity, artifice, habit, ideology, and everyday life. This podcast highlights key works and topics in the field, student and faculty research, special guest interviews, and other discussions of cultural studies.

<https://culturalstudies.gmu.edu/podcasts/second-nature-podcast>

Caution! Zine, zine

Role: Chief correspondent

Caution! Zine is a fanzine created by The Killers' fans for The Killers' fans. Throughout 4 volumes, the zine includes exclusive interviews with the band's collaborators, essays and artwork from the band's fans, an oral history of the band's music video canon, and more.

<https://cautionzine.com/>

Conferences, Accepted Papers, Curated Series/Events, Panels, & Publications

December 2025 *Caribbean Cinema*

Creator of groundbreaking screening series highlighting films from the Caribbean
Old Major, Baltimore, MD

November 2025 *Videos Against Empire: Videographic Approaches to Media, Space, and Colonialism*

Panelist for *Agencia*
American Studies Association, San Juan, PR

October 2025 *Queer as Horror*

Creator of talk/presenter
Maryland Center for History and Culture (Baltimore, MD); Profs & Pints

October 2025 *Agencia*

Director, writer, and editor of the essay film
New/Next Film Festival (Baltimore, MD) and Lusca Film Festival (San Juan, PR)

June 2025 *B'more Scared Horror Trivia*

Writer and host of queer horror trivia series in collaboration with Queer for Fear
Wet City, Baltimore, MD

June 2025 *Puerto Rican Perspectives at The Parkway*

Programmer of films for a Puerto Rican cinema exhibition night

The Parkway, Baltimore, MD

April 2025 *The video essay in pain*
Panelist on the roundtable, sneak preview of *Ausencia*
Society of Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago, IL

October 2024 *Afro-Latinx Identity Within Latin American Horror Cinema*
Author of chapter within the edited collection, *Global Black Horror Film*
Published with Oxford University Press

July 2024 *Screen Stars: Aubrey Plaza*
Premiere of the 2024 *Sight & Sound*-winning video essay
Celebrity Studies Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands

June 2024 *Queer as Horror*
Creator of talk/presenter
Profs and Pints, Washington, DC; Baltimore, MD; Annapolis, MD

June 2024 *DSLx The Machineel Project Presents Romance Tropical (1934)*
Co-panelist
The Center for Puerto Rican Studies, New York, NY

March 2024 *Ethical re-embodiments of the videographic archive*
Co-presenter of the workshop
Society of Cinema and Media Studies, Boston, MA

February 2024 *Doing Women's Global Horror Film History w/ Alison Peirse*
Research assistant & presenter of videographic piece, *Ausencia*
Final Girls Berlin Film Festival, Berlin, Germany

October 2023 *Queer as Horror*
Creator of talk/presenter
Profs and Pints, Washington, DC

October 2023 *Queer Cult: A Cult Horror Series*
Curator of screening series with three sold-out nights
Suns Cinema, Washington, DC

September 2023 *Horror & Feminism: A Videographic Study w/ Alison Peirse*
Research assistant & presenter of videographic piece, *Ausencia*
Coolidge Corner Theatre, Boston, MA

Summer 2023 *Tropigoth: A Latin American Horror Series*
Curator of screening series with three sold-out nights
Suns Cinema, Washington, DC

Summer 2023 *BBQ+ Summer Fellow*
Creating in-progress open-access shorts on the topic of horror, history, & PR
Virtual

July 2023 *Embodying the Video Essay*
Participant
Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME

June 2023 *Queer as Horror*
Creator of talk/presenter
Profs and Pints, Washington, DC