"The purpose of a storyteller is not to tell you how to think, but to give you questions to think upon."

—Brandon Sanderson, The Way of Kings

SKIDMORE IN SUMMER
Skidmore College is located in Saratoga Springs, NY, a vibrant upstate community 3 hours from Boston, New York & Montreal. It is home to many cultural venues and events, including Yaddo, SPAC, the New York State Summer Writer's Institute, and Saratoga Arts Fest.

SUMMER 2015
STORYTELLERS INSTITUTE

June 1 - July 2, 2015
Skidmore College
Saratoga Springs NY

a hybrid academic-artistic institute for the documentary arts

Institute Fellows

APPLICATIONS DUE:
DECEMBER 15, 2014
THE 2015 THEME - FAMILY

The theme for 2015's inaugural MDOCS Storytellers institute is "family." Being part of a family is integral to the human experience, and complicated, as observers from Tolstoy to Jerry Seinfeld have shown.

Whether the family is one we are born into, chose or were chosen for; large or small; gathers for weekly dinners, annual holidays or less often; is a source of comedy or drama, love or loss...family shapes who we are in past, present and future tenses.

Individual stories of family life offer storytellers of both fact and fiction a lens to interrogate unique cases or to demonstrate the workings of a society. Fractious or faithful siblings, adulterous and devoted couples, disappointed or supportive parents, abandoned, adopted and step-children, and self-made families draw us into stories of the Old Testament, Greek and Maya myth and African and Brothers Grimm fairytales.

All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.  — L. Tolstoy

The 2015 THEMES:

THE RESIDENCY

The Storytellers' Institute is a 5-week residency (June 1-July 2, 2015) for 10 Skidmore students and faculty to workshop & develop documentary projects alongside up to 4 competitively-selected Institute Fellows and invited visitors. All participants enjoy an intense, focused period of study and production at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY.

Institute Fellows will receive
- a $2500 honorarium
- 5-weeks' room/board in apartment-style housing at Skidmore College
- working space at Skidmore College (equipment and facilities needs discussed with accepted Fellows)

Institute Fellows will
- participate in an intellectually stimulating, hybrid academic-artistic experience
- divide time between Institute activities (i.e. master classes, critiques, public presentations) and independent work
- be open to synergies and serendipity

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We seek creative, collaborative souls who will invest time & energy into bringing their own visions to fruition in a lively summer context, and who are committed to sharing their passions in documentary with the NEXT GENERATION of practitioners.

Documentariants Wanted

MDOCS welcomes storytellers from any and all documentary traditions—audio, video, photography, multimedia, spoken or written word .

We invite documentarians with projects (preferably recent or in process) that touch on the theme of FAMILY to apply to the Institute.

Whether the story you have to tell is a portrait of a solitary journey or the study of a generation or a tradition, a personal experience or the result of archival research—whether you seek to make us laugh, shudder, weep or move to change the world—we welcome your application.

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