



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Jonathan J. Cavallero,  
Bates College  
**Phone:** (207) 755-5937  
**Email:** [jcavalle@bates.edu](mailto:jcavalle@bates.edu)

**BATES FILM FESTIVAL TEAM RETURNS FROM  
INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL – BOSTON**

*BFF Programmers Scout Films for Upcoming November Festival*

**LEWISTON, MAINE, April 30, 2019** – Four Bates Film Festival programmers have returned from Boston where they were scouting films for the 2019 Bates Film Festival, scheduled to take place in November. Over three days, they watched 13 feature-length films and approximately 20 short films, connected with filmmakers, and met with Bates alums involved in the entertainment industry.

“Having never attended a film festival before, Independent Film Festival Boston provided deep insight into the inner-workings of festivals,” Abel Ramirez, a BFF programmer and a junior Rhetoric major, said, “This experience has helped me envision what the film selection process looks like and has allowed me to think about the messages and implications that certain film lineups will promulgate if selected. On a personal note, attending IFFB further solidified my interest in pursuing a career in festivals post-graduation.”

The trip was funded by Bates College’s “Short Term Innovative Pedagogy and Course (re)Design Program” (STIP), which allows selected faculty to choose a small team of students to design or redesign one of their courses at Bates. Jonathan J. Cavallero is redesigning “Film Festival Studies,” a seminar in the Rhetoric, Film, and Screen Studies department where students organize the Bates Film Festival. “STIP is an invaluable and rare opportunity,” Cavallero said, “I don’t know of any other schools that allow faculty to take time off of their regular teaching schedule to work with students on designing a course. STIP demonstrates Bates’ commitment to pedagogical innovation and strengthens the relationship between professors and students.”

Ramirez, Eleanor Shields, and Victoria Arjoon joined Cavallero in Boston. Following their return to Lewiston, the BFF short term team has been reaching out to the filmmakers and distributors whose work they found particularly compelling. It is expected that at least some of the titles will appear at the Bates Film Festival in November.

The Bates Film Festival is a curated event that brings nationally and internationally recognized films to Lewiston. It is organized by students in Jonathan Cavallero's "Film Festival Studies" seminar in the Department of Rhetoric, Film, and Screen Studies. Students are involved in every aspect of the festival's planning and execution. The Bates Film Festival is scheduled to take place in early November 2019.

###

If you would like more information about this topic, please email [jcavalle@bates.edu](mailto:jcavalle@bates.edu). More information can also be found on the BFF website at: [www.bates.edu/bff](http://www.bates.edu/bff)