Will DiGravio is a writer, podcaster, and video essayist. He currently hosts The Video Essay Podcast and writes the weekly newsletter Notes on Videographic Criticism. In 2020, he co-curated the Black Lives Matter Video Essay Playlist, which was named the best video essay project of the year by the editors of Sight & Sound. His video essays have screened at academic conferences and film festivals, including most recently at the International Film Festival Rotterdam. He holds an M.Phil. from the Centre for Film & Screen at the University of Cambridge and has been on the editorial board of Screenworks since the fall of 2019. He also works as a critic and columnist at Film School Rejects, where he has been a contributor since 2018. His personal website is: www.willdigravio.com.

Keynote Address

Will DiGravio

“Rosebud Remixed: The New Media Epoch of Citizen Kane”

Eighty years after the release of Citizen Kane, where is one most likely to encounter one of the most important and influential films ever made? The answer for many may be on digital platforms like YouTube, Vimeo, and TikTok, where the film and its legacy continue to be analyzed, celebrated, challenged, and remixed by scholars, critics, and fans. This presentation will center on the current remix culture surrounding Orson Welles’ 1941 film, with a special focus on the ways the burgeoning field of audiovisual criticism has ushered in a new way to see Citizen Kane in the digital era.
80 Years of Xanadu: The Legacies of Citizen Kane

Orson Welles’ first motion picture, Citizen Kane, has marked the history of film, becoming a landmark movie for generations of filmmakers and cinephiles for eight decades. The narrative deployments and technical innovations, among other celebrated achievements of a film that has long been known as the “greatest film ever made,” make it a fascinating object of analysis and revisititation. For its 80th anniversary, we invited faculty, undergraduate and graduate students from UMass Amherst to submit their academic papers, creative projects, or video essays on Citizen Kane.

Masks are required for all attendees