

## 2023 National Film Registry Study Groups

For consideration, a film must be at least 10 years old and be deemed “culturally, historically and/or aesthetically” significant to American culture.

The following are brief descriptions about the National Film Registry Study Groups, but they should not be limited by these descriptions. Essentially the groups are meant as a way to recommend titles in various categories to the Librarian of Congress and the National Film Preservation Board. Members bring their expertise and experiences when discussing and deciding film nominations.

**1. Avant-Garde / Experimental** – By definition, avant-garde means experimental, radical, or unorthodox with respect to art, culture, or society. While some experimental films have been distributed through mainstream channels or funded by commercial studios, the vast majority have been produced on low budgets with a minimal crew and financed by a single person or small grant. The aim of experimental filmmaking is often the personal vision of the artist, or to promote interest in new technology rather than to entertain or to generate revenue.

### 2023 Avant-Garde/Experimental Study Group Members:

Marcus Hu\*

Allyson Nadia-Field

Susan Oxtoby

Raj Roy

Mark McElhatten (The Film Foundation/non-NFPB member)

**2. Diversity** – It is important that we recognize films that showcase and portray experiences of typically underrepresented people, and promote that anybody can accomplish their dreams and be successful regardless of their gender, race, age, sexual orientation, or disability. Behind the camera is just as important. By ensuring that underrepresented groups are recognized as directors, producers, screenwriters and behind the scenes, we can learn from their authentic experiences and better support all cultures and lifestyles.

### **2023 Diversity Study Group Members:**

Marcus Hu\*  
Charles Ramirez-Berg  
Brenda Castillo  
Allyson Nadia-Field  
May HaDuong  
Reggie Hudlin  
Malcolm Lee  
Josslyn Lockett  
Richard Masur  
CK Ming  
Cindy O'Connor  
Suzanne Regan  
Raj Roy  
Eric Schwartz

**3. Documentary** - A documentary film is a non-fictional motion-picture intended to document reality, primarily for the purposes of instruction, education, or maintaining a historical record.

### **2023 Documentary Study Group Members:**

Michael Pessah\*  
Lacey Schwartz-Delgado  
Susan Oxtoby  
Laura Rooney

**4. Hollywood 1929-1969** – Focused on films released from 1929 -1969.

### **2023 Hollywood 1929-1969 Study Group Members:**

Michael Pessah\*  
Charles Ramirez-Berg  
Grover Crisp  
Ashley Irwin  
Dave Kehr  
Joe Masher  
John Ptak  
David Pierce, NAVCC

**5. Hollywood 1970-2013** – Focused on films released from 1970-2013. To be eligible for the National Film Registry, a film must be at least 10 years old.

**2023 Hollywood 1970-2013 Study Group Members:**

Laura Rooney\*  
Charles Ramirez-Berg  
Grover Crisp  
Lacey Schwartz-Delgado  
Reggie Hudlin  
Ashley Irwin  
Malcolm Lee  
Joe Masher  
Cindy O'Connor  
John Ptak

**6. Independent** – Independent films are defined as those produced, distributed and exhibited outside of the traditional studio/exhibitor system. Sometimes, but not always, these films are made with lower budgets. Small art-house theatres and film festivals, like Sundance, provided more screens for “independent” content. Growth increased through the ‘80s and ‘90s, with such independent film companies as Castle Rock, Miramax, New Line, Lionsgate, Orion and more.

**2023 Independent Study Group Members:**

John Ptak\*  
Ashley Irwin  
Joe Masher  
Cindy O'Connor  
Suzanne Regan  
Laura Rooney

**7. Orphan Films** – Defining an “orphan film” is not always easy as the term has different meanings to different people, but simply put, it is a film that has no owner or who’s owner can’t be identified or located. This can include works in the public domain or those with expired copyrights. In preservation, it can include films that are long forgotten or owned by a corporate entity that no longer exists or cares to preserve these works. The National Film Preservation Foundation

defines orphan films as “outside of commercial preservation programs” and can include newsreels, silent films, avant-garde works, documentaries and others.

**2023 Orphan Study Group Members:**

CK Ming\*

Dan Streible

Mark Quigley, UCLA/Non-Board member

**8. Silent Film** – The Silent Film era spans the early days of film from 1890-1929. Silent films are defined as having no synchronized recorded sound, especially no audible dialogue. The ability to synchronize sound did not exist, but music and title cards often conveyed emotion and narratives. Silent filmmakers depended heavily on visual elements like lighting, set-design, cinematography, costumes and camera movements that are still used today.

**2023 Silent Film Study Group Members:**

Allyson Nadia-Field\*

Dave Kehr

David Pierce, NAVCC

Rob Stone, NAVCC

**9. Student Films** - Student Films are films made by students who are enrolled in a filmmaking class at an accredited educational institution, either at the undergraduate or graduate level, and where the primary purpose of the film is learning. The educational value comes by making the film and not necessarily through the subject or content, although many students try to achieve both.

**2023 Student Films Study Group Members:**

May HaDuong\*

Josslyn Lockett

Suzanne Regan

**2023 Communications Task Force:**

Jacqueline Stewart\*

Margaret Bodde

Brenda Castillo

Tim Lanza

Richard Masur

John Ptak

Laura Rooney

Eric Schwartz

Steve Leggett, Library of Congress

Stacie Seifrit-Griffin, Library of Congress

Neely Tucker, Library of Congress

Brett Zongker, Library of Congress

\*chair of the committee