FRIDAY, FEB. 19, 2021 | 7pm » PETROCINEMA: FROM WHEELS OF PROGRESS TO AUTO-APOCALYPSE | Broad Underground Film Series

Online zoom program | Free to the public

Cinema has an enduring fascination with cars. From the lure of speed and movement to the threat of the crash, experiences behind the wheel have inspired filmmakers to deliver similar kinetic pleasures. The car also promised jobs, middle-class lifestyle, and movement without limits, but it was built on the dream of cheap gas. We now know that the car's midcentury "autopia" helped set us on the road to our current climate disaster.

Programmed by Justus Nieland, Professor of English (MSU), Kyle Sittig, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of English (MSU), and Brian R. Jacobson, Professor of Visual Culture (CalTech), "Petrocinema" explores the fateful entanglement of automobiles, film, and finite natural resources. Ranging from government and industrial films produced by the Office of Public Roads, GM, Shell Oil, and BP, to a range of experimental works, this screening program scrutinizes the promise and threat of the car as a commodity, technology, design object, and unsustainable fantasy. Registration is required.



This program is presented in affiliation with InterStates of Mind: Rewriting the Map of the United States in the Age of the Automobile, now on view at the MSU Broad.

Broad Underground is an ongoing collaboration between the MSU Broad, the Film Studies Program and the Department of English at MSU, and The Robin Theatre in REO Town, Lansing. Special thanks to the Lansing Public Media Center for their continued support.

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An exploration of Video Art and Experimental and Avant-Garde film from its earliest developments to the present day.

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