February 16
Steampunk on Film: Reinventing the Present
David Pike (American University), Thursday, February 16, 5:00 p.m., ARTS 227
Steam punk is a contemporary genre of speculative fiction, performance, and maker culture with roots in alternate 19th-century technologies. Its practitioners reimagine present and future histories according to previously unexplored possibilities of Victorian-era invention. This talk explores the changed relationship to history, society, and futurity proposed by 1950s and contemporary steampunk film.

February 17
Tertulias
An animated steampunk film. Steambot follows Alvaro as Otomo's second anime feature. Set in 1851 London during the Great Exhibition, the film offers "a critique of Western culture: It uses issues such as industrialism, domination, mass destruction, ambition and despotism as a background to what looks like a boy's book adventure." (Stephen Hunter, Washington Post)

Feb. 14
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (USA 1954) 127 minutes. Directed by Richard Fleischer. Introduction by Sarah Pike, Comparative Religion.

“Alas, fabulous and fantastic as anything he has ever done in cartoons is Walt Disney’s ‘live action’ movie made from Jules Verne’s 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. Turned out in CinemaScope and color, it should prove a sensation—al least with the kids.” (Boxley Cowherd, 1954 review, New York Times)

Feb. 20
Street of Crocodiles and other short films by the Brothers Quay
Introduction by Jason Tannen

Stop-motion animators and identical twins, the Brothers Quay’s films often feature puppets made from recycled doll parts. Street of Crocodiles (21 minutes) is "likely to linger in your mind for decades... With its wordless poetry, the Quay’s extraordinary vignettes tell us a million things: how longing can be both oblique and consuming; why it’s only human to succumb to the promises of the modern world; what despair looks like, as expressed by a puppet man’s dulled eyes." (Stephanie Zacharek, The Village Voice)

Feb. 28
The Wind Rises
Introduction by Troy Jollimore, Philosophy.

At a VHS rental store, set to be destroyed by the age of DVDs, the single employee (Mos Def) and his best friend (Jack Black) accidently erase all of the videos. To prevent the solitary customer (Mia Farrow) from learning about the disaster, the friends recreate the films themselves. Be Kind Rewind is a “valentine to disappearing analog technology” as well as a “tribute to the joy of making things with your friends.” (Sara Stovin, Slate)

Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre (Ayres 106)

March 21
Youth (Italy 2015) 124 minutes. Directed by Paolo Sorrentino. Introduction by Heather Atfield, English and Honors Program.

Starring Michael Caine as a retired composer and Harvey Keitel as a filmmaker who lounge in an Alpine hotel, Youth is a “study of ageing and creativity that’s as fresh and bracing as the mountain air, although occasionally just as chilly.” (Phili De Semlyen, Empire)

March 28

A Studio Ghibli film, the final feature-length film directed by Miyazaki, is an ode to the beginning of cinema, as a young boy attempts to recover a damaged automaton and ends up uncovering the forgotten story of a filmmaking visionary.

Jan. 31

Based on Brian Selznick’s The Invention of Hugo Cabret, Scorsese’s Hugo is in a sense a beginning of cinema, as a boy attempts to recover a damaged automaton and ends up uncovering the forgotten story of a filmmaking visionary.

Feb. 7
Steamboy
Directed by Katsuhiro Otomo. Introduction by Clara Bergamini.

Steam punk is a contemporary genre of speculative fiction, performance, and maker culture with roots in alternate 19th-century technologies. Its practitioners reimagine present and future histories according to previously unexplored possibilities of Victorian-era invention. This talk explores the changed relationship to history, society, and futurity proposed by 1950s and contemporary steampunk film.

February 22
New Musical Resources- Exploring Acoustic/Kinetic Objects
Trimpin, 5:30 p.m., PAC 134

Trimpin is a German-born composer and sound artist who has lived and worked in Seattle since 1979. His sound sculptures, installations and set designs have been developed in collaboration with artists such as Merce Cunningham, Samuel Beckett, Conlon Nancarrow and the Kronos Quartet. His work has appeared at museums, galleries, and festivals across the Pacific Northwest, and the documentary film TRIMPIN: The Sound of Invention premiered at the South by Southwest Film Festival. He is a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and a MacArthur “Genius” grant.

Co-sponsored by the Department of Art and Art History