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Film class to welcome award-winning independent filmmaker, Allison Anders, to city.

Critically acclaimed director Allison Anders has been named this year's director-in-residence for Portland State University's Department of Theatre Arts. On Thursday, May 15, a select student group at Portland State will discuss the filmmaker's choices on her best known film, *Gas Food Lodging*. The following day, Anders will headline the Portland Women's Film Festival as Guest of Honor. POW Fest and PSU will co-sponsor Friday evening's screening of *Gas Food Lodging* at the Hollywood Theatre.

Anders has directed both films (*Mi Vida Loca*, *Gas Food Lodging*, *Sugar Town*, *Things Behind the Sun*) and TV episodes (*Sex and the City*, *Men in Trees*, and *The 'L' Word*) and been a member of the dramatic jury at the Sundance Film Festival. In 1995, she was honored with a MacArthur Fellow "genius grant" in recognition of her achievements as a filmmaker.

Anders' 1992 film, *Gas Food Lodging*, will be the subject of intense closed-door discussions between Anders and students in the spring term class, Anatomy of a Movie II: The Independent Film. Sue Brower, Adjunct Assistant Professor in Film Studies, designed the course, an elective in PSU's new Film Major, which studies the entirety of one independent film from screenplay to screen.

Brower credits a former student with the idea of studying one film the whole term. "In my classes because of time I often concentrate on just one aspect of a film such as, imagery, plot or technique. The different approach is an opportunity to look at everything: raise your hand, and we'll look at it." A winter "Anatomy" course studies a studio era film (pre-1960) while a spring course focuses on an "indie".

Brower decided to follow the studio-era *Casablanca* with a film by Anders because of the filmmaker's accessibility to students. "I read an interview of Allison, and she sounded like our students. The interview had a down-to-earth tone: she had knocked around a bit and was a parent when she decided to put one foot in front of another and make a movie," says Brower. Thanks to an introduction from the Oregon Film and Video Office to Tara Johnson-Medinger of POW Fest, Brower was able to contact Anders about a class visit.

The students will have studied *Gas Food Lodging* for eight weeks prior to Anders' visit. "She'll be facing a tough bunch," says Brower, whose class of undergraduate and graduate students plans to ask, "If you knew then what you know now, how would you change the film?"

For more information on POW Fest, visit [www.powfest.com](http://www.powfest.com).