

# Community Film Workshop Series

## Tonight's Session: The Fall

Where Stories Come From — and What They Cost




Part of Sentient Meat's monthly educational workshop series exploring the art of film, all attendees tonight are participating as **Student Members** under our nonprofit's educational program. We're glad you're here!

### Workshop Overview

We'll watch *The Fall* and reflect together on:

- Why we tell stories and who we tell them for
  - The way imagination becomes a refuge, and sometimes a burden
  - What it means to be transported by someone else's vision of the world
- #### Session Goals
- Explore the relationship between inner life and outer circumstance
  - Discuss how beauty, suffering, and storytelling intertwine
  - Consider how communities and relationships are shaped, and sometimes held together, by shared fantasy

### Session Schedule

Time	Activity
6:00–6:50 PM	 Doors open, Student Member sign-in, tea/snack break
7:00–8:30 PM	 Film screening
8:30–9:30 PM	 Group discussion + reflection

### About the Film

*The Fall* follows Roy, a hospitalized stuntman in 1920s Los Angeles, and Alexandria, a young girl recovering from a broken arm, who share a wing of the sprawling hospital. Roy begins spinning an elaborate adventure story for Alexandria—part seduction, part manipulation, part genuine need—and the film moves fluidly between the hospital's bleached corridors and the gorgeously imagined world inside the tale. As Roy's circumstances darken, the story does too, and Alexandria must find a way to hold both the story and the storyteller together.

Shot across 24 countries over four years, the film's visual language is unlike almost anything else in cinema, and that beauty is not incidental. It's the point.

## Guided Discussion Prompts

### Opening Reflection

- What image or moment from the film stayed with you most? What do you think it means that that one landed?
- How did you feel as the story-within-the-story shifted from wonder to dread?

### The Functions of Imagination

- Roy uses storytelling as escape, and as leverage. Alexandria uses it as pure wonder. How do those two relationships to imagination interact over the course of the film?
- Where in your own life does imagination serve as refuge? Where has it ever gotten in the way?

### Beauty as Survival

- The film is almost overwhelming to look at. What does it mean to encounter that kind of beauty in the context of suffering?
- Rural and small-town life often offers stunning physical beauty alongside real hardship and isolation. How does that pairing shape the stories people tell about where they're from, or why they leave?

### Optional Reflection Prompt

Think of a story — a movie, a book, a tale someone told you — that you returned to during a hard time. In a few sentences or a quick sketch:

- What was happening in your life when you needed it?
- What did the story give you that reality couldn't?
- Did coming back to it later change how you felt about it?

### Storytelling and Power

- Roy holds something over Alexandria by controlling the story. Who gets to shape the narrative in the communities you know? What does it mean to be the one who tells the story?
- The film invites you to ask: when someone shares a story with you, what are they really asking for?



### The Child as Witness

- Alexandria's understanding of the story is imperfect—she mishears names, reimagines characters—and somehow her version is more alive. What does this suggest about the relationship between a story's teller and its audience?
- What stories from your childhood did you carry into adulthood in a changed form?

## Student Agreement

All student members must sign in before the screening. Your participation is your acknowledgment of the Safer Spaces Policy and Student Membership terms.

You may indicate agreement via:

- Checking the box on the sign-in form
-  Adding a signature or initials
-  Typing your name on a digital or printed form

## Safer Spaces Policy

By participating in this event, you agree to:

- Respect everyone's identity and lived experience
- Listen actively and avoid speaking over others
- Engage with openness, not judgment
- Use content warnings for potentially triggering topics
- Ask for consent before physical contact or intense conversation

If someone makes a request for space, change of topic, or support, we ask you to honor it.

Facilitators are here to support a safe and inclusive environment. You can speak with us at any time if something feels off.

## Student Membership Terms

By attending as a Student Member, you agree to:

- Participate in the discussion as part of your educational session
- Sign in and confirm your participation
- Uphold our Safer Spaces Policy during the event
- Consent to your signature being recorded via checkbox, signature line, or typed acknowledgment

This event qualifies as **in-person, instructor-led education** under Ohio Revised Code § 5739.01(B)(3)(q). Your attendance is part of a **nonprofit educational program**, not a ticketed performance.