

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HISTORY & HOLLYWOOD DISCUSSION AT STANFORD FEATURES

"SEABISCUIT" DIRECTOR AND STANFORD PROFESSORS

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The director of the movie "Seabiscuit," will join a documentary filmmaker and a history professor at Stanford next Tuesday [Nov. 11, 2003] to discuss what happens to historical events when they become the subject of feature films.

The panel discussion, "When History Goes Hollywood," will begin at 4:30 p.m. in the Jonsson Social Sciences Reading Room of Green Library. The event is free and open to the public.

Beginning with "Birth of a Nation" and continuing with such films as "Lawrence of Arabia," "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," and "All The President's Men," American filmmakers have drawn on historical events for some of the country's most enduring feature films. But the results haven't always satisfied historians or filmmakers, especially when the values of historical accuracy and cinematic storytelling clash. Participants in the discussion will address these issues from several perspectives.

The discussion will feature Gary Ross, who directed and wrote the 2003 film "Seabiscuit," which is based on the best-selling book by Lauren Hillenbrand. The movie is based on the Depression-era horse whose exploits captivated the country. Ross earlier wrote the screenplays for "Big" and "Dave," and wrote and directed "Pleasantville."

Joining Ross will be two Stanford professors, Kristine Samuelson and Richard White. Samuelson is a documentary filmmaker whose most recent film is "Riding the Tiger," a documentary essay that revisits the Vietnam War. She is director of the Stanford Department of Communication's documentary film and video program.

White is the Margaret Byrne Professor of American History, and a specialist in the North American West. He is the author of several acclaimed books, including "It's Your Misfortune and None of My Own: A New History of the American West." He is a co-founder of the Program for the Study of the North American West at Stanford.

The discussion will be moderated by James Bettinger, director of the John S. Knight Fellowships for Professional Journalists at Stanford.

The discussion is co-sponsored by the Knight Fellowships program and The Social Sciences Resource Center of Stanford University Libraries.

The Jonsson Social Sciences Reading Room is on the first floor of the Bing Wing of Green Library. Directions to the room will be available at the entrance to the library.