

Tom Marksbury has written seven documentary films which examine American actors Warren Oates and Ben Johnson, directors Sam Peckinpah, John Ford, and Tod Browning, music producer Jerry Wexler, and author Hunter S. Thompson.

These films have been screened from Telluride and the Kennedy Center to Italy, France, Ireland, Germany, England, and Australia. Awards include a Wrangler from the National Cowboy Museum and Hall of Fame and the Al Smith Fellowship for an excerpt from Tom's novel, *Shatterbrain*.

Tom teaches film, creative writing, and American literature at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, where he lives with his wife and their two sons.

A Brief History of Film Noir will trace one of the most fascinating and elusive genres from its origins in such 1940s classics as *Double Indemnity*, *Laura*, and *The Big Sleep* through such culminating 1950s masterpieces as *Touch of Evil* and *Kiss Me, Deadly*. We will also look at revisionist noir from the 1970s (Robert Altman's *The Long Goodbye*) and conclude by thinking and talking about how new-noir can uphold some conventions while reversing others with *Devil in a Blue Dress*.

Ten films (screened in class), enhanced by much discussion, a smattering of lecture, and one text: *More Than Night: Film Noir in its Contexts*, by James Naremore. Due to the compressed nature of the Winter Intersession schedule, the grade will be based mostly on a day-to-day journal and one exam at the end