

Tuesday, March 23: 11:30 am until 12:00 pm; Virtual/Rm 313

Steven Bognar Class of 1981

Steven Bognar is an Academy Award and Primetime Emmy winning documentary filmmaker based in Southwest Ohio. He also has experience as a producer, writer, director, cinematographer, and editor.



Bognar's first film, *PERSONAL BELONGINGS* (1996), premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and was broadcast on the PBS series *P.O.V.* His short films, *PICTURE DAY* and *GRAVEL*, also premiered at Sundance and screened widely. Bognar's film, *A LION IN THE HOUSE* (made with Julia Reichert), premiered at Sundance, screened on the PBS series, *INDEPENDENT LENS*, was nominated for a Best Documentary Spirit Award, and won the 2007 Primetime Emmy for "Exceptional Merit in Nonfiction Filmmaking." His film, *THE LAST TRUCK* (also with Reichert), was nominated for an Academy Award and screened on HBO. His film, *SPARKLE* (also with Reichert), won the Audience Award for Best Short at SilverDocs and screened on PBS.

Bognar's film, *AMERICAN FACTORY* (also with Reichert), won the Directing Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, the Independent Spirit Award, the Gotham Award, and the Cinema Eye Honor for Best Documentary Feature. In February 2020, the film won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature Film.

Steve is a graduate of the Wright State University Film program. He has taught documentary extensively, including guest lectures at Harvard, Yale and Stanford Universities. In 2006, Steve was awarded the Ohio Governor's Award for Individual Artist, the state's highest honor in the arts. In 2008, he was inducted into Carroll High School's Inaugural Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame.

Steve resides with his co-director and life partner, Julia Reichert, in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

When asked about his Carroll memories, Steve states, "While the vision of Sister Mary Jean as looming guardian of the down staircase still haunts my sleep, I walk in perpetual gratitude to so many Carroll teachers, who taught me how to structure a sentence, divide a fraction, develop an idea, and squat a thrust. As a teenager, I believed Carroll was overly strict. In retrospect, I see how the school and its teachers helped me develop self-discipline, a work ethic, and a moral compass. Time has taught me that high school years are scary for everyone (It wasn't just me!)."