

Brooklyn Daily Eagle

October 7, 2015

<http://www.brooklyneagle.com/articles/2015/10/7/brooklyn-college-opens-film-school-inside-steiner-studios>

Brooklyn College opens film school inside Steiner Studios

By Rob Abruzzese

Brooklyn College officially opened the doors of its new graduate film school at Steiner Studios, the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, during a press conference with Mayor Bill de Blasio and other elected officials at the Brooklyn Navy Yard on Tuesday. The school is the first of its kind located on a working film lot.

“This is the nation’s only film school on a working lot situated right here in Brooklyn,” de Blasio said. “You figure someone would have done it a long, long time ago, but New York City did it first and we are very proud of that. Students get the best and most cutting edge approaches and get an opportunity to see the work getting done and do it themselves hands on.”



Officials from Brooklyn College, Steiner Studios and CUNY were on hand for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the opening of the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema. From left: Fisher Stevens, Councilmember Inez Barron, Rhoda Glickman, David Ehrenberg, Doug Steiner, Jonathan Wacks, Barry R. Feirstein, CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken, Brooklyn College President Karen L. Gould, and Cynthia Lopez. *Eagle* photos by Rob Abruzzese

The project was initially announced in 2012 and included an \$8 million investment from New York City as part of a public-private partnership. The contribution includes \$4.7 million toward construction, \$2 million toward scholarships, \$1 million for programming and \$500,000 for creative grants and marketing.

“We are simply elated to have the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema here on the Steiner Studios lot,” said Douglas C. Steiner, chairman of Steiner Studios. “This co-location of academia and industry is cutting edge. Students are immersed in the real world thriving industry of film and television and being trained for the jobs of tomorrow. This is New York’s future at its best.”

It’s the first public graduate school of cinema in the city and it comes with a three-year price tag estimated at \$59,000, nearly \$100,000 less than New York University. Students at the Feirstein School will have access to

state of the art production and postproduction facilities, a soundstage and a full complement of lighting, grip and electrical equipment.

“The visionary philanthropy of Barry R. Feirstein, CUNY, the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment and the New York City Council and state Assembly, among others, has enabled us to transform the lives of our students,” said Brooklyn College President Karen L. Gould. “With instruction from faculty who are leaders in their fields, and hands-on experience in a top notch facility, our students will be adequately prepared to succeed in the city’s burgeoning film industry.”

The school also boasts an impressive advisory board that includes actor Ethan Hawke, director Steven Soderbergh, director/screenwriter/producer Darren Aronofsky, actor/producer Fisher Stevens and Emmy Award-winning producer Celia Costas. Director Jonathan Wacks, director of the TV show “21 Jump Street” was appointed as the director of the school's first class that includes 69 students.

“Brooklyn College provided an excellent academic foundation for me and I’m extremely pleased to return the favor by helping to build a 21st century cinema school that will both strengthen the college and provide access to exciting careers for today’s students,” said Barry R. Feirstein, after whom the school is named, a Brooklyn College alumnus who donated \$5.5 million toward the school.



Mayor Bill de Blasio praised the school for providing unique opportunities for the citizens of New York City that will help the television and movie industries to be more diverse in the future.



Douglas C. Steiner, chairman of Steiner Studios.

The Brooklyn Paper

October 9, 2015 / Brooklyn news / Fort Greene

The reel world Brooklyn: New film school opens at Steiner Studios

By Harry MacCormack

The Brooklyn Paper

And they're rolling!

Brooklyn College called "action!" on its new graduate film school at Steiner Studios in the Brooklyn Navy Yard on Tuesday.

The school is the first motion-picture-making academy in the country housed in a working film lot, which means students will get first-hand experience in showbiz and a foot in the door of the city's movie and television industry while they're studying, officials said.

"They get the opportunity to see the work being done and to do it themselves hands-on," said Mayor DeBlasio, who helped cut the ribbon for the new school alongside local pols and college officials. "This is what's going to make them so able to go right into this extraordinary job market around film and TV."

The school also boasts a star-studded cast — "Repo Man" director Jonathan Wacks will be the institution's new director, while Boerum Hill actor Ethan Hawke, "Magic Mike" director Steven Soderbergh, "Black Swan" director and Manhattan Beach native Darren Aronofsky, and Dumbo actor Fisher Stevens will serve on its advisory panel.

The inaugural class of 69 students will start studying at the school in the fall, and at least one local pol is already making awards-season predictions.

"I look forward to seeing the Emmys, Oscars, and other awards that this school's future grads will amass," said Borough President Adams.

Cut!

Reach reporter Harry MacCormack at hmacormack@cnglocal.com or by calling (718) 260-2511. Follow him on Twitter @HMacBKPaper.

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Photo by Jason Speakman

First act: "The Fighter" director Darren Aronofsky was on hand at the opening of the Brooklyn College Barry R. Fierstein Graduate School of Cinema.

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Sue from Fort Greene says:

WAS Hank guttman there... has he bought himself a millionaire condo at the navy Yard yet?

I am sure he will feather his personal nest again if there is such an opportunity. After all he was on

the BBP Board and bought himself one there. He is on the Brooklyn Public Library board and is probably looking over plans for the millionaire condos to be built after he and his gang destroy the library.

What a great public servant. thank you Mayor

DeBlasio for making him a big man on our local campus..

Oct. 10, 12:23 am

October 6, 2015

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/education/nyc-public-grad-film-school-open-doors-article-1.2387661>

Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema – NYC’s first public graduate film school – officially opens its doors



ED REED/NEW YORK CITY MAYOR'S OFFICE

The Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema – named after the former hedge-funder whose \$5 million gift started the school – is located at Steiner Studios.

BY [JENNIFER FERMINO](#)

Lights, camera, study.

The city’s first public graduate school of cinema opened its doors Tuesday, which officials say will help New York remain at the center of the film biz while opening up the industry to students who can’t afford pricy private schools.

The Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema – named after the former hedge-funder whose \$5 million gift started the school – is located at Steiner Studios, a working film lot at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

The inaugural class features 69 students, about half of which are women – welcome news in a male-dominated academic path.

"We are unlocking the door of opportunity for a talented and diverse group of students who want to get the best, most cutting-edge education in cinema, and then put those skills to use right here in New York City," Mayor de Blasio said.

In-state tuition is \$59,000 over three years. Private grad schools often exceed \$150,000.

October 6, 2015

<http://www.indiewire.com/article/new-york-city-opens-first-public-graduate-film-school-20151006>

New York City Opens First Public Graduate Film School

Located at Steiner Studios at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, The Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema is the only school in the nation housed on a working film lot.



Steiner Studios

The Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema

By [Zack Sharf](#) | Indiewire

Mayor Bill de Blasio joined City University of New York Chancellor James Milliken, Media and Entertainment Commissioner Cynthia López, Barry R. Feirstein and other elected officials earlier today to open the doors to the Brooklyn College Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema. The Feirstein School, which welcomes an inaugural class of 69 students this fall, is the only public graduate school in the nation integrated into a working film lot, Steiner Studios, and is the first public graduate school of cinema in New York City.

According to an official statement, the objective of the The Feirstein School is "to provide affordable access to career opportunities in cinema, while simultaneously creating a pipeline of diverse talent that can work in the

local film industry in New York City's five boroughs." Announced in 2012, the school reflects the City's commitment to growing the NYC-set film and television industry.

NYC has invested a total of \$8 million to support the creation of the Feirstein School and numerous scholarships so that more New Yorkers have the opportunity to pursue jobs in film and television production. The cost of tuition at Feirstein is approximately \$59,000 for in-state students over three years. The City's overall contribution includes \$4.7 million for construction, \$2 million for scholarships, \$1 million for curriculum and programming, and \$500,000 for creative grants and marketing.

"New York City has long been a global capital for film and television production, but today we are making an unprecedented commitment in the future of this industry and in New York's finest young filmmakers," said de Blasio. "By opening the Feirstein School, we are unlocking the door of opportunity for a talented and diverse group of students who want to get the best, most cutting-edge education in cinema, and then put those skills to use right here in New York City."

Seasoned directors, producers and actors will also contribute to the Feirstein's advisory board and help to guide the school toward fulfilling its mission, including Ethan Hawke, Steven Soderburgh and Celia Costas.

Visit the [Feirstein School website](#) for more information.

22 OCT 2015 (<http://patch.com/new-york/fortgreene/todays-weather-forecast>)

59°

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Brooklyn College Now Has a Graduate Film School

In the Brooklyn Navy Yard, of course.

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill (<http://patch.com/new-york/fortgreene>), NY (<http://patch.com/new-york>)

By **SIMONE WILSON** (Patch Staff) (<http://patch.com/users/simone-wilson>)

🕒 October 9, 2015



Photo via [H.L.I.T./Flickr \(https://www.flickr.com/photos/29311691@N05/\)](https://www.flickr.com/photos/29311691@N05/)

Believe it or not, the borough of Brooklyn, land of a million aspiring filmmakers, has never been home to a public graduate film school — until now.

Brooklyn College's new [Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/schools/mediaarts/schools/feirstein/) (<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/schools/mediaarts/schools/feirstein/>) unveiled on Tuesday, will share a lot at the Brooklyn Navy Yard with [Steiner Studios](http://www.steinerstudios.com/) (<http://www.steinerstudios.com/>), a 20-acre film and TV studio that claims to be the largest of its kind outside of Hollywood.

The grad school, for its part, claims to be the first public film school in New York — and the only film school in the nation to be housed on a working lot.



Bill de Blasio
@BilldeBlasio

Follow

Today we opened the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema at [@BklynCollege411](https://www.brooklyncollege.edu/), NYC's first public film grad program.

2:35 PM - 6 Oct 2015

43 48

Photos from Thursday's ribbon-cutting in the Navy Yard

(<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nycmayorsoffice/21816549589/>) for Brooklyn College's newest campus show Mayor Bill De Blasio about to explode with joy at the sheer iconic-ness of such a moment.

Some excerpts from the mayor's emotional monologue:

- "The magic of New York City has been that it's a place for everyone. It's a place where everyone could find opportunity. This has been a thing that really has distinguished us from so many places in this country, so many places in this world. This place for generations was a place that anyone could grow up in and truly follow their dreams. Anyone could come to here from anywhere in the world and have extraordinary opportunities available. And we know it's a moment in history where some of that is challenged because of changing economic realities. But the way you answer those changes is to innovate — it's to come up with new and better

approaches that include everyone and re-spark that opportunity. And that's what's happening here at Feirstein. It is exciting that this will change the face and reality of our film and TV industry here in this city."

- "I have to say, I love all five boroughs. Truly, they're all wonderful. But would I be going too far to say there's something special about Brooklyn?"
- Now, we are one of the great capitals of film and television in this country and on this earth. And we got that way by continuing to innovate. We got that way by never sitting still. And the extraordinary fact is there is more film and TV activity now in this city than ever before. We once were strong for a period of time. Somehow, some of the folks who make the films and television shows wanted to go elsewhere, and then we were rediscovered with a vengeance. And now, rightfully, people want to be here, because the talent is here; more and more, the great studio capacity is here; the stories are here; the scenes are here; it's more and more of the place that makes sense for the industry. So now, over \$7 billion dollars being spent annually in the film and TV industry. \$7 billion dollars — you can clap for that."
- "Feirstein's going to mean there's more and more talent — more and more talent to keep building this extraordinary industry here. Now, this is — this amazes me. This is the nation's only film school on a working lot, situated right where the action is."
- "I always say education determines economic destiny at this point in our history more than any other point in human history. So, what CUNY is doing today is determining the future of New Yorkers more than even it did in its glorious past."

And so on and so forth, until even the most cynical aspiring filmmaker in the crowd couldn't help but feel a little historic.

For more on the new grad school, check out [its website](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/schools/mediaarts/schools/feirstein)

(<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/schools/mediaarts/schools/feirstein>

or stop by [its sick new digs in the Brooklyn Navy Yard](https://www.here.com/directions/mylocation/Feirstein-Graduate-School-of-Cinema:40.69836,-73.967514?map=40.69836,-73.967514,12&ref=facebook&link=directions&fb_locale=en_US)

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October 6, 2015

<http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/city-hall/2015/10/8578903/brooklyn-college-celebrates-graduate-film-program>

Brooklyn College celebrates graduate film program

By Conor Skelding



Steiner Studios in Brooklyn, New York. (Charles Nguyen)

A parade of elected officials, business leaders, and City University of New York administrators praised public-private partnerships on campus during a ribbon-cutting for Brooklyn College's new Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, located at Steiner Studios in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Speakers included Mayor Bill de Blasio, university chancellor James Milliken, outgoing Brooklyn College president Karen Gould, Barry Feirstein, for whom the school is named, and an assortment of state and city officials.

The \$27 million school, which occupies 70,000 square feet over two floors, features shiny, top-of-the-line stages, editing and post-production facilities, and digital design studios. Tubular fluorescent bulbs light white walls and polished concrete floors.

The school's first class of 69 students began this semester, but the school will grow to about 350 over three years, Brooklyn College spokesman Jason Carey said. Seven or eight full-time faculty and 20 to 30 part-time faculty will teach them, he said.

Developer Doug Steiner, wearing a short-sleeved black button-down shirt and jeans, called the school "my new factory for the 21st century."

"Content creation ... is not a low-wage business, and it is not moving to China anytime soon, if ever," he said, as students exchanged glances.

Cynthia Lopez, the city's outgoing film commissioner, advised students to "take risks, be bold, challenge authority, and understand hierarchy, but then work to fight against it."

Jonathan Wacks, the school director, announced that additional funds from Lopez's office would fund up to \$10,000 for each third-year student's thesis project.

He also echoed her advice saying, "We set out to create a place where new and emerging voices could develop the courage and confidence to challenge the prevailing political, cultural, and aesthetic conventions through the power of cinema. And that is exactly what we are doing. It is the core of our mission."

"It'll be fun to play within their realm and see what the hell happens," one student, Jess Mazza, said after the program.

A friend, Ari Derman, added, "We're here to take risks."

"And not get fired on the job," Mazza added.



October 6, 2015

<http://www.nystateofpolitics.com/2015/10/here-and-now-1374/#more-157941>

Here and Now

Posted by [Liz Benjamin](#)

Also at 11 a.m., NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio will deliver remarks at the ribbon-cutting for the Brooklyn College Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School for Cinema at Steiner Studios, 25 Washington Ave., 6th Floor, Brooklyn.