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"WILDLY ORIGINAL"-PETER DEBRUGE, VARIETY "BRILLIANTLY OUTRAGEOUS"-ERIC KOHN, INDIWIRE "ANNOUNCES THE ARRIVAL OF A FRESH, BOLD VOICE IN AMERICAN CINEMA" -DAVID FEAR, ROLLING STONE "WILDLY INVENTIVE"-SARA STEWART, NEW YORK POST "A MUST SEE"-MANOHLA DARGIS, THE NEW YORK TIMES

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DESTINY IS CALLING

# SORRY TO BOTHER YOU

#SORRYTOBOTHERYOU A **BOOTS RILEY** FILM [SORRYTOBOTHERYOU.MOVIE](http://SORRYTOBOTHERYOU.MOVIE)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020 / 7:00 PM

with  
**BOOTS RILEY**  
(director/screenwriter/musician)





Set in an alternate-reality contemporary Oakland, Boots Riley's 2018 film *Sorry to Bother You* blends absurdist satire and leftist labor politics to skewer white corporatism. Down-and-out telemarketer Cassius Green (Lakeith Stanfield) ascends the company ladder after finding a secret weapon to success, and befriends the maniacal CEO Steve Lift (Armie Hammer). His opulent lifestyle eventually clashes with the unionized labor struggle fought by Detroit (Tessa Thompson), Squeeze (Steven Yeun), and others, and a more sinister corporate conspiracy emerges. Much like the hip-hop music created by The Coup, rapper Boots Riley's directorial debut represents a funky, surreal, and politically charged funhouse mirror to American capitalism.

Writer, director, and musician Boots Riley will join moderator Miguel Penabella (Film and Media Studies, UCSB) for a discussion of *Sorry to Bother You* and his musical career.

*Sorry To Bother You* can be streamed on Amazon Prime Video and Hulu.

This event is sponsored by the Carsey-Wolf Center and KCSB.



## Guest Biographies: Boots Riley (director/screenwriter)

Boots Riley is a provocative and prolific poet, rapper, songwriter, producer, screenwriter, director, community organizer, and public speaker. Boots Riley wrote and directed *Sorry to Bother You*, a comedy fantasy sci-fi film, in his directorial debut. The film premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Fest and opened to strong critical acclaim in theaters nationwide later in 2018. He is the lead vocalist of The Coup and Street Sweeper Social Club. Fervently dedicated to social change, Boots was deeply involved with the Occupy Oakland movement. He was one of the leaders of the activist group The Young Comrades. He is the author of the critically acclaimed *Tell Homeland Security—We Are the Bomb*.



## Moderator Miguel Penabella (Film and Media Studies, UCSB)

Miguel Penabella is a PhD student in Film and Media Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research deploys the specter as a theoretical framework for examining historical revisionism and questions of national cinema in the Philippines. He is also interested in theorizations of cinematic temporality with regards to national identity, memory, spectatorship, and slowness, focusing specifically on Southeast Asian filmmakers. He is a member of the *Media Fields Journal* editorial collective.



# SUBVERSIVES

FALL 2020 & Winter 2021



*Sorry to Bother You: 10/13*  
*Parasite: 10/15*  
*The Great Dictator: 10/22*  
*Pee-wee's Playhouse: 11/5*  
*Blood Quantum: 11/12*

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tickets & info:  
[www.carseywolf.ucsb.edu](http://www.carseywolf.ucsb.edu)



# SUBVERSIVES

Throughout film history and across the globe, filmmakers have resisted social conventions and attracted the ire of governments and censorship boards. The Carsey-Wolf Center's fall 2020 and winter 2021 screening series will showcase films considered politically, socially, culturally, and ideologically subversive. From mischievous caricatures to biting social critiques, the films in this series invite discussion of the efficacy of subversion and the historical contexts that have rendered these works subversive in the first place.

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