Disability Cinema
Tod Browning’s *Freaks*

*With Featured Speaker Rachel Adams, Columbia University*

**When:** Thursday, January 7  
**Where:** Rm. 127 in Memorial Hall

The First of Four Free Films on Thursday Evenings in January

Professor Adams’ 15-minute presentation begins at 7 p.m., followed by the film and audience discussion. The event will also feature an onsite drawing for gift certificates to local movie theaters!

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**About the film:** *Freaks*’ depiction of sideshow performers with severe physical disabilities was described by one contemporary reviewer as a “catalogue of horrors.” Public outcry against the film caused it to be pulled from circulation after its release in 1932. It remains controversial. The plot tells the story of trapeze artist Cleopatra (Olga Baclanova) who learns that circus midget Hans (Harry Earles) is heir to a sizeable inheritance. Cleo hatches a plan to marry Hans, kill him, and then run away with both his fortune and her strongman lover, Hercules (Henry Victor). When Hans’ fellow sideshow performers discover their plot, they vow to exact a brutal revenge.

**About the speaker:** Rachel Adams is a Professor of English and Director of the Center for the Study of Social Difference at Columbia University. She is the author of *Raising Henry: A Memoir of Motherhood, Disability, and Discovery*, and the co-editor of *Keywords for Disability Studies*.

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**Accommodations:** The film will be open captioned and audio description will be available. Other requested accommodations will be provided upon request.

**To reserve your seat for this or other films in the series, go to**

[http://ow.ly/VFPe6](http://ow.ly/VFPe6) or call 302-831-2940

This mini-film series is supported by a grant from the Unidel Foundation and the Center for Disabilities Studies.