PRINCETON ACM / IEEE-CS CHAPTERS APRIL 2022 SPECIAL EVENT

Film: The Bit Player Claude Shannon Documentary



The Bit Player is a documentary film created to celebrate the 2016 centenary of the birth of Claude Shannon, the "father of information theory."

In a blockbuster paper in 1948, mathematician Claude Shannon introduced the notion of a "bit" and laid the foundation for the information age. His ideas ripple through nearly every aspect of modern life, influencing such diverse fields as communication, computing, cryptography, neuroscience, artificial intelligence, cosmology, linguistics, and genetics. This documentary tells the story of an overlooked genius who revolutionized the world, but never lost his childlike curiosity.

The film was produced and directed by Mark Levinson, in cooperation with the IEEE Information Theory Society and the IEEE Foundation.

Shannon has a New Jersey area connection: he worked at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and Bell Labs in Murray Hill during the 1940s and 1950s, before he took a faculty appointment at MIT. Shannon was well known as an interesting personality. He was a fan of chess and many other games, and he also enjoyed juggling and riding a unicycle.

Princeton ACM / IEEE Computer Society has arranged for a screening of this 90-minute film at the **Princeton Garden Theatre**. We will also have a distinguished panel to discuss the film as well as Claude Shannon's life and work. The panel will consist of three Princeton University professors: William Bialek, Vincent Poor, and Christopher Sims.

Tickets can be purchased online in advance on the Princeton Garden Theatre's website: **https://princetongardentheatre.org/films/bit-player**. (The Princeton Garden Theatre is a non-profit community arthouse theater, showing a wide range of films and supporting cultural events in the Princeton community.)

The Princeton Garden Theatre has recently relaxed its mask policy — masks are required in the lobby and restrooms, but patrons may remove masks when seated in the theater auditorium. For details, see https://princetongardentheatre.org/reopening#safety.

About the panelists: **William Bialek** is the John Archibald Wheeler/Battelle Professor in Physics and a member of the multidisciplinary Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics. His work focuses on the interface between physics and biology. **Vincent Poor** is the Michael Henry Starter University Professor of Electrical Engineering. His research focuses on wireless networks and energy systems, and the fundamentals underlying them, including information theory, machine learning, and network science. **Christopher Sims** is the John J.F. Sherrerd '52 University Professor of Economics. His research is on econometrics and macroeconomic theory and policy. Along with Thomas J. Sargent he was awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 2011.

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2022, 7:30pm

Place: Princeton Garden Theatre, 160 Nassau St., Princeton NJ

(corner of Nassau St. and Vandeventer St.)

Information: Dennis Mancl (908) 285-1066
On-line info: http://PrincetonACM.acm.org