



Using Static IIIF for Digital Scholarship: the Paul Thomas Annotated Project

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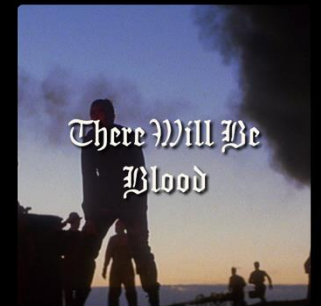
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About the project: **Paul Thomas Anderson**: Annotated In the Margins

- Led by José Vergara (Bryn Mawr) and Jennifer Alpert (Stanford)
- Work in progress
- A digital collection and research project devoted to the filmography of Paul Thomas Anderson
- Will feature annotated screenshots from each of PTA's ten narrative films to date as well as original essays
- Images have technical and thematic metadata that can be used to search and filter the collection



So far, 6 films are available to browse, but only *Punch-Drunk Love* has been annotated.

Website

- Built with [CollectionBuilder](#) ([CSV template](#))
- Notable customizations:
 - Added filter functionality and new interface to browse page
 - Visualization on film pages that lets users see and “scrub” through the whole film and select individual images
 - Added a IIIF viewer that displays annotations
- Design inspired by dark movie theaters and handwritten marginalia
- Color palette inspired by the films

<https://ptannotated.com/>

Homepage

Paul Thomas Annotated

Home Films ▾ Browse Tags About



Annotated Paul Thomas Anderson: In the Margins

Welcome to the beta version of *Paul Thomas Annotated: In the Margins*, an open access resource devoted to the filmography of Paul Thomas Anderson. Our project involves annotating, scene by scene, screenshots from each of his ten narrative films to date. This website is under development, and we welcome user feedback. [Learn More →](#)

Technical and thematic filters

Browse Items

[Advanced Search](#)

All Fields ▾

Search

Reset

Composition: "single shot" ×

Distance: "long shot" ×

OR Distance: "extreme long shot" ×

+ Add Field

Filters ⓘ

Film ▾

Camera Angle ▾

Camera Distance ▾

Shot Location ▾

Camera Movement ▾

Sort by Film ▾

Lighting ▾

Shot Composition ▾

Shot Duration ▾

Themes ▾

22 of 3245 items



LICO-11918

Licorice Pizza

1:19:18

Image

IIIF

Screenshot



LICO-12548

Licorice Pizza

1:25:48

Image

IIIF

Screenshot



PUNC-00645

Punch-Drunk Love

0:06:45

Image

IIIF

Screenshot



PUNC-00653

Punch-Drunk Love

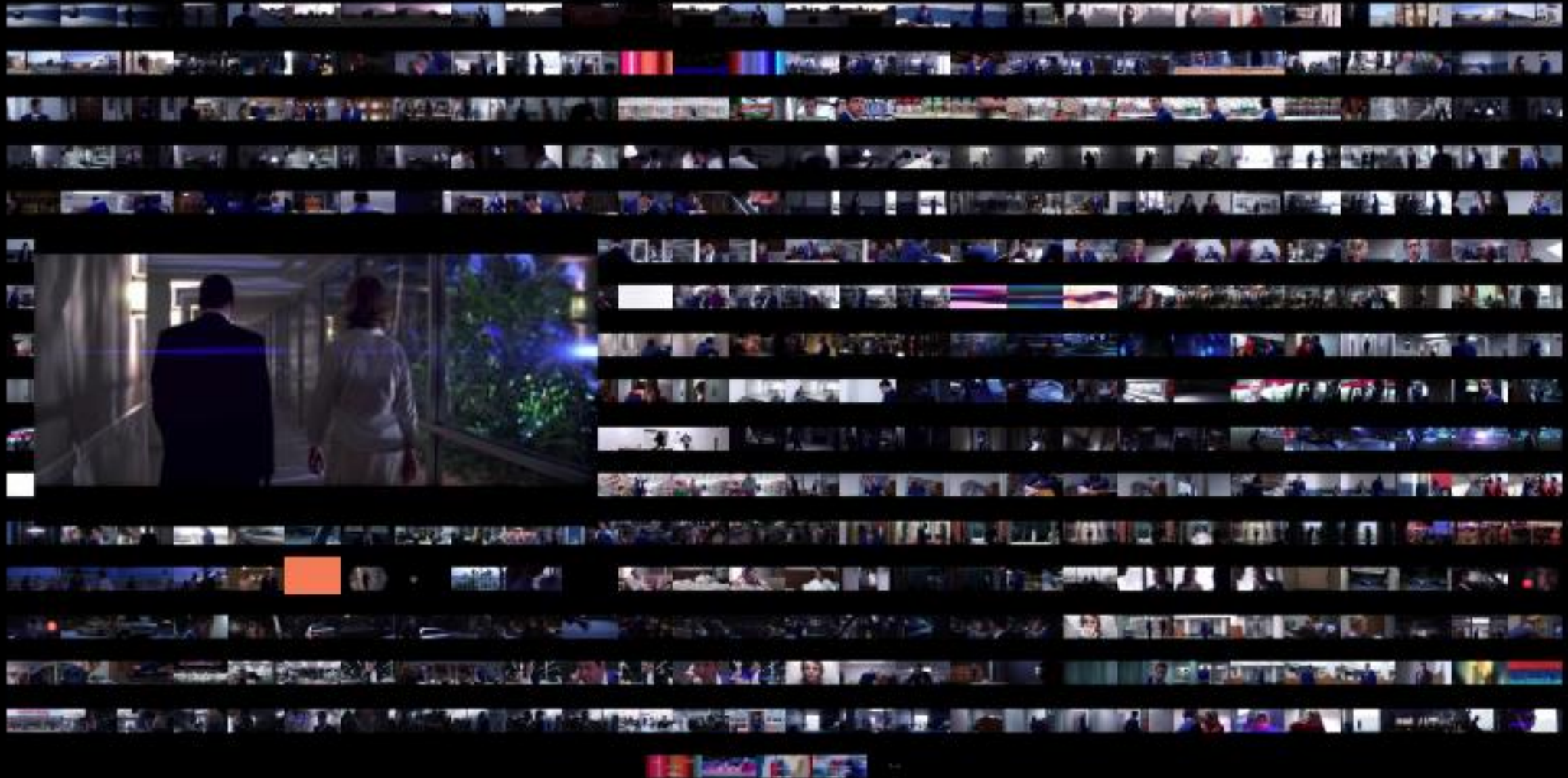
0:06:53

Image

IIIF

Screenshot

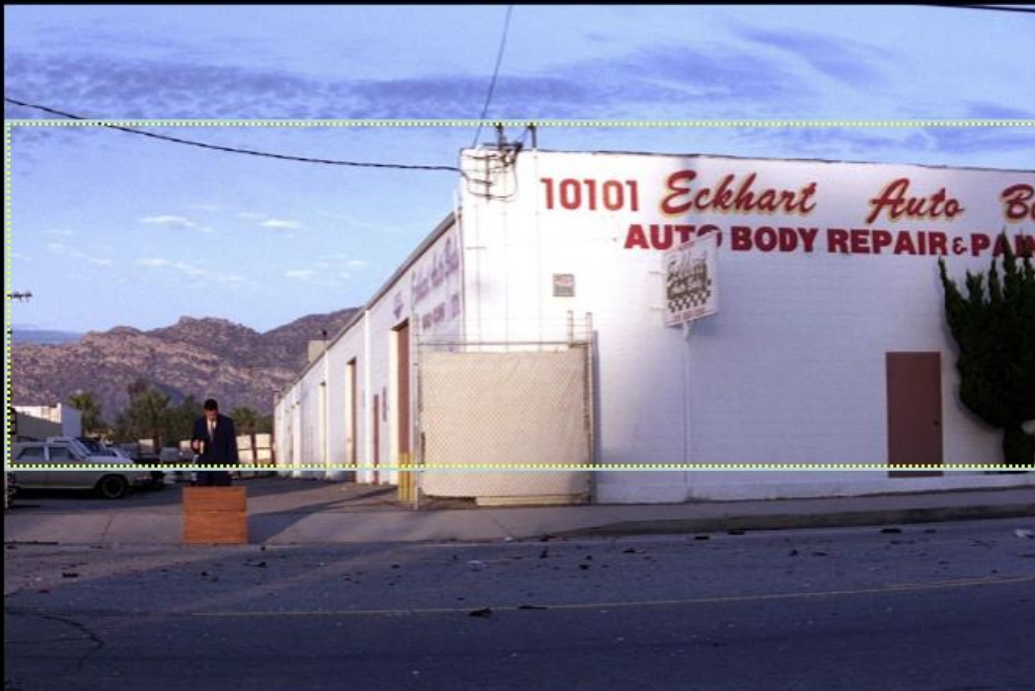
Film page visualization



IIIF Viewer with annotations

PUNC-00645

Item Info ↓



× ← →

Like most of PTA's films, *Punch-Drunk Love* takes place in Los Angeles. The scene was shot at Eckhart Auto Body at 10101 Canoga Avenue in the northwest side of the city. The urban sprawl of LA grants the film some of the sense of desolation and despair that plagues Barry. Here, the forested mountains loom in the background as a natural escape from the concrete and fences. Barry and Lena's love will only come into full bloom—and be consummated—amid the natural splendor of Hawaii. As we were beginning this project, a series of wildfires devastated the Los Angeles landscape and displaced many families who lived near the foci of this natural disaster. When paired with the sadness and desolation that the film portrays, this eerie coincidence only deepened the effect that the location has on the story central to *Punch-Drunk Love*.

PTA is cautious about assigning too much meaning to his films, however, as in this fragment from an audience Q&A: "To me, it's first and foremost from the character. From Barry's stomach and from who he is and the situation that he's in. Someone I can relate to. Anything that comes out of that, those are the discoveries that I make after writing the movie. I never have a real big social picture in my mind. I just feel like it would be an Oliver Stone movie. Y'know. Like, I really gotta say

Project Priorities

- **Interoperability**

- International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) 3.0
- W3C Open Annotation data model

- **Minimal computing**

- **Static** web hosting (maintaining files, not software)

- **Collaboration**

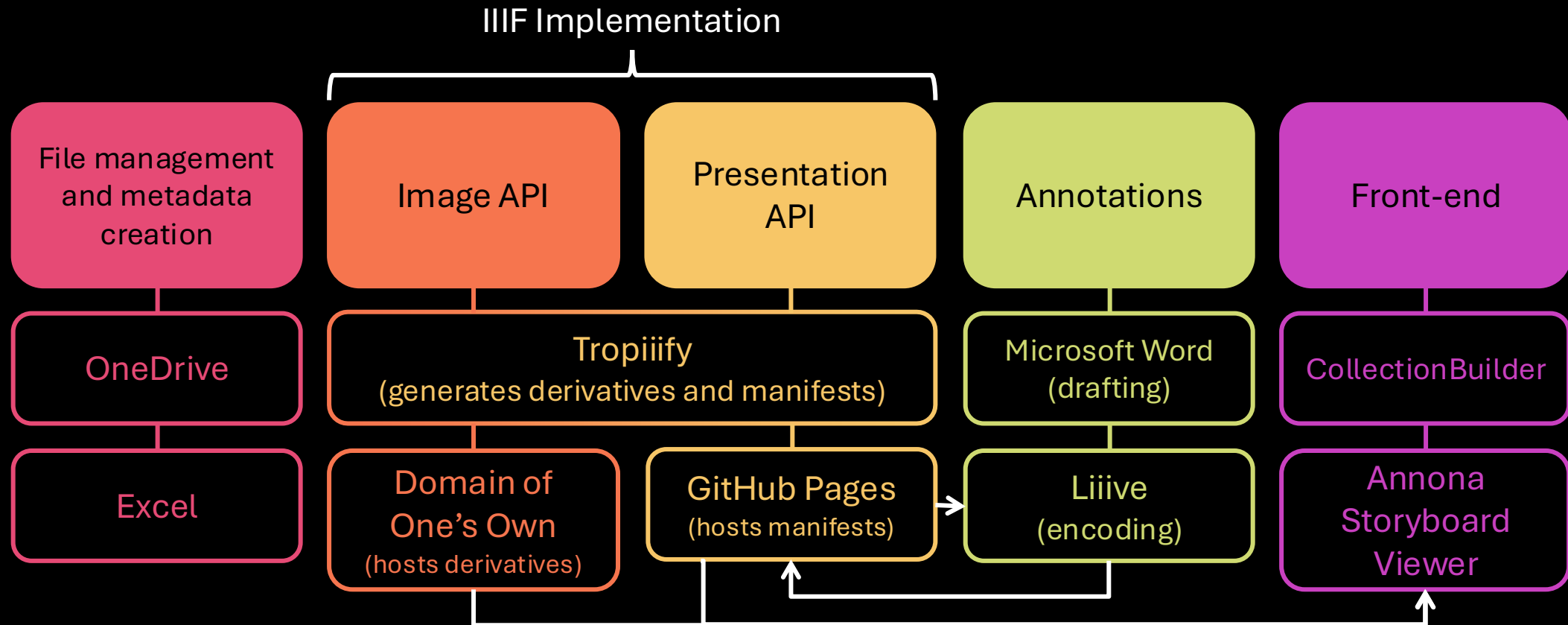
- Project workflows and tools should be accessible to all team members (not just technologists)
- Real-time and asynchronous collaboration on annotations



What is IIIF?

- International Image Interoperability Framework: open APIs for accessing data and image derivatives in digital collections
- Presentation API (3.0):
 - JSON manifest with a URI, document metadata, URIs for images, annotation data.
- Image API (3.0):
 - Tiled image derivatives via URL formula that enables zooming and transformations; works with viewers (Mirador, Universal Viewer...)
- Built into many DAMS /digital repository platforms
 - Import features for many digital scholarship tools (Exhibit.so, Scalar, Juncture, Allmaps, eScriptorium...) via manifest url

Overview of Project Stack



IIIF Image & Presentation API tools

Tool	Description	Image API	Presentation API	Static?	Automate?
Digirati & Bodleian Editors	Manual manifest editors	n/a	2.0	n/a	No
Cantaloupe	Open-source dynamic image server	3.0	n/a	No	Yes
Wax	A Jekyll template for minimal digital collections	2.0	2.0	Yes	Yes
Tropiify	A Tropy plugin for generating IIIF manifests and image derivatives	3.0	3.0	Yes	Yes

Annotation Encoding

- Requirements
 - Export IIIF Presentation 3.0 manifest + annotations
 - GUI with real-time and asynchronous collaboration options
 - Adding links and media to annotations
- Tool options
 - [Recogito](#), [Simple Annotation Server](#), Liiive – [liiive.now](#)
- Our workflow
 - Microsoft Word for drafting (all annotators)
 - [Liiive](#) for annotation encoding (interns and project team members)
 - GitHub for collaboration and manifest versioning

IIIF Viewer

IIIF Viewer needs to:

- Be IIIF Presentation API v3-compliant
- Work well with serverless IIIF
- Display annotations in a user-friendly and accessible interface

We tried many options, including:

- [Mirador](#) - not ideal for annotations with a lot of text
- [Clover IIIF](#) - stopped working with our manifests after an update
- [Glycerine Viewer](#) - great UI for annotations, but hard to customize in the ways we needed
- [Annona Storyboard Viewer](#) - functional annotation UI and easier to customize

What We Learned

Challenges	Opportunities
Skills and knowledge: it's complicated!	IIIF 5-day online training
Image servers (Cantaloupe) require maintenance and additional cost	Many tools out there for small-scale collections and static implementation
Cross-compatibility issues: static (level 0) implementation, presentation/image 3.0, annotation features	Responsive and helpful community of developers who care about this
Open-source ecosystem full of (unmaintained) potential	New resources and tools emerging all the time
The fancy new tool is not always the best solution for the team...	Everything is collaborative!

Thank you!

Get in touch

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- [Digital Scholarship @ Bryn Mawr College](#)

Paul Thomas Annotated Team

- Jennifer Alpert (Stanford Faculty)
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- Olivia Flores (BMC '26)
- Pat Ganley
- Judie Johnson (BMC '25)
- Hilde Nelson (BMC GSAS)
- José Vergara (BMC Faculty)
- Arleen Zimmerle (BMC Librarian)

IIIF Resources

- IIIF Specifications - <https://iiif.io/>
- IIIF awesome list! <https://github.com/IIIF/awesome-iiif>
- IIIF Online Training: <https://iiif.io/get-started/training/>