

Announcing the 2010 Social Issues Documentary Film Contest!



SI DocFest 2009 Makes a Reel Impact

The 2nd Annual SI DocFest took place February 8, 2009 at the Camera 12 Cinemas in Downtown San Jose. Over \$30,000 was awarded to high school filmmakers, their schools and the non-profits they chose to profile in their documentaries.

The top thirteen films as well as several honorable mentions were screened, with many students sharing their filmmaking journeys with the audience. The topics ranged from poverty and domestic violence to special education and at-risk youth.



1st place winners Rebekah Philips and Hayley Foster won \$10,000 to be divided between their school, Presentation High School, the non-profit they profiled, Support Network for Battered Women, and themselves in the form of a cash scholarship.

For filmmaking tips, topic ideas and to see last year's winners, check us out on the web at www.sidocfest.com

The 3rd Annual SI DocFest is calling for entries! The SI DocFest is a unique film contest designed to draw upon the creativity and social concerns of high school filmmakers in the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

The pre-registration deadline is October 30, 2009. Students should start working on their 8-12 minute documentary by researching a social issue and a corresponding non-profit in the Bay Area. They should get to know the organization by volunteering - establishing a good relationship with their subjects is essential in producing a meaningful film.

Why Participate?

The SI DocFest offers an excellent opportunity for high school students to take what they've learned and expand their education beyond the classroom. By combining a passion for social action and awareness with film and media, the SI DocFest hopes to give students an important, well-rounded learning experience. At the very least, we hope to ignite a social thought process in students about issues in our community. At best, we hope students will unearth and examine thought-provoking questions about social issues and the non-profit organizations that exist to alleviate them.

Many classes in a high school curriculum such as video or film production, social justice, history, economics, science, religion or ethics can serve as a bridge to the SI DocFest's mission. These subjects are very relevant to understanding social issues such as poverty, human rights or the environment.

A main goal of the SI DocFest is that teachers and administrators get involved by supporting the film contest as a valuable chance to make a REEL difference in our community. The SI DocFest hopes educators - especially those involved in video production programs - will use the contest as a possible supplement to a curriculum that already focuses on shaping socially aware and responsible young people. Please feel free to contact us at info@dogooddocs.com with any questions.

SI DocFest 2009 Winners

Over 40 high schools from all over the San Francisco Bay Area participated in the SI DocFest 2009, including public, private, small and large student bodies.

FINALISTS

1st Place – “Stopping the Cycle” by Hayley Foster and Rebekah Phillips from Presentation High School

2nd Place Tie – “The Jeremy Project” by Margaret Lewis from Freestyle Academy

2nd Place Tie – “BORP” by Alex Shebanow from Saratoga High School

4th Place – “Not...Mime” by Tanner Hanson and Alix Kaufman from Freestyle Academy

5th Place – “Puppy Love” by Amy Schleicher from San Ramon Valley High School

6th Place – “Sacred Heart: Welcome the Stranger” by Chris Campbell, John Gifford and Wesley Kim from Saratoga High School



Margaret Lewis (above center) and Alex Shebanow (below center) tied for second place, receiving \$5,000 each, which they shared with their schools and the non-profits they profiled.



SPECIAL AWARDS

Tony Palma, head of the video production program at Saratoga High School, was given the Terry McElhatton Memorial Award for submitting the most entries from a single school.



Lauren and Robin McElhatton (left), present Tony Palma (center) with the memorial award.

Amy Schleicher was awarded the Outstanding Senior Award for submitting four films to the SI DocFest in 2009 and one in 2008.



Amy Schleicher (center)

SEMI-FINALISTS

“Trabajo- The Search for a Job” by Trevor Block, Gabriel Mancini and Justin Runes from Bellarmine College Preparatory

“Touching the Bellies, Hearts and Souls” by Nate Earsley, Matt Neimy and Tom MacVicar from Carmel High School

“Mustard Seed” by Patrick Maclan from El Camino High School

“Interact 5170” by Mahita Penke from Mission San Jose High School

“A Week To Remember” by Amy Schleicher from San Ramon Valley High School

“Empowering Women, Eliminating Racism: The YWCA” by John Hurrell from Saratoga High School

“Scar” by Dereck Hoekstra, Matt Ross and Ryan Scripps from Valley Christian High School

Rules & Regulations



CONTENT

- All films must be original, newly-produced works, created in 2009.
- All footage must be shot and edited by the filmmaker(s), with the exception of archival footage which cannot exceed 20% of the film's total content and must be properly attributed.
- Film must be a documentary that focuses on a social issue within the larger San Francisco Bay Area community. The film may have worldwide scope, but a clear link to a local community must be clearly established.
- All films must be appropriate for general audiences and in good taste
- Films should be around 10 minutes long, with 2 minute leeway on each end (including end credits). In other words, the minimum length is 8 minutes and the maximum is 12 minutes.

ELIGIBILITY

- In order to submit a film, you must be a full-time high school student in the San Francisco Bay Area for the 2009-2010 school year.
- You have the option of working individually OR working in a team of up to 3 students from your school. A maximum of 3 students will be eligible for scholarship money if the film wins; however, there is no limit to how many students from your school may help you in the course of your filmmaking experience.
- In the case of a team entry, students must be from the same school or academy.
- Filmmaker(s) are welcome to submit more than one film to the SI DocFest.

TIMELINE

- Pre-registration ends **October 30**, 2009. Entries submitted later than the October deadline may not be eligible for the festival.
- A 1-2 minute preview must be submitted via mail in a DVD format and postmarked by **November 30**, 2009. This will count as the official registration for the SI DocFest.
- Completed films are to be submitted by **January 11**, 2010.
- The awards screening where the winners will be announced will be held at the Camera Cinemas on Saturday **February 6**, 2010.

AWARDS

- Top 3 prizes are to be distributed equally among the organization or individual(s) profiled in the documentary, the school represented by the winning filmmaker(s) and the filmmaker(s) in the form of a cash scholarship.
- 1st place will receive \$10,000.
- 2nd place will receive \$6,000.
- 3rd place will receive \$4,000.
- In addition, 4th-6th place will receive awards for their profiled non-profits (\$1,500, \$1,000, \$750).
- Other semifinalists will receive \$500 for their selected non-profits.
- Awards will also be granted to recognize Honorable Mentions, special contributions and/or unique merit.
- Recognition and participation certificates will be presented to all approved entries; in addition, the winners' films will be posted for worldwide view on the SI DocFest website.

Students can download pre-registration forms online at www.sidocfest.com and either email them to info@dogooddocs.com or mail them to do good docs at 1830 The Alameda, San Jose, CA 95126.

Follow the SI DocFest on Twitter @SIDocFest or join our Facebook group, SI DocFest 2010 for more up-to-date information!

SAVE THE DATE!

The 3rd Annual Social Issues Documentary Film Contest FEBRUARY 6, 2010



do good docs
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