

VJ (VIDEO JUSTICE)

A student film festival

Changing the World One Frame at a Time a “My Purpose Party”

Thank you very much to our panel of Jurors:

Andrew Fried, Serina Mayer, Christin Meador, Barry Pousman, Crissy Spivey, and Jeffrey Flug

Finalists:

"Cat and Mouse"

- Josar Davis-Dacio, DCTV

"Static Nation"

- Samuel Bondy, Mirlene Fevrier, William Johnson, Makara Levin, Celina Ramos, Yeuri Santos, Anthony Stukes, DCTV

"Pink Jacket"

- Bertil Gaspard, Ngozi Romain-Johnson, Chelsea Alexander, Emily Lu, DCTV

"Kids in America"

- DCTV

"Past History Present Danger"

- Megan Rosado and Stephanie Adams

"Environmental Racism"

- Danny Sarmiento, Gabe Cook LREI

"Sticks and Stones"

- Marcel Salas, Ali Salas, Marcel Salas from Packer Collegiate

"From Our Point of View, Joining Hands to Save our Community"

The Awesome Girls, New Orleans Video Voices

Special thanks to our student and faculty committee members:

Ana De La Cruz, Kary Caiza, Jane Kovich, Ayana Workman, Jake Goodman, Jimmy Rogers, Kayla Green, Gabe Cook, Zoe Snow, Nate Lewit, Daniel Montoya, Woobens Celony, Nazir Khan, Danny Sarmiento, Jordan Seagal, Devon Brown, Cameron Diggs Gracen Cloud, Ashley Wilens, Rachard Kemp, Lidor Foguel, and many more!
Tom Murphy, Vinay Chowdhry, Nick Sullivan, Micah Dov Gottlieb

None of this would have been possible without the help, support, and encouragement of Ariadne Meyers and “My Purpose Party”. A film of the planning, organizing, and event will be screened here at EI, and at other schools around the country to inspire students to do projects like this.

Crissy Spivey has worked as the Program Coordinator producing web content and managing web outreach at Breakthrough for over two years. In addition, her online reach includes being a freelance writer for many websites during off hours. Prior to working on the web, offline Crissy worked in documentary production at Court TV. She was a Cultural Arts Instructor for The Bronx School of Law, Government and Justice and Herbert H. Lehman High School, which entailed creating a film internship for students and coordinating cultural arts events for the schools. She was also an Admissions Counselor at the University of Rochester, in Rochester, New York. Crissy has her Masters in Television, Radio, and Film from Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in Journalism from the University of Rochester.

Andrew Fried is an independent television producer. Although he began his career in front of the camera as an actor and stand up comedian, Fried has spent the last ten years in a variety of behind the scenes roles in the entertainment industry. He cut his teeth as a producer working on a host of creative projects including: The launch of The Tribeca Film Festival, the documentary Jay-Z in Fade to Black and The One Campaign. He went on to become first a story producer then a series producer on Iconoclasm working with talents such as Dave Chappelle, Sean Penn, Lorne Michaels and Norman Lear.

In 2007, Fried produced Fast Cars and Superstars, a primetime reality series for ABC as well as a documentary for BET called Black and White: A Portrait of Sean Combs and the opening title sequence for Saturday Night Live.

In 2008, he completed nearly 2 years of shooting as the Producer of a documentary film about the Broadway show In The Heights, which followed the cast and creative team of the show from its initial creation in a small theatre Off Broadway to its triumphant Tony Award win for Best Musical. This film will premiere on PBS on May 27th.

Most recently, Fried produced Britney: For the Record, an in-depth documentary about Britney Spears as she embarked upon her public comeback. For the Record premiered as highest rated show (other than the VMAs) in the history of the MTV network. The show was distributed internationally by Fremantle Media and was a top rated program at networks around the world.

Fried is currently in production on a new non-scripted platform for AMC, which he created, called Storymakers. Hosted by Peter Bart and Peter Guber, Storymakers premiered its first episode as an Oscar preview special with two more installments to follow later this year. The first installment featured Bart and Guber talking to Oscar nominees Danny Boyle, Penelope Cruz, Amy Adams and Frank Langella among others. The next episode premieres on AMC on May 15th at 10:00 and features Cameron Diaz, Tom Cruise and Judd Apatow.

He lives in New York and Los Angeles.

Bio's of our distinguished panel of Jurors:

Christin Meador is the Executive Director of SLIGHTLYaskew, a cross-disciplinary arts collective based in New York City. She has appeared in the company's original production *Where the Bluegrass Grows* and has worked on SLIGHTLYaskew projects in Texas, Maine, Louisiana, Ohio and New York. Christin is originally from Augusta, Georgia where she received her dance training from the Augusta Ballet School. As a member of the Augusta Ballet Company, she performed with bluegrass legend Sam Bush and other Grammy award-winning musicians. Christin received her BFA in Dance with a concentration in Latin American Studies from NYU's Tisch School of Arts. Since living in New York, she has appeared in works by Taye Diggs, Zvi Gotheiner, Johannes Wieland, and Andrew Cowan, and she has had the opportunity to study dance in Cuba. Christin is also a graduate of the William Esper Studio. With writer and director Charlie Sohne, she has worked as an actor and a choreographer on the movie musical *A Method to the Madness* and on the feature film *Woody Allen, the Apocalypse and Three Other Ways to Get a Woman in Bed*. Christin was a journalist and researcher for *Nola Shines*, a web video project that aims to promote the rebuilding of post-Katrina New Orleans. Most recently, Christin performed at the Kennedy Center with the *Liz Lerman Dance Exchange* and produced the *NoLA Rising* festival in New York, featuring the work of famed New Orleans street artist Michael "ReX" Dinger. SLIGHTLYaskew is currently working on *We Three Kings*, a film and performance installation conceived and created in New Orleans. *We Three Kings* will premiere in New York and in the second annual New Orleans Fringe Festival.

Barry Pousman is the Co-founder and Artistic Director of Peace Only Productions (peaceonlyproductions.org) and Media Programming Director of InfraRed Cinema at the IRT (irttheater.org). Pousman is originally from Augusta, Georgia where he received his filmmaking training from John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School. As a member of Dog Pound Productions, he wrote, directed and edited various award winning video productions. Pousman spent his first year of college volunteering and studying in Israel. He received his B.A. in visual media with a concentration in documentary and experimental animation from Emerson College in Boston. After college, he went on to serve for two years with the Peace Corps in Senegal, West Africa where he wrote, directed and edited films currently being screened on Senegal's national television station RTS. During his service, he also provided training to the AV specialist at the US Embassy on non-linear editing software and worked closely with local NGOs on their media reference libraries and rural outreach programs. Since living in New York, he has worked at Rocketboom (rocketboom.com) as a freelance D.P. and video editor covering SXSW, Intel, Resistor NYC, Eyebeam, and more. Pousman has also taken on film and video programming and curatorial responsibilities at the InfraRed Theater in the West Village and has been an active D.P. and editor for the art collective SLIGHTLYaskew

(slightlyaskew.org) including the original production *Where the Bluegrass Grows*, *NoLA Rising Art Festival*, and *Want the Change*. Most recently, Pousman has begun post-production work on a music video for *Jac et la Takeifa*, a local band from Dakar, addressing the growing problem of desertification affecting Senegal. Pousman is also a percussionist in the newly formed Adventureband.

Serina Mayer is an independent producer. She is currently developing a project based on neuroscience called *OUT OF MOUR MINDS*. *OOOM* is a TV series, a touring art exhibition and an online destination, which looks at brain science through the lens of art and story telling. Previously, Serina served as a consultant to Radical Media where she developed various properties including *Hardbat Classic* a new ping pong brand launching this summer and *Radicals, Revolutionaries and Rock Stars*, a TV series about ideas and the people who had them. Prior to Radical Media, Serina created a line of character puppets called *Zuppetz*. *Zuppetz* inhabit a whimsical world filled with Nobel Prize winning physicists, professional whistlers, kite makers and cartographers. Represented by the Paradigm Agency, *Zuppetz* is currently in development as a book and TV series.

In the early 90's, Serina founded Vibemaster, Inc., a new media consultancy specializing in digital development strategies for entertainment and technology companies and in 1997 launched *Atomic Pop*. *Atomic Pop* was one of the original online music and entertainment platforms on the web. In the late 1980s,

Serina was the Managing Director of U. S. Operations for rooART, an independent record label distributed through Polygram Entertainment. Serina began her career as a sports agent working with clients such as Phil Simms, Steve Sax and Jack "Hacksaw" Reynolds.

She lives in Brooklyn, with her husband, daughter and their two mini dauschunds Lulu and Bubu.

Jeffrey Flug served as the first Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of Millennium Promise Alliance, Inc. for 2 years. Before joining Millennium Promise, Jeff was Managing Director and Head of North American Institutional Sales at JP Morgan's Investment Bank. Prior, Jeff served as Managing Director for Goldman Sachs & Co. in its Fixed Income Division for 12 years. He has worked successfully in the financial sector for the last 20 years and has extensive managerial and leadership experience. Jeff is leading Millennium Promise, in collaboration with its key partners, the Earth Institute at Columbia University and the UN Millennium Project, in the work to end extreme global poverty and achieve the World's Millennium Development Goals. Jeff has a B.B.A in Accounting from the University of Massachusetts/Amherst and an M.B.A. in Finance from Columbia University. He currently serves on the boards of Millennium Promise, BuildOn and Malaria No More.. He is married to Sheryl Flug and reside in New York City with their three daughters.

Cat and Mouse (8:02) DCTV
Director/editor: Josar Davis- dacio

In this short film about putting an end to violence, a student is constantly harassed by a bully and his peers at school. This is a continuing problem and so one day he decides to run away from the bully and hide. Unfortunately, he is still found by the bully, but he somehow works up the courage to fight back and give the bully a taste of his own medicine. From then on, the tables had turned, and the bully ran from the same student he used to pick on. In the last scene of this wordless film, the graffiti on the wall delivers the message they are trying to get across.

Static Nation (6:38) DCTV
Producers: Samuel Bondy, Mirlene Fevrier, William Johnson, Makara Levin, Celina Ramos, Yeuri Santos, Anthony Stukes

This film addresses the negativity from the media. The example they use is Fox 5. Instead of having the voices of those who are strongly one sided, they should use voices from a more neutral standpoint. People riot outside Fox network and compile signatures on a petition to end the slurs they believe Fox exerts. The filmmakers show clips of a tied up teen to represent the effect the media has on youth. In the end, the teenager unties himself and is free from the negativity.

Pink Jacket (1:04) DCTV
Directors: Bertil Gaspard, Ngozi Romain-Johnson, Chelsea Alexander, Emily Lu

This short film is about discrimination against homosexuals. People are in a room laughing at a boy for wearing a rainbow scarf and pink jacket and being gay. It comments on how much homosexuals are harassed in schools. It ends with the boy meeting up with a supportive friend.

Kids in America DCTV

This film portrays all of the problems teenagers got through. Teens lip-sync to a song while pretending to be kids in different situations. One is working hard on homework, another is pregnant, and one beats up another kid and then gets drunk and high with his friend. Although there is no real dialogue between the characters in this film, there is still the component of the issues that face teens today, and that sometimes it may be hard to face them but then there is always hope.

Sticks and Stones (12:26) PACKER COLLEGIATE
Directors: Marcel Salas, Adeyemi Mchunuzi, and Ali Salas

In this film, kids talk about the use of offensive words like the N word as if they are

everyday words. Another example is gay, which is sometimes used as a replacement for stupid. They talk about the origins of the N word and it's use in the racist south. It emphasizes the disrespect and the effects of the word on people. These words are used carelessly in modern slang however we don't realize the impact on the people around us that may hear them.

Past History, Present Danger (13:43) DCTV
Producers: Megan Rosado and Stephanie Adams

In this film, two students take a trip to the United Kingdom to learn about nuclear activity and have an eye-opening experience about how nuclear activity is used and how it has been used in the past. This film shows the disadvantages of nuclear war and nuclear activity around the world. Even though we saw its major effects during WWII, we still see that nuclear activity has its disadvantages and affects today in our government, the media, and on the people and places around the world.

From Our Point of View: Joining Hands to Save Our Community AWESOME GIRLS

New Orleans Video Voices in partnership with The Awesome Girls Mentoring Program will hold a world premiere of their film The Awesome Girls are a group of girls aged 9-19 who participate in a year-round free mentoring program at St. Anna's. Since January, they've teamed up with New Orleans Video Voices to learn documentary filmmaking techniques. Starting with each other, they've interviewed kids, adults, professionals, musicians, and parents about issues and life in the Treme and 7th Ward neighborhoods