



NEW YORK CITY
**PUBLIC
SCHOOL
FILM
FESTIVAL**

HONORING THE DIVERSITY
OF STUDENT VOICES

April 25, 2023



Adobe



#NYCPSFilmFestival

SCHEDULE

9:00 AM

CHECK-IN

10:00 AM

OPENING REMARKS

- **Anne del Castillo**, Commissioner, Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment
- **David Banks**, Chancellor, New York City Public Schools
- **Jill Gray**, Senior Manager of Customer Success, Education at Adobe

10:15 AM

FILM SHOWCASE

12:00 PM

LUNCH & LEARN PANEL

- Lunch and Learn panel with industry professionals
- Q & A

1:00 PM

FILM AND MEDIA CAREER EXPO

WELCOME



Dear Filmmakers,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 5th annual NYC Public School Film Festival. Your films were selected from more than 180 submissions. Congratulations to you for your hard work and dedication, and to your families and teachers for encouraging you along the way!



The Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment is proud to partner with the Department of Education to celebrate your achievements and connect you with industry professionals and information about careers in film and television. Thank you to DOE Chancellor David C. Banks and his team, and all the participating schools and teachers for their commitment to this program.

We are delighted to be back in person, and we thank the Museum of the City of New York for hosting this year's event, where you can connect with fellow students and meet industry professionals. The Film and Media Career Expo offers you the opportunity to learn about summer programs geared towards developing your craft as filmmakers and apply to college film programs and internships at some of the world's leading media companies right here in New York City.

The global film and television industry actually began in New York City. We were the first city in the country to establish a film office to help film and television creators from all over the world land their productions here. We are home to some of the most iconic locations known the world over and the most talented cast and crew in the industry. Our film and TV industry generates \$82 billion in economic activity and 185,000 jobs. To build our incredible talent pipeline, we have created workforce programs to ensure that the talent in front of and behind-the-camera is as diverse as the city itself. Programs like the "Made in NY" Production Assistant Training Program, the "Made in NY" Post Production Training Program, the "Made in NY" Animation Project, and MediaMKRS have opened the door to opportunities for New Yorkers in film and television.

You have already taken the first step to becoming a part of this exciting world of storytelling. We invite you to stay connected with us through our website at www.nyc.gov/mome, on Twitter @madeinny and on Instagram @madein_ny. For now, enjoy today!

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne del Castillo".

Anne del Castillo, Commissioner
NYC Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment





Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to the fifth annual NYC Public School Festival! As Chancellor, I am thrilled to join you in celebrating our young filmmakers, their teachers, media arts partners, and families.

A collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MoME), this Festival highlights the best in what our public schools offer: rigorous education, creativity, opportunities to elevate student voices, and connections to career pathways in New York City. This year, over 180 student films were submitted and 25 are represented in this competitive Festival. All films were screened by media arts educators and industry professionals, led by Magic Box Productions. The films come from across the city and represent different styles and genres and, most importantly, capture the diverse points of view and creativity of New York City students. I congratulate our young artists on their skill, imagination, and creativity.

I want to thank our outstanding media arts teachers and cultural partners for their dedication and passion, for sharing their expertise, and for supporting our students' creativity every day. I am also grateful to our school leaders who prioritize arts education and student voice in their leadership every day.

Finally, a special shout-out to MoME Commissioner Anne del Castillo, Associate Commissioner Alia Jones-Harvey, and the entire MoME team. We appreciate all you do to connect our students with industry professionals, higher education programs, and the artists who are joining us for the panel and the Film and Career Expo. Thank you for your advice, expertise, and generosity.

Again, congratulations to our student filmmakers, and I hope everyone enjoys this exciting day!

Soaring high,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David C. Banks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

David C. Banks
Chancellor, New York City Public Schools



SELECTIONS

**HOLLYWOOD
PRODUCTION** _____

DIRECTOR _____

CAMERA _____

DATE

SCENE

TAKE

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

ANIMATION

Focus

A movie about a student studying for her Mandarin quiz, as she loses focus, her “characters” come to life. **Director, Writer, Producer:** Rachel Mei Kelly;

Key Cast: Rachel Mei Kelly, Tanisha Malik, Emily Tan, Portia Sharon Fong, SiWei Gong, Caitlyn Homol; **School:** Brooklyn Prospect Charter High School;

Teacher: Nora Elnagar; **Principal:** Wendell Cheung

Baking Beatdown

Who will win the Donut competition? **Animators:** Cleo Allen, Nia Cheng, and Dessa Nowes; **School:** Lower Manhattan Community Middle School;

Teacher: Jessica Sinclair; **Principal:** Shanna Douglas

The Mortality Tale

A girl tells us the tale of when she first learned there is an end to this great life of ours. **Director:** Grace Aisling Landauer; **Writer:** Siena Gutierrez; **School:** Arts & Letters 305 United; **Teacher:** Graham Sibirsky; **Principal:** Pilar Ramos

Closure

A woman deals with the aftermath of a love triangle in therapy. **Directors:** Kevin Perez, Jasmine Aguirre-Palacios. **School:** Digital Arts & Cinema Technology High School; **Teacher:** Naomi Barak; **Principal:** Dawn Meconi

EXPERIMENTAL

(I'm) On Edge

A personal narrative about the Director's hardships with being perceived and judged by others in relation to their identity. **Director, Writer, Producer:** Shua Alatraste; **Assistant Camera Operator:** William Alatraste; **School:** Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School; **Teacher:** Jason Spagnuoli; **Principal:** Gideon Frankel

Stormwatch

A journey through the city of New York, beyond the flashy tourist traps. This film is a deep dive into the beautiful chaos and grit within the city. **Directors and Producers:** Lucien Shih, Augustus James Roebeling. **Chief Editor:** Augustus James Roebeling. **School:** Brooklyn Technical High School; **Teacher:** Amani Mohamed; **Principal:** Patrick McGillicuddy

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Bloodshed

Ulysses Rivers is a high school student in Brooklyn that wrote a song about the violence he lives with in his community every single day. He lives in fear, and he wants it to stop. He's not naïve, he knows that's a big ask but he hopes his music will get at least one person to stop and think. Ulysses also wants other young people who live in violent communities to know that they are not alone.

He is hopeful that his song gives them words for their feelings. TAPCo, a school of the arts and technology, took Ulysses' song and created an experimental video that combined both the documentary and music video genres. The result is a unique message of fear and hope that resonates in what can be a very violent world. **Directors and Editors:** Dennis Moore, Christian Tejada; **Key Cast:** Ulysses Rivers; **School:** Theatre Arts Production Company School; **Teacher:** Steven Mudrick; **Principal:** Kristin McHugh

Villain Vengeance

A beautiful empire was crushed by a villain, and it's a matter of time to rebuild.

Director, Writer, Producer: Ryan Chen; **School:** J.H.S. 074 Nathaniel Hawthorne; **Teacher:** Keith Crowley; **Principal:** Allison Persad

Inspired People (8th grade)

Students at Kappa III hand-painted 16mm film about people who inspire them. Drawing from ideas around synesthesia, students chose a color or two and symbols that they thought embodied their chosen person. Narrations are written and spoken by those students. **Narrators:** Nessandra Berberena, Madisyn Treasure Butler, Mariam Cissera Camara, Brendan Jose Casper, Christopher G. Clarke, Mariyah Jazmin Coles, Tyler Maurice Cox, Dylan De Los Santos, Siamy Dolmo, Mariangel Feliz, Briar A Galicia, Anelvi Garcia, Kavon Hough-Carroway, Nia-Simone A Jackson, Mubarak Michael Lamine, Christian Isaiah Lee, Yaris Martinez De La, Brenda Mejia, William Montes-Pavia, Jeremiah Jesus Pena, Adriel Quinones, Timothy Jen I Rondon, Xamari Prince Thomas, Elias Francis Vargas, Madysen Williams, Setema Montes; **School:** Kappa III Middle School; **Teacher:** Ebony Hatchet; **Principal:** Jean Colon

PSA

Curbside Composting

The NYC Curbside Composting Program has expanded to Queens! Have you heard of it? **Producers:** Umed Maru, Anand Maru, Nikolas Kenworthy, Jomi Legarda, Abderrahmane Labdi, Aki Benjamin, Lillian Parrella; **Key Cast:** Sentayehu Seubert, Emily Herra, Anand Maru, Abderrahmane Labdi, Umed Maru, Aadi Hasija, Jomi Legarda, Lillian Parrella, Anand Maru; **Other Credits:**

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Music Producers: Anand Maru, Lillian Parrella; **Voiceover:** Anand Maru, Nikolas Kenworthy, Jomi Legarda, Aki Benjamin, Lillian Parrella, Abderrahmane Labdi, Sentayehu Seubert, Emily Herra, Aadi Hasija; **Special Thank Yous:** Amy Jones, Sheela Maru, Duncan Maru, Compost Task Force, interviewees, Kevin Helfenbein; **Editors:** Umed Maru; **School:** Baccalaureate School for Global Education; **Teacher:** Kevin Helfenbein; **Principal:** Dr. Heather Page

Drawn Into the Cycle of Violence

A child draws a picture of her family that depicts the violent relationship between her parents. **Producers:** Valerie Inthun Pook, Jing Han You, Luke Chen, Colleen Chen; **School:** J.H.S. 074 Nathaniel Hawthorne; **Teacher:** Keith Crowley; **Principal:** Brandon Contarsy

Bruises of Word

A teen girl battles with emotions in her daily experiences with cyberbullying. **Director:** Anel Yerdenayeva; **Writer:** Emma Grigoryev; **Editor:** William Chen; **Cinematographer:** Romy Swisa; **Key Cast:** Emma Grigoryev, Rio Yu, William Chen, Sophia Fortuna; **Production Assistant:** Jay Ng; **Graphics:** Hoshi Casero **School:** Midwood High School; **Teacher:** Henry Mei; **Principal:** Dr. Robert J. Quinlan

HERO High School Writing Center

Student filmmakers from HERO (Health, Educations, and Research Occupations) High School explore the community that has sprung out of the school's new writing center. **Director:** Amnon Carmi; **Producers:** Zack Robles, Angel Ramirez, Domonique Francis, Nasya Prime, Alex Cortez, Amnon Carmi and Benjamin Ducof ; **Key Cast:** Judith Nysenholc, Danny Kam; **School:** H.E.R.O. High School; **Teacher:** Benjamin Ducoff; **Principal:** Kristin Cahill

DOCUMENTARY

Last Chance High: Cornhole

Set in the heart of Brownsville Brooklyn, the film tells the inspiring story of a transfer high school that has found hope, purpose, and community in the unlikely sport of cornhole. **Director:** Gabrielle Coleman; **Writer:** Brianna Moore, Messiah Harper, Allyssa Marshall, Alyjah Thomas Hudson, Born Williams; **Producer:** Carlos Aguilar Castillo; **Key Cast:** Delontea Allen, Ahmad Sharpe, Patrick McGillicuddy, Yves Camile, Chiler Fleuristil, Eli Hypolite, Tyler Schlesinger, Damira Ogesby, Desmond Blunt, Jayden Pinnock, David Nelinson; **School:** East Brooklyn Community High School; **Teacher:** David Nelinson; **Principal:** Patrick McGillicuddy

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Street Chess Community Care, Conflict, and Competition

A film documentary on street chess culture at Washington Square Park.

Director: Eugene Yoo; **School:** Stuyvesant High School; **Teacher:** Karen Leo;

Principal: Seung Yu

Willowbrook Then and Now

Our class produces a podcast - THE SQUADCAST - and, during our second episode on the topic of Disability Rights, the students decided to visit the site of the infamous Willowbrook State School and compare the site now to what it was during that awful time. **Director:** Frank Schiazza & Class V-01; **Writers:** Anthony

Panfilo, Hailee Salce, Latifa Napier, Gregory Lloyd, Joann Polanco; **Producers:**

Brian Garcia Rios, Brandon Garcia Rios, Juliana Condon; **Key Cast:** Antoine Burke, Anthony Gentile, Leon Kang, Sean Oberg; **School:** The Richard H.

Hungerford School 721R; **Teacher:** Frank Schiazza; **Principal:** Kristin McHugh

The Hustle

The Hustle is an uplifting and motivating documentary that features two student athletes who believe that sports add a moral and deep meaning to their lives.

There will be numerous clips depicting the athletes playing basketball games and competing against other schools throughout the film. The students will help reveal the need to understand what it takes to be an athlete while juggling other responsibilities in one's life. Through these clips, the audience will learn more about why they play basketball and how it has shaped them as a person.

The interviews are intended to inspire the audience to keep doing what they are passionate about. Also, to support and advise those who are currently struggling with being a student athlete. To conclude the film, we hope to encourage our viewers to keep going and perhaps urge others to participate in sports and experience the beauty of it. **Director:** Anabelle Delosrios; **Cinematographer:**

Angelina Haoud, Fairoz Adiba; **Sound Operator:** Xochitl Morales; **Interviewer:** Arianna Dominguez; **Interviewees:** Anika Murillo, Ayah Shuaib; **School:** The Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria; **Teacher:** Kayla Marte;

Principal: Allison Persad

Roe v. Wade

A film which explores student opinions surrounding the recent decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. **Directors:** Vishali Seepersaud, Nutan Ramchand, Kanwal Naz; **School:** Epic High School - South; **Teacher:** Matthew Palermo; **Principal:** Kristen Breen

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

SHORT NARRATIVE

Dear Admissions

In this experimental, psychological thriller, a teenager meets with the sinister personification of Admissions. As the sardonic plot unravels, the interview plummets towards disaster, and the student becomes increasingly desperate to submit a stand-out application for college. **Director & Writer:** Freya Golden; **Producer:** Lucy Karp; **Key Cast:** Dalton Joseph, Londi Brooks; **School:** Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School; **Teacher:** Jason Spagnuoli; **Principal:** Gideon Frankel

My Dog Barley

In her attempt to find a plant growth solution, Savannah creates a scenario where things with the dog get very ruff. **Director:** Savannah Vye; **Producer:** Savannah Vye, Dustin Vye; **Key Cast:** Savannah Vye, Barley, Gina Vye; **School:** PSIS 187; **Teacher:** Michael Bridenstine; **Principal:** Emel Topbas Mejia

Cyborg

A disgruntled employee searches for the truth. **Directors:** Daisy Liles, Ayisha Braimah, Odin Loppe, Jayden Jones, David Lee, Miles Perlman; **School:** Art & Design High School; **Teacher:** Hanan Harchol; **Principal:** Maximillian Re-Sugiura

The Crown

A romantic overture gone wrong results in innocence lost and despair between two best friends. **Director:** Aibrys Caminero; **Writer:** Abigail "Russel" Flores; **Producers:** Aibrys Caminero & Abigail "Russel" Flores, Josh Raff, Jordan Battiste; **Key Cast:** Aibrys Caminero & Abigail "Russel" Flores; **School:** Bronx High School for Law and Community Service with Five4Five Films; **Teacher:** Josh Raff; **Principal:** Michael Barakat

Thief in the Park

A murder-mystery parody film in which everyone is a suspect after a girl loses her sandwich. **Director, Writer, & Producer:** Bernadette Ynes Daunt; **Key Cast:** Selina Zheng, Tara Isabel Lago, Evelyn Chow, Mariella Reynoso; **School:** Staten Island Technical High School; **Teacher:** Michael Van Buren; **Principal:** Mark Erlenwein

Grounded

A suspenseful sci fi film set in New York. **Director, Writer:** Dorothea Lethbridge; **Editor, Cinematographer, Music, and Sound:** Sierra Seetin;



OFFICIAL SELECTIONS



Key Cast: Dorothea Lethbridge, Sierra Seetin; **School:** The Clinton School;
Teacher: Michael McGuire; **Principal:** Jon Levin

Inside

A girl finds her identity in an unexpected place. **Director:** Reynaldo Cardona;
Writers: Reynaldo Capers, Rupi Kaur; **Producers:** Brett McCall, Jordan Nieves,
Miguel Peralta, Cristina Abellas; **School:** Longwood Preparatory Academy;
Teacher: Mr. McCall; **Principal:** Asya Johnson



5th ANNUAL NEW YORK CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOL FILM
FESTIVAL SCREENING

AS PART OF SUMMER SERIES

MOVIES
UNDER THE STARS

May 6: James Baldwin Lawn (in St. Nicholas Park), Manhattan

May 13: Rory Staunton Field, Queens

May 20: Central Lawn in Sunset Park, Brooklyn

**Please stay tuned for our Movies
Under the Stars screenings!**

We will be showing all festival films in NYC Parks on
Saturday May 6th, Saturday May 13th, and Saturday May 20th

Bring your blankets and chairs!

Screenings will be open to the public.

nyc.gov/moviesunderthestars



JURORS

ANIMATION

Ariel Goldberg
Jeff Dates
Jimmy Gass
Jeff Scher

EXPERIMENTAL

Steve McIntosh
Wyonna Rutledge
Kareema B. Partin
Abby Verbosky
Frank Aiello
Jeff Dates

PSA

Jesse Lubinsky
Wezi Thindwa
Jacob Stebel
Wyonna Rutledge
Michael Bridenstine
Steve McIntosh
Abby Verbosky

DOCUMENTARY

Raphaela Neihausen
Jacob Stebel
Michael Bridenstine
Sharese Bullock-Bailey
Kareema B. Partin
Frank Aiello
Jimmy Gass

SHORT NARRATIVE

Jesse Lubinsky
Michael Bridenstine
Sharese Bullock-Bailey
Claudio Zavala
Wyonna Rutledge
Wezi Thindwa
Kareema B. Partin
Abby Verbosky
Frank Aiello

PANELISTS



AKENE FARMER-MICHOS

After graduating in 2016 and majoring in Political Science with a minor in CMS, Akene moved to Los Angeles and landed a job in the prestigious talent agency William Morris Endeavor. Working in the Non-Scripted Television department, he was selected to their Agent Trainee program as well as earning the opportunity to assist the CEO of the company Ari Emanuel. Pivoting to a career more focused towards development, Akene then worked for Mass Appeal Productions. Here he collaborated on various projects such as NFL's "My Cause, My Cleats", Hulu's "Around the Way", and Showtime's Emmy nominated mini-series "Wu-Tang Clan: Of Mics and Men" where he attended the premiere at the Sundance Film Festival. Taking an interest in physical production, Akene was able to join the IATSE Union as a Camera Operator, where his production credits range from scripted feature length movies,

documentaries, scripted and non-scripted TV shows all of which are available on Amazon Prime and Netflix. The Pandemic brought many new challenges to the world of production, and Akene navigated into a new space at a media tech company called Frame.io. Brought on to assist clients integrating media collaboration software into their workflows, this position provided access to a vast amount of client facing opportunities where he's still able to network and continue his freelance production work to focus on increasing accessibility of creative platforms and work for underserved users.

GEORGETTE PIERRE

Georgette Pierre is an Emmy winning producer, storyteller, and voice actor. Her TV production background spans VH1, MTV, Nickelodeon, Netflix, tentpole award shows, and short form content. She continues to creatively consult and freelance on digital, audio, and TV projects, including her podcast, Black + Nuanced, Emerson College Alumni Association's Making It Big in 30 Minutes, and Paramount's branded content production team called Paramount Brand Studio.



PANELISTS



SHRUTI GANGULY

Shruti Ganguly is an award-winning filmmaker and writer based in Oslo and New York City. Shruti was a member of Obama's ECCO committee of 30 leaders and creators in entertainment, chairing its Asian Caucus, and is on the Creative Council for Emily's List. She has produced several films (including Spirit-winner *H.*, and the Nora Ephron Prize-winner *INITIALS SG*) that have premiered Sundance, Venice, Tribeca and Berlin. Shruti has directed videos for Google, Unilever, Nike, Conde Nast, Chanel, and crafted the #MySentence series on prison reform for the Obama Administration. In late 2017, Shruti started honto88, a production company that works in a variety of formats - from narrative and doc features to series, and branded content.

KIM DÍAZ

Over her 16-year career, Díaz has been a leader in creative producing, writing, and development for educational preschool TV content. In her previous roles at Sesame Workshop, Díaz oversaw Sesame Workshop's Creative Development pipeline, which includes original series, Sesame Street spinoffs, Sesame Street segments, and animated specials for partners such as HBO Max and Apple TV+. Her recent projects include the development of *Charlotte's Web*; Sesame Street specials, *Elmo Gets a Puppy* and the upcoming *The Nutcracker: Starring Elmo and Tango*; *Elmo & Tango's Mysterious Mysteries* for Sesame Street's Seasons 52 and 53; numerous *Coming Together* animated shorts, and more. Díaz produced the YouTube short, *The Monster at the End of Your Story* with Grover and Elmo, which was nominated for a Daytime Emmy Award.



Before joining Sesame Workshop, Kim Díaz served as writer, producer, and puppeteer at Sprout on the Emmy-nominated *The Sunny Side Up Show*, the only live studio series for preschoolers that ran 365 days a year under both Comcast and NBC Universal. Additionally, Díaz served as writer and producer for on-air promos, branding, and interstitials at Nick Jr. She was nominated for three short-form writing Emmy Awards for Nickelodeon Presents *History & Heritage* and *Dora's Fantastic Gymnastics Adventure*.

Díaz holds a BFA in Film & Television Production from NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

EXPO

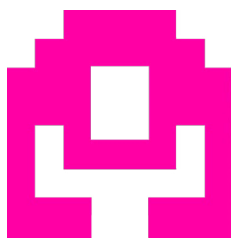


Adobe



**GHETTO
FILM
SCHOOL**

REEL  **WORKS**



**The
Animation
Project**



NYU

**TISCH SCHOOL
OF THE ARTS**



Congratulations on submitting your videos for this year's NYC Public School Film Festival!



Creativity for all.

Adobe recognizes the immense effort, commitment, and skill that has gone into creating through the medium of moving images.

Adobe Creative Cloud (creativecloud.adobe.com/apps/all/desktop) offers a range of tools and services specifically designed for filmmakers and video production professionals like you in your continuing journey!



#NYCPSFilmFestival