

For Immediate Release

THE FIRST ANNUAL HUB ON CANALSM STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS

Students from Four Area High Schools Received Awards and Prizes

NEW SMYRNA BEACH, Fla., March 10, 2017- The Hub on Canal Inc. announced the winners of its film festival categories for both films and film posters at a private awards ceremony for students, parents, and teachers held at The Hub on Canal on March 2, 2017.

The student film festival was developed as part of a collaborative effort between Volusia County Schools and The Hub on Canal. During the fall 2016 semester, film production students created 4-minute films that reflected the theme of the film festival, *A Day in My Life as I See It*. Students in the digital multi-media department at each school collaborated with the student filmmakers to create movie posters. Approximately 50 student films and movie posters were submitted for judging.

Student Award Categories and Winners

The winners and awards selected by the judges for the 2017 film competition are listed as follows:

4-Minute Film Competition

- **1st Place in Film Competition and Best Directing**, Danielle George, *Take One*
New Smyrna Beach High School
- **2nd Place in Film Competition and Best Cinematography**, Bobby Levy, *Life in the Moment*
New Smyrna Beach High School
- **3rd Place in Film Competition and Editing**, April O'Gorman, *Day in the Life of a Missionary in Haiti*
New Smyrna Beach High School
- **Honorable Mention and Best Writing**, Eliza Budanio, *A Day in My World As I See It*
Spruce Creek High School
- **Judges Special Award for Post-Production Effects**, Alex Brunning, *A Day in the World of D-Man*
Deland High School

Film Poster Competition

- **1st Place in Film Poster Competition**, Aniel Brunning Rampersad, *A Day in the Life of D-Man*
Deland High School
- **2nd Place in Film Poster Competition**, Abby Sweinhagen, *A Day in the World of D-Man*
Deland High School

- **3rd Place in Film Poster Competition**, Steven Menendez, *A Day in the World as I See It*
Deland High School

Film Festival Panel of Judges

Judging for the film festival was comprised of a panel of judges consisting of five individuals representing the film industry, educators, and community leaders.

- **Judge Judy Davidson**- Judge Davidson began her career teaching law at the college level and then subsequently joined the Public Defender's Office for the 7th Judicial Circuit before becoming Division Chief of the Flagler County Public Defender's Office.

Among her awards for community service are the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono award for the 7th Judicial Circuit in 2010 for the pro bono clinic she founded, donating over 200 pro bono hours a year. Judge Davidson was appointed by the governor to the Volusia County bench in 2012 and currently presides over Criminal Misdemeanor cases. Judge Davidson serves as the DUI Court Judge, a treatment court with success at providing long-term recovery to hardcore DUI offenders. She also serves as a mentor for Title One elementary school students and mentors high school students in the Take Stock in Children program for Volusia County Schools. Judge Davidson volunteers her time as a Teen Court Judge, a diversion program for first time juvenile offenders and is active in her local Rotary Club where she has recently been named the 2016 Rotary District 6970 recipient of the Vocational Service Award for outstanding service to the community. Judge Davidson also serves on the Board of Directors for Avenues 12, Sober Living Houses, helping women gain and maintain their sobriety.

- **Sally Mackay**- Sally Mackay left Great Britain and immigrated to the USA with her three children in 1973. A past-mayor of New Smyrna Beach, she was co-founder and first president of The Hub on Canal. She is a writer, guitarist, teacher, and life-long supporter of the Arts and the city of New Smyrna Beach.
- **Alexa Sheehan**- Alexa Sheehan is a recent transplant to Florida after almost 20 years in Los Angeles working in the film industry and its myriad media content. She is a member of the Director's Guild of America, SAG-AFTRA, and a board member of both Women in Film and Television- Florida and Film Florida. She and her husband, a Union Assistant Property Master, created HarborDashery Productions which is a local production company in New Smyrna Beach filming commercial and other media projects for local businesses and schools. She was a judge in the last year's 48 Hour Film Festival in Orlando, and has sat on numerous panels to help educate the new regime of filmmakers, and to share stories of her experience.
- **Jamieson Stern**- Jamieson Stern is a filmmaker from Los Angeles, where he wrote & produced four feature films and worked on many others. His most recent film, *Bad Hurt*, premiered at the TriBeCa film festival and appeared in theaters in 2016. He recently relocated to his hometown of New Smyrna Beach.
- **Hector Valle**- Hector Valle is a professional instructional technologist and eLearning/media expert with over 14 years of experience in the field. He holds a BS in Liberal Studies and an MA

in Instructional Technology with a focus on eLearning and Media from the University of Central Florida. He currently works as a Senior Instructional Technologist at Daytona State College developing training workshops, fostering partnerships with faculty and community leaders to build engaging course content, in addition to leading a team of instructional technologists and media producers. He is also an adjunct professor in the Photography department, teaching Introduction to Digital Media and Fundamentals of Interactive Media.

Winning students received an assortment of ribbons, certificates, and prizes. For additional information about the event, please click on the following link to view a short video of the private awards ceremony, created courtesy of Alexa Sheehan of HaborDashery Productions. ([theHUBoncanal film festival](#))

Based in New Smyrna Beach, Fla. The Hub on Canal is a 501(c) 3 organization dedicated to creating community by fostering art, education and a broad range of creative opportunities. Open year round seven days a week, The Hub on Canal supports the local community by offering art exhibitions, musical performances, educational classes and workshops, cultural events, and local community outreach programs. The Hub on Canal community comes together through special events and extends the arts to the underserved and socially challenged through scholarship programs and art, wellness, and music classes. Since its opening in 2012, The Hub on Canal has served more than 154,000 visitors, helping to revitalize the local community and stimulate economic growth. For more information, visit the website at theHUBoncanal.org.

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