

## PRESS RELEASE – TEN DAY FILM CHALLENGE 2011

THE FILM FESTIVAL SCREENING OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT FILMS WAS HELD WEDNESDAY APRIL 27, 2011 AT THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP UNITED ARTISTS 14 THEATRE.

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Is it possible to make a short film in only 10 days? If you ask that question to high school film students across South Jersey, the answer would be, “Yes.”

That was the mission behind this year’s 2011 New Jersey Ten-Day Film Challenge.

From April 4 – April 15, 2011 film students from Hammonton High School, Delsea Regional High School, and Gloucester County Institute of Technology used 10 class periods to create a 3-4 minute short film. These films were then screened competitively at the Washington Township United Artists 14 theatre on Wednesday, April 27 with GCIT’s short film *For Never and Always* garnering the top prize of Best Film.

Creating a short film in only 10 days was not the biggest challenge for these students. On the first day of The Film Challenge, these students were also given a specific genre, a character’s name and occupation, a prop, and a line of dialogue that had to appear in every film in every school. According to Hammonton film production teacher Damiso Josey, this added an extra element of pressure for the young filmmakers.

“On the first day, the students’ heads were spinning. Once they received those required elements, they had to work with their group mates to quickly come up with a plot, script, and shooting schedule to get this film finished in only 10 days. It was great to see them work together under such a tight deadline,” Josey said.

Delsea High School’s film teacher Michael Nicholson also admired the students and their collaborative efforts to create a quality film. According to Nicholson, the students learned a lot more than just filmmaking skills throughout The Challenge.

“The students made some nice movies. That was great, but the best thing for me was to see them work together to problem-solve and troubleshoot in order to meet a deadline. These are great life skills that our students learned through this process. That was very rewarding for all the teachers involved to see,” said Nicholson.

Overall, 17 films were selected to appear at the United Artists Theatre from over 35 total films created in the three schools. Awards were given in categories like best cinematography, best editing, best music, and best screenplay among several others. According to GCIT’s film teacher Mick McCleery, it was nice to see the kids rewarded for their efforts.

“Our kids worked hard for ten days under a ton of pressure to make a film worthy to be

screened in public. It's not an easy thing to do. Seeing our kids recognized for their accomplishments was great. It's something they will remember forever," said McCleery.

"It was a great experience for all the students," said Hammonton's film production teacher Gary Joseph. "It takes a lot of courage to produce a school project then show it to hundreds of other people. That doesn't happen in a lot of classrooms. It was a unique experience that the kids will never forget."

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The required elements of every film: Character: Alan/Alana Mahler. Occupation: Recently Unemployed. Prop: CD/DVD. Line of Dialogue: "It's not easy being me."

The awards: **Best Film** – *For Never and Always* – GCIT; **Audience Choice Award** – *Beiber Fever* – Hammonton High School; **Best Film Poster** – *Pain, Pride, Perseverance*, Delsea Regional High School; **Best Use of the Character** – *Rebound* – Hammonton High School; **Best Script** – *Two Ordinary Kids* – Delsea Regional High School; **Best Use of the Prop** – *Beiber Fever* – Hammonton High School; **Best Cinematography** – *It's Not Easy Being Alan* – Delsea Regional High School; **Best Use of Sound** - *Pain, Pride, Perseverance*, Delsea Regional High School; **Best Use of Graphics** – *Homecoming* – GCIT; **Best Use of the Line of Dialogue** – *It's Not Easy Being Me* – Hammonton High School; **Best Editing** – *Homecoming* – GCIT; **Best Use of Music** – *It's Not Easy Being Me*; **Best Performances** – *For Never and Always* – GCIT.

For more information about the Ten Day Film Challenge visit [www.tendayfilmchallenge.com](http://www.tendayfilmchallenge.com).