

MediaBridge: Movies Without Borders

Press Release

CICFF Screenwriter's Lab Unites Teens From Around the World!

CHICAGO, IL - July 16, 2008 - The global fascination with films has brought teen screenwriters from around the world to MediaBridge, an international screenwriting program for youth July 7-August 10, held at Facets Multi-Media, Inc., 1517 W. Fullerton Avenue, and the Harold Washington Cultural Center, 4701 S. King Drive.

Youth ambassadors ages 15-19 from Mexico, India, Portugal, Russia, and Sri Lanka, along with teens from Chicago and downstate and western Illinois are participating in a demanding summer course in film programming, production, and screenwriting. These young film enthusiasts from five countries are exchanging ideas about international films with local Illinois teens, writing film scripts and organizing their own film festival.



The teens began their intensive five-week camp with a Youth Jury session where they reviewed and selected the most exceptional films from more than 100 submissions for the MediaBridge Youth Fest held at the end of the program in August. The MediaBridge students plan and curate the two-day public film festival that will feature the best in cinema for children and young adults as well as a special "Open Screen" to showcase youth-produced work.

After viewing top-notch examples of film, the teens will jump in the driver's seat with the MediaBridge Screenwriting program, a two-week university level workshop in which they learn how to produce professional scripts. The teens develop ideas for short films, which they build into a first draft screenplay with the help of their Screenwriting Lab instructor Bruce Scivally, co-author

of "James Bond: The Legacy" and co-editor of "The Special Effects & Stunts Guide."

"Creating opportunities and avenues for young adults to meet, discuss, and collaborate with their peers from around the world is vital to their understanding of international films as well as films produced within their own respective cultures," says Nicole Dreiske, the Director of Children's Programming. "Being exposed to international films allows these teens to evaluate films from a more critical perspective."

Following the completion of their scripts, students participate in the MediaBridge Screenwriter's Lab, where their scripts are read and critiqued by their peers and a panel of industry professionals. These "Creative Advisers" will include TV/film writer/producer Gary Sherman (Poltergeist III, Dead & Buried), Bernie Sahlins, a co-founder of Second City and Craig Lindvall, a Milken Award winning teacher and recipient of nine Mid-America Emmy Awards.



Students have one day to revise their screenplays before their final scripts are brought to life by an ensemble of professional actors from the Lookingglass Theatre and other theatres at the conclusion of the MediaBridge Screenwriters' Lab.

"There really is nothing quite like MediaBridge anywhere else," says Milos Stehlik, Facets Executive Director. "With the

Internet and changing technologies, there is no barrier to the exchange of films. And with that, there needs to be a way to help facilitate the international dialogue among these young people about the future of media and their roles within it."



MEDIABRIDGE
Facets Multi-Media.

MediaBridge will run July 7-August 10. The MediaBridge Youth Film Fest will run August 8-9. For more information, please contact Kathleen Beckman at 773-281-9075 or kidsfest@facets.org.

MediaBridge is supported by The Illinois Arts Council - Governor's International Exchange Grant, The Harold Washington Cultural Center, Columbia College Chicago Film & Video Department, the National Endowment for the Arts, MacArthur Foundation, the Crystal Fund, and

Facets Multi-Media, Inc.
Kathleen Beckman
CICFF Operations Manager

Facets Multi-Media, Inc.
Yuri Ozeki
CICFF Press Coordinator



This email was sent to facetsvideosales@facets.org by kidsfest@facets.org.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Facets Multi-Media, Inc. | 1517 W. Fullerton Ave. | Chicago | IL | 60614