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For Immediate Release



Hot Topic Foundation Gives Kids a Chance to Rock the Arts

Children's Film Festival Receives \$60,000 Grant for Media Production Workshops

Chicago, IL – Where else can you find make-up, acting and music video production classes led by scores of actors, screenwriters, filmmakers and critics conducting one-of-a-kind educational events? Thanks to \$60,000 grant from the Hot Topic Foundation, the Chicago International Children's Film Festival can offer these opportunities to children 7-14 through *Take One! Workshops*.

Kids participating in this year's selection of *TakeOne! Workshops* can take their pick of the many technology-based workshops offered – either learning the ins and outs of Hollywood special effects, creating a music video to their favorite pop song, or producing their own short films in the acclaimed *Dream Screen II: Animation Workshop*. Led by professional filmmaker Mary McKay, *Dream Screen* allows children to create and animate their own stories using drawing, clay and cut-out animation. Funding from the Hot Topic Foundation will underwrite the purchase of new computers complete with editing software and allow the CICFF to acquire a lunch-box animating system.

"We cannot thank the Hot Topic Foundation enough for their tremendous support," said Nicole Dreiske, Founder and Director of the CICFF. "You can talk to children about the components of filmmaking over and over again, but giving them the tools and technology to express themselves creatively through film is truly an invaluable experience."

Founded in 2004 in partnership with the California Community Foundation, the Hot Topic Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, aims to fund programs and organizations that focus on the education and encouragement of youth participation in music and in the arts. The support for this grant and other donations are made possible through the generous support of Hot Topic, Inc. employees and customers nationwide.

Established in 1915, the California Community Foundation is one of the largest and most active philanthropic organizations in Southern California, with assets of more than \$750 million. In partnership with its donors, the foundation supports nonprofit organizations and public institutions with funds for health and human services, affordable housing, early childhood education, community arts and culture and other areas of need. To learn more about the California Community Foundation, please visit its Web site at www.calfund.org.

Take One! Workshops of the CICFF require an additional fee as indicated. Workshop space is limited, so sign up well in advance. For information regarding workshop selection, fees, times and locations, please contact Kidsfest at (773) 281-9075 or visit www.cicff.org for reservations and information.