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FILMMAKERS OF TOMORROW MAKE MOVIES TODAY! YOUNG CHICAGO CRITICS PRODUCTION DAYS: JUNE 27TH & 28TH

Chicago, IL – On June 27th and 28th, Facets Multi-Media will transform from an international cinematheque into a real-life production studio. That's when 100 participants in the Young Chicago Critics program, the city's premiere summer camp for kids who love cinema, will gather together to make their very own movies.

The Young Chicago Critics (YCC) 2005, running from June 22nd through July 1st, welcomes one-hundred of the best and brightest children from all over the Chicagoland area. They take part in the two-week summer camp to learn all about the moviemaking process. The children first learn about film criticism by watching and evaluating movies, before having the chance to make them. According to Nicole Dreiske, Director of Children's Programs for the CICFF, "The children need to first understand what makes a good film before they can produce one themselves."

But once production starts on June 27th, the action really begins. The children apply everything they've learned about screenwriting, editing, cinematography, and sound through the use of cutting-edge equipment. Under the tutelage of professional film critics, teachers, and directors, the children learn to use hi-tech cameras and editing software to make their visions come to life. Camp Director Kerensa Peterson says, "Over seventy percent of the children in the program are on scholarship, so without YCC, they would never have access to these state-of-the-art tools."

"The production days are my favorite," says Alex Bahaveolos, a YCC alum returning for his second straight year. "It's a great way to meet the other kids and get together to make real films." Children of diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds work in teams on their mini-movies, discovering the power of artistic collaboration. The theme of this year's production days will be "My Neighborhood, My Vision." Children will first think about the ways in which their communities are currently depicted by the media, and then create a short film based on the ways they would like others to see their communities.

Dreiske adds, "The film production portion of Young Chicago Critics lets these young people tap into a creative spirit some of them never knew they had. To see children from every neighborhood in Chicago sharing an outlet for creative expression is not only exhilarating, it's also incredibly moving."

For more information or to arrange interviews, please contact Kathleen Beckman at 773-281-9075 or Kidsfest@facets.org.

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