

film | by Belinda Bruce

Zooming.in. on.Young. Filmmakers.



Take a group of enthusiastic high school students, give them funding, equipment, instruction, creative freedom and time to make stories on video, and ready-set-action! - you get some incredible results.

Summer Visions Film Institute for Youth is a digital media program for youth aged 14-19. In an intensive two-week period during the summer months, students learn to write, shoot, edit and screen a short digital video under the tutelage of inspiring and challenging instructors. Now in its fifth year, Summer Visions is the result of an innovative partnership between the B.C. film industry and the North Shore Youth in Film program, which is a coalition of the District of North Vancouver, the District of West Vancouver and the City of North Vancouver. The program is administered by Pacific Cinémathèque and Dream Big Productions at Templeton Secondary School.

Students attend short workshops and create their own projects from idea to storyboard to shooting to editing, with hands-on experience in all aspects of production. Many previous graduates of the course return as Youth Mentors to

work alongside industry professionals and guest artists to instruct and guide the current students through the production process. Courses are geared to all levels, from youth who have never picked up a camera through to students who have already made a short film.

POV Shot: Kayla Brolly, Age: 17

- Student at Carson Graham Secondary School and 2004 Summer Visions Film Institute for Youth participant
- Co-producer of the experimental short video *Inertia* — Winner for Best Cinematography 2004

"I was blown away by how much trust they gave us. The instructors didn't know us; we were just 50 kids who showed up to do the program. They gave us equipment and told us to go out and shoot whatever we wanted. We had so much footage, some great stuff on the Seabus and Skytrain. It was hard to pare it down to four minutes!"

A film class at Carson Graham sparked Kayla's interest in film. She received a full scholarship to do the Summer Visions program. Her production team of four girls, including North Vancouver

resident Sophia Moulton, came together naturally. The result was *Inertia*, an experimental video about the conflicting cultural messages from childhood to adulthood using overexposure techniques and increasingly industrial imagery. The final image is a young woman walking into the sea with words written all over her back, attempting to cleanse herself of all mixed messages imprinted on her psyche over the years.

Besides all the practical skills gained, Kayla believes that one of key advantages of the course is the time to focus on nothing but making a film. "It's about experimenting and having fun."

Through generous sponsorship agreements with the Autoplan Brokers of the Lower Mainland and West Coast Reduction, over 80% of the 150 students at Summer Visions last year received full scholarships (worth \$770 each). These scholarships are awarded to youth who face financial restrictions, and have allowed Summer Visions to attract talented young filmmakers from throughout Greater Vancouver and the Lower Mainland. At the end of summer, a number of students returned to produce the ever-popular Road Safety PSAs for the Autoplan brokers of B.C.

Each video is screened at a Gala and Awards ceremony at Pacific Cinémathèque in the fall. Films are eligible for a number of awards including Best Editing Award, Best Cinematography and Mentor's Choice.

BC film and television is a \$3 billion industry. The North Shore is home to Lion's Gate, Canada's largest full-service studio, and a host of independent studios, filmmakers, production companies and training facilities. With the Summer Visions Film Institute for Youth, the North Shore film community has found a great angle to inspire young filmmakers towards successful careers in a thriving and exciting industry.

Visit www.summervisions.ca for more information and application forms or contact: ducation@cinematheque.bc.ca, Tel: 604.688.8202.