

Film fest well-supported

Dear Editor:

I am writing on behalf of Cowichan Intercultural Society to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the second annual Reel Youth Film Festival held at the Cowichan Theatre last week. Thank you to the youth, families, volunteers and staff from Cowichan Secondary, Mount Prevost Middle School, Cowichan Valley Open Learning Coop, Lake Cowichan Secondary School, Maxwell International School, Shawnigan Lake School, Evergreen School, Lakeside Preparatory School, Malaspina University College, Cowichan Centre Youth Outreach Programs, CMHA-CV Bike Shop, Hii'ye yu Lelum and Community Options Society, the Cowichan 2008 Indigenous Games, the Citizen, and the RCMP. Your

efforts to promote the festival and to support the Real Youth Open House in the Theatre Lobby were greatly appreciated. The very diverse group of over 200 people who attended came with lots of enthusiasm and appreciation for the films and for the Cowichan community.

We are also very pleased that, with the help of generous donations from our MLA Doug Routley, Malaspina University-College and more than 50 individuals, we raised over \$1,500 for local youth projects in the Cowichan Valley and international projects in Nepal.

The 24 short films made by youth under the age of 19 were excellent. We were treated to an ever-changing variety of drama, comedy, animation, documentary and lots of other creative

approaches while exploring a wide range of issues such as peer pressure, homelessness, smoking, anxiety, body image, discrimination, poverty, violence, marginalization, apathy, assumptions, stereotypes, and many other concerns.

Shawnigan Lake Secondary School's satire on rap-culture 'Classroom Dress' won Best Local Film. The two runner-up local films were 'Victims' from Cowichan Intercultural Society's Anti-Discrimination First Aid Film Series and 'Second-Hand-Smoke-Chokes' a cartoon made by Evergreen student Ashton Arden.

Thank you again to everyone in the Cowichan Valley for all your support of our youth and the Reel Youth Film Festival.

Linda Hill

Youth Projects Coordinator
Cowichan Intercultural Society |