

Youth get reel at festival

Three award winning anti-discrimination media messages made by Cowichan Valley youth will be screened at the Reel Youth Film Festival coming to Duncan's Cowichan Theatre on Thursday, Nov.15.

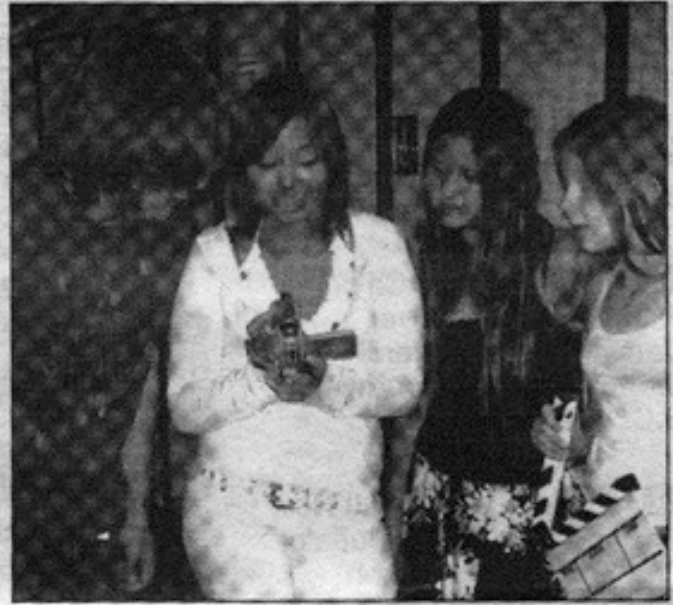
These short films are from Cowichan Intercultural Society's "Anti-Discrimination First Aid" film series which won the Culture and Heritage award at the Spring 2007 Cowichan Aboriginal Film Festival.

"Classroom Dress," another local film entered by students from Shawnigan Lake School has also been accepted into this big screen showing of films made by youth under the age of 19.

The Telus lobby will open at 6 p.m. with displays by Cowichan Valley schools and youth groups and opportunities to enter door-prize draws.

The films run from 7-9 p.m. Admission is by donation, with proceeds going to support youth projects in the Cowichan Valley and Nepal.

Reservations are recommended and can be made by phoning 748-3112 or e-mailing lindahill.cis@telus.net. Donations from Malaspina University-College, MLA Doug Routley, Cowichan Intercultural Society and other sponsors mean that complimentary tickets are available on request to anyone who would find it too expensive even to make a donation. Intercultural Society President, Gabriele Ratjen says, "The mission of the Cowichan Intercultural Society is to build mutual respect, trust, education and support in the culturally diverse community of Cowichan Valley. These films by youth are important contributions to this on-going process of creating community



LINDA HILL PHOTO

From left to right David Nowacki, Chelsea Wood, Heather Stull and Miranda Caplin reviewing their latest take.

awareness about a diverse range of youth issues."

Ranging from the comedic to the dramatic, using video and stop motion animation, this year's 18 films were selected from over 300 entries from across Canada, the US and beyond. The festival line up includes "Goonda," a film Reel Youth festival organizer Mark Vonesch made with children living on the street in Mysore, India.

Following the screening, local youth filmmakers will be on hand to answer questions about their films and audience members will be able to vote for their favourites. These People's Choice Awards support future youth filmmaking with prizes ranging from film camp scholarships, equipment, and professional mentorship. Winning films will also be hosted on the Reel Youth website.