



SPECIAL Edition

HERE'S THE LATEST NEWS ON OUR INCREDIBLE
BHS DIGITAL FILMMAKING PROGRAM



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SAVE THE DATE!

BALLARD FILM FESTIVAL (BFF)

is Friday, February 10 at 7 pm in the Ballard High School auditorium. The screening will feature short comedies and dramas, advertisements, and documentaries. Tickets (\$10 for adults and \$5 for students) will be sold at the door.

There is an important need to support our filmmaking students now more than ever, because this year, Ballard High School's Digital Filmmaking Program was **one of 5 production programs from across the nation selected by the All American High School Film Festival in New York City to produce documentaries for IMAX.**

Big screen distribution sets a high bar for production values. Your support will put the right tools in the hands of students so they can complete these productions in style.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT



WWW.BHSVIDEO.BLOGSPOT.COM

IMAX – IT’S BIG:

BHS DIGITAL FILMMAKING PROGRAM SELECTED TO PRODUCE CONTENT FOR IMAX DOCUMENTARIES ON UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Ballard High School's Digital Filmmaking Program was one of five "exemplary" programs chosen by the All American High School FilmFestival (AAHSFF) to receive a \$5,000 "In Focus" grant from IMAX. The All American High School Film Festival is the largest high school film festival in the nation, drawing competition from all across the country. The announcement was made Friday, October 7th, during the festival's Opening Night ceremonies in New York City.

"We selected programs that produced quality content in the voice of young people that's raw and meaningful

to their peers. We have a library of content of about 5,000 films and identified programs that consistently submitted quality work" said Tom Oliva, Executive Director of the AAHSFF. Partnering with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the "In Focus" initiative is a component of IMAX "Big Picture", the corporate social responsibility program created to leverage the power of film to mobilize action and effect positive change. The five selected student film programs will create short films that address at least one of the UN's following development goals including climate action, life below water, and life on land.

BALLARD FILM STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL AWARDS FROM ACADEMY OF TELEVISION ARTS & SCIENCES

When the envelopes were opened at the Newseum in Washington D.C. on Oct. 4, the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences announced two films by students in Ballard High School's Digital Filmmaking Program as winners of National Student Production Awards. The films were judged by members of the Academy, as well as college media professors.

Winning the prize for best Music Video was **Today**, by Coleman Andersen, PJ Hase & Bergen Johnson. The prize for best Editing went to Miles Andersen, Emily Black, Sophie DeGreen, Jesse Romero & Sho Schrock for their work on Hologram. Both films can be viewed on the Digital Filmmaking Program's vimeo page at <http://www.vimeo.com/bhsfilmprogram>.

This is the first year that a national level of adjudication has been added. Also nominated at the national level was **The Dragon's Lair** by PJ Hase, Jonny Cechony & Ellie Clarrissimeaux. It was nominated for best Short Form Fiction.

BHS DIGITAL FILMMAKING PROGRAM OPENS OPPORTUNITIES

The Ballard High School Digital Filmmaking Program has been a great opportunity for Skala Leake, a junior in the Program, who was awarded an Honorable Mention in Cinematic Arts by the **National YoungArts**



Skala Leake, BHS Junior

Foundation for her short film **Comeback** in recognition of the "exceptional artistic achievement" evident in her work. YoungArts identifies and supports young talent in the areas of music, theater, visual arts, photography, writing, and cinematic arts.

Skala worked with classmates Avery Davis, Cameron Miller, and Aaron Miller to realize her story of a promising soccer player facing a life-altering setback. Since premiering at the **Ballard Film Festival** last June, **Comeback** had its national premiere at the **All American High School Film Festival** in New York City in early October, and was screened at the Portland Art Museum on November 12 as a winner in Fresh Film Northwest – a festival that receives competition from 5 Northwest states as well as the province of British Columbia. **Comeback** can now be seen online at www.vimeo.com/bhsfilmprogram.

After high school, Skala plans to study media arts in college. The YoungArts award comes with a college recommendation from YoungArts, as well as an invitation for Skala to participate in the YoungArts regional programs. Previous YoungArts winners in the Digital Filmmaking Program have gone on to top-ranked college programs for film and television and successful careers in the film industry.

BALLARD FILMMAKERS WIN AT NORTHWEST FESTIVAL

Three short films by students from the Ballard High School Digital Filmmaking Program are winners at **Fresh Film Northwest**. This competitive regional festival is coordinated by the **Northwest Film Center** in Portland, Oregon. It accepts entries from filmmakers ages 13 to 19 in Alaska, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. This is the twelfth year in a row that students from Ballard's Digital Filmmaking Program have been among the winners.

The winning films include two short dramatic narratives and a documentary. The visual story **Comeback**, by Avery Davis, Skala Leake, Aaron Miller and Cameron Miller, is about a high school soccer player who suffers

a life-altering setback. The film recently premiered at the national **All American High School Film Festival** in New York City. Fresh Film Northwest will be the premiere of **Living Honestly**, a documentary about teens coming out by PJ Hase and Skala Leake. The third film, **Eileen**, was produced independently by Brendan Hickey with Sam Cleary and will receive the Creative Expression Award.

A jury of filmmakers and educators screened 130 entries from across the region to select winners for the festival. The festival winners were screened at the Portland Art Museum's Whitsell Auditorium on November 12.



BHS FILMMAKERS FEATURED AT ALL AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL FILM FESTIVAL

Ten films by twenty-one students in the Ballard High School Digital Filmmaking Program were Official Selections of the **All American High School Film Festival**. This is the largest high school film festival in the world; it receives entries from high school filmmakers throughout the country. The event ran October 7–9 in New York City at the New York Society for Ethical Culture, AMC Theatres Times Square, and the historic Kings Theater. The films received evaluations from prestigious judges including screenwriter Diablo Cody, documentary filmmaker Morgan Spurlock, and actors Kristen Stewart and Dylan McDermott.

Here, by category, is the list of Official Selections by Ballard High School Digital Filmmaking students.

■ COMEDY:

Criminal Design by Miles Andersen, Jonathan Bowers, Jonny Cechony, PJ Hase & Cecilia O'Rollins

■ DOCUMENTARY:

GeoFORCE: A Journey to Understanding by Leo Pfeifer & Raven Two Feathers;
Raven Rock by Rachel Cole, Jaya Flanary & Meagen Tajalle

■ DRAMA:

Comeback by Avery Davis, Skala Leake, Aaron Miller & Cameron Miller;
Anne by Rachel Cole, Jaya Flanary & Meagen Tajalle

■ MUSIC VIDEO:

Big Coat by Jaya Flanary, Duncan Gowdy & Leo Pfeifer;
Voices by Aurore Bouriot, Jonathan Bowers, Brian Cropp & Jake Rehfeldt

■ PSA PROJECT:

Your Hearing by Elliott Atkinson, Cyrus Ogle & Bailey Wall

* Two pieces produced independently by BHS film students also made the festival: **Climate Change** by Leo Pfeifer and Meagen Tajalle was an Official Selection in the PSA category, and **Moving Forward** by Leo Pfeifer was a finalist for the Josten's Project Yearbook prize.



AND AS YET ANOTHER REMINDER, HERE ARE UPCOMING BALLARD PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS:

Sat, 2/4 – 58th Annual BPA Spaghetti Dinner 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm BHS Commons

Wed, 2/15 – NW Region Strings Concert Hosted by BHS 7:00 PM BHS Main Gym Orchestra

Wed, 3/1 – NW Region Band Concert Hosted by BHS 7:00 PM Ballard Main Gym Bands

Thu, 3/16-18 – Musical: Les Misérables 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm BPA Center, BHS

Wed, 3/22 – School Matinee Performance of Les Misérables During School Day BHS

Thu, 3/23-25 – Musical: Les Misérables 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm BPA Center, BHS

Sun, 3/26 – Musical: Les Misérables - Matinee 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm BPA Center, BHS

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TICKETS, VISIT



[HTTP://BALLARDPERFORMINGARTS.ORG/](http://ballardperformingarts.org/)

HELP COMPLETE THE



BEAVER *Beat*

**WHAT A GREAT WAY TO SEE ALL THE CORNERS
OF OUR AWESOME BEAVER DAM IN ONE PLACE –
THE BEAVER BEAT.**

All submissions are welcome at any time. What's happening around your corner of the Dam that may be interesting to students and parents?

Student submissions are welcome too! Send your ideas for future editions, submissions and photos to: [Beaver Beat Editor](#).



CHECK OUT THE PTSA WEBSITE AT: **BALLARDHIGHSCHOOLPTSA.ORG/**

It's always great to be a Beaver!