

## **Teen Filmmakers Selected As Finalists In Video Festival**

*Brooks Institute of Photography supports young student film and video makers in the 7th Annual Conejo Festival.*

Ventura, CA (PRWEB) June 30, 2005 -- Twenty young filmmakers have been announced as finalists in the 2005 Conejo Teen Video Festival and the winner will be announced at the awards ceremony on Wednesday, June 29, at 7 p.m., at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza Scherr Forum Theatre. For the second year, Brooks Institute of Photography (<http://www.brooks.edu>) is supporting the event, providing judging assistance and offering a scholarship for the school's summer film and video workshops.

Free public screenings of all of the candidates' works take place at area high schools this week -- the first will take place on Friday, June 24, 7 pm, at the Thousand Oaks High School Theatre. The second screening will be held on Saturday, June 25, 7 pm at the Newbury Park High School Theatre.

The festival received over 40 entries from across the county representing 16 different schools within an area bounded by the San Fernando Valley to the south, Simi Valley to the east and Ventura to the north. The age of approximately half of the filmmakers was between 15-16 years.

This year's event marks the seventh Conejo Teen Video Festival. The Thousand Oaks Arts Commission, the Conejo Recreation & Park District and Adelphia sponsor the Festival, and additional funding for the awards ceremony is provided by the Thousand Oaks Alliance for the Arts Foundation and IFC – the Independent Film Channel.

According to Glynn Beard, Program Director of Film & Video Production for Brooks Institute of Photography and member of the official festival committee, "This is a great event for anyone who believes in nurturing the arts and creativity. Brooks is really pleased to see these young student film and video-makers growing through their self-expression...and we are also excited to be part of this festival that is clearly gaining in popularity each year."

Beard, himself, a successful independent filmmaker, explained that the school will be offering a special value to the competition's student finalists. "There will be a critique day held at our Ventura campus for these twenty students. Those who submit their work will have their films screened by professional filmmakers who will offer opinions and guidance to the students. They'll be exposed to the college environment and start to feel what it is like to be surrounded by people who are, as they are, creatively driven."

The awards ceremony itself will kick off in true Hollywood fashion when finalists are taken by limo to the red-carpet entrance at the theatre. In the lobby, artwork from the Conejo Arts Council's annual teen "Hang with the Best" show will be on display. The "Bluez Boyz" jazz band, composed of high school musicians, will perform before and during the show. The entire awards ceremony is taped by Adelphia and shown on local cable channels during the summer. The MCs for the night will be Krissy MacQueen and Daniel Lincoln, hosts of the local cable show, "Director's Showcase".

Festival awards are given for Best Documentary, Best Music Video, Best Script, Best Cinematography, Best Technical Achievement (editing, sound design and visual effects), Most Original, Best Actor/Actress, Best Overall Video done by a filmmaker under 15 years of age, and Best Overall Video. The winning videos are shown after each award is given. Winners receive prizes donated by Adelphia and IFC. The overall winner



also receives a scholarship to a one-week summer film workshop held at Brooks Institute. The evening will conclude with a reception in the lobby hosted by the Thousand Oaks Arts Commission.

For more information on the Finalist Screenings or attending the Awards Ceremony, contact the City of Thousand Oaks Theatre office at (805) 449-2767.

**About Brooks Institute of Photography:**

Brooks Institute of Photography was founded in 1945 and is currently celebrating its 60th anniversary of providing visionary education. Part of the Career Education Corporation (CEC) network of schools, Brooks Institute offers a Master of Science Degree Program in Professional Photography; Bachelor of Arts Degree Programs in Professional Photography, Film & Video Production, Visual Communication and Visual Journalism; an Associate of Arts Degree Program in Visual Journalism, and Diploma Programs in Professional Photography and Film & Video Production.

Graduates from Brooks have gone on to work for distinguished organizations including National Geographic, Smithsonian, the Los Angeles Times and other national media outlets, Hallmark Publishing, Cousteau Society, HBO, Kodak and literally scores of other leaders in visual media fields. For more information about Brooks Institute of Photography, go to [www.brooks.edu](http://www.brooks.edu) or call the school at 888-304-3456.

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