

## The Hawai'i Student Film Festival

—Robert Olague

The Hawai'i Student Film Festival (HSFF) is more than an annual festival. It also facilitates nine, year-round, student outreach programs that are available to more than 400 public and private schools statewide (please see sidebar). Through these programs, HSFF offers a wide array of film and video opportunities and experiences for students and teachers—field trips to see film or television productions being produced on location; script writing and story telling workshops; training in television programming and video production; student internships in the film and television industry; and guest visits from industry professionals to inspire, educate, and mentor students and teachers interested in producing film and video. In the Hawai'i Student Television (HSTV) program, for example, HSFF provides students with hands-on production experience and actual broadcast exposure. HSTV is a collaboration between local educators and film and television professionals that is designed to involve students in developing video projects for businesses and non-profit organizations island wide.

Many local and national film and television professionals cooperate with HSFF in initiating these programs. HSFF has been fortunate to work with Michael Rivero (Star Trek, Final Fantasy), Scott Rodgers (Baywatch, NYPD Blue), Richard Holland (Universal Pictures, American Broadcasting Company), and Peter Saphier (Lost in Space, Jaws), among others. HSFF has also teamed up with Home Box Office (HBO), the Independent Film Channel, Network Media, Hawai'i Media International, and other television broadcasting distributors, who consider student film and video submissions from HSFF for possible production.

HSFF has delivered these outreach programs to many schools and organizations in the state including the Hawai'i Department of Education's Career Pathways program and Teleschool, the University of Hawai'i, Chaminade University, Kamehameha Schools, Radford and Farrington High Schools, the Boys and Girls Club of Hawai'i, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Honolulu.

In addition to the outreach programs, the HSFF website ([www.HawaiiStudentFilmFestival.org](http://www.HawaiiStudentFilmFestival.org)) is the largest online student film and television resource center in the state. Here students and teachers can find a wide variety of valuable information and resources including information on intern-

ships, employment opportunities, and upcoming events.

Since 1999, our culminating yearly event has been the Hawai'i Student Film Festival. This event has become the largest student film festival in Hawai'i. HSFF considers video and film submissions from Hawai'i's public and private schools, from elementary schools and high schools to the college level. The festival and the winning student films and videos are televised locally, and winners are eligible for national distribution.

This year's festival was held on May 28, 2005, at the 50th State Fair. Jordan Segundo, Hawai'i's American Idol, performed, presented an award, and signed autographs. The local student/teen cast from NBC/Discover Channel's 29 DOWN presented awards. Sassy/G Magazine and the Hyper Squad Dance Company provided entertainment to more than 500 attendees, including students, teachers, administrators, family members, youth organization representatives, community leaders, state senators and local celebrities. Awards were given to the best student work in several categories. It was a memorable night for all involved, as evidenced in the following comments:

*"I enjoyed the Hawai'i Student Film Festival; it was fun to be a participant. The Hawai'i Student Film Festival is a great place to meet new people and helps build Hawai'i's film industry."* Andrew Kerekes, Mililani High School, HSFF Silver Award Winner

*"It was really like the Academy Awards for our students and we appreciated the effort that was put into every facet of planning the whole event."* Kathy Nagaii, Video Teacher, Pearl Ridge Elementary.

*"I enjoyed the festival. The festival allowed fellow students, parents, and the public to see the creative work our students are involved in and foster cross-pollination of these ideas."* Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chairman, Hawaii Senate Education and Military Affairs Committee.

Please visit the Hawaii Student Film Festival web site for additional HSFF and HSTV information and updates.

[www.hawaiistudentfilmfestival.org](http://www.hawaiistudentfilmfestival.org)

## **Hawai'i Student Film Festival Out-reach Programs**

### **Speak Out**

HSFF helps students write, shoot, edit, and produce videos with powerful messages that explore life through students' eyes.

### **Pro Talk HSFF**

Film and television professionals visit Hawai'i schools year-round to conduct workshops that inspire and educate Hawai'i's film and video students.

### **HSTV**

Guided by local film and television professionals, Hawai'i students produce year-round educational television programming for broadcast to students and our community.

### **On Location**

Hawai'i students go on location to a professional film or television production to experience the making of a movie or TV show.

### **Talk Story**

HSFF promotes literacy through scriptwriting and visual storytelling.

### **At-Risk**

HSFF reaches out to at-risk youth in low-income communities through instruction and resources in film and video production.

### **Hawaiian Heritage**

HSFF supports students and schools that wish to produce video programming on Hawaiian heritage and Hawaiian culture.

### **Viewership Incentive Programs**

Students, schools, and families are given incentives to watch HSFF student-produced educational television programming.

### **Internships & Jobs**

HSFF assists schools, students, and the Hawaii film and television industry with intern and job placement.

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