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## **SPY HOP PRODUCTIONS HONORED WITH PEABODY AWARD FOR COLLABORATIVE PIECE**

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - Spy Hop Productions is recognized, in collaboration with a number of other youth media organizations, with a 2007 Peabody Award for the compelling youth produced documentary compilation, *Beyond Borders: Personal Stories from a Small Planet*. The piece follows nine young people from Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, Columbia, South Korea, Guatemala, Jordan, and the US as they address both their fears and the ways in which they combat them. The George Foster Peabody Awards are often cited as the most prestigious awards in electronic media.

Funded through ListenUp!, an international network for young filmmakers, and aired in 2005 on the Independent Film Channel, *Beyond Borders: Personal Stories from a Small Planet* explores the fears and challenges youth face from an amazingly diverse perspective. Written, shot and produced by young filmmakers (ages 13-19), the nine short pieces explore different geographical, social and economic settings, yet convey a single feeling of hope and optimism. Spy Hop Productions was one of nine youth media organizations from around the world selected by ListenUp! to participate in this project. The eight other participating organizations were Polimorfo (Bogotá, Colombia), iEarn Sierra Leone (Freetown, Sierra Leone), Evanston Township High School (Evanston, IL), La Camioneta (Guatemala City, Guatemala), Sawtona (Amman, Jordan), Frame By Frame Fierce (New York, NY), Light House (Charlottesville, VA), Roses Theater (United Kingdom) and Our Voice (Kiev, Ukraine).

The Spy Hop produced short in the *Beyond Borders* compilation is *Leaving Still*. This piece follows one young woman, native to the Salt Lake area, as she examines her experience growing up poor with an absent father, nine siblings and an overstressed mother. As an organization, Spy Hop Productions is dedicated to engaging and amplifying youth voices so that the perspectives and concerns of an emerging generation are present and clear to the community as a whole. The fact that *Beyond Borders* has been recognized with a Peabody Award is a great triumph for Spy Hop as it is a true realization of this organizational mission.

The Peabody Awards began in 1941 as a version of the Pulitzer Prize for radio. Today, the awards recognize distinguished achievement and meritorious service by radio and television networks, stations, producing organizations, cable television organizations and individuals. The Peabody Board receives more than 1000 electronic media entries a year; no more than 36 have ever been presented with the prize in one year. Past individuals to receive Peabody Awards include Orsen Wells and Oprah Winfrey. Some of the award recipients that stand with Spy Hop Productions and *Beyond Borders: Personal Stories from a Small Planet* in this year's recipient pool include the incredibly popular comedy series, *The Office* and Spike Lee's documentary exploration of Hurricane Katrina, *When The Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*.

Spy Hop Productions is a not-for-profit youth media arts and educational enrichment center located in the historic Art Space district of downtown Salt Lake City. Its mission is to cultivate the visions and voices of an emerging generation via the big screen, the airwaves, and the world-wide-web. Spy Hop offers programs in filmmaking, interactive design, and audio production. Since its inception in 1999, Spy Hop has served more than 10,000 young people from all backgrounds in the Wasatch community and with the help of professional mentors, the work produced by Spy Hop's young artists has reached a national audience in the millions.

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