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## **SPY HOP PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS THE FIFTH ANNUAL LOCOMOTION INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

**Salt Lake City, UT** – Spy Hop Productions, in conjunction with X96, presents the 2006 LocoMotion International Film Festival on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at the Main City Library Downtown, located at 210 East 400 South. Festival screenings will begin each night at 7:00 pm in the Library Auditorium. Workshops will be ongoing from 10am to 4:30pm both days. All Festival events are free.

The LocoMotion Film Festival showcases the emerging visions and voices of youth 13-18 years of age. The festival celebrates artistic excellence, technical achievement, and originality through the presentation of creative and compelling shorts. Locomotion is designed to promote authentic youth produced media as a means to entertain, educate, and inform festival attendees of youth-born artistic and socially conscious perspectives and concerns. This year's festival will feature, among others, an international short film contest, a screenplay-writing contest, and a 24-hour filmmaking competition. Awards for all festival competitions will be announced during each night of screenings. A special Locals Only award has been added this year in an effort to recognize Utah's own emerging talent.

In addition to two evenings of short film screenings, dynamic youth focused workshops span both days of the LocoMotion Film Festival. Insightful industry leaders and nationally acclaimed filmmakers will lead these workshops in an attempt to connect young people from various community groups and schools with professional mentors. Workshop instructors include, but are not limited to: Jonathan Hallett who rendered the storyboards for *The Crow: Wicked Prayer* and *Urban Legends 3: Bloody Mary*; Ruth Gainey, a make-up and special effects artist whose work has appeared in *The World's Fastest Indian*, *Rocky Mountain Haunted House*, and many Utah Opera Company Productions; and Eric and Damon Ristau of Walkabout Workshop and the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival.

The LocoMotion International Film Festival is dedicated to supporting and promoting young filmmakers in the cinematic fields of documentary, experimental, narrative, PSA and animation. Based in Salt Lake City, this event was founded in 2002 as part of the 2001-2002 Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration™ of Salt Lake City, a component of the 2002 Winter Olympics Arts Festival.

Spy Hop Productions is a non-profit youth media arts and education studio dedicated to empowering youth (k-12) through multimedia. Spy Hop offers programs in filmmaking, web and graphic 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. With the help of

professional mentors the work produced by Spy Hop's young artists reached an audience of several million nationally in 2005.

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