



spyhop
productions

empowering youth through multimedia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Boyack

p: (801) 532-7500

m: (801) 599-8180

e: john@spyhop.org

www.spyhop.org

Spy Hop Productions Presents :: 2008-09 Best Of Awards Ceremony

SALT LAKE CITY, UT :: Spy Hop Productions hosts its annual Best Of Awards Ceremony honoring the best work from Spy Hop's 2008-09 student body on **Wednesday, September 2, from 7-9 PM** at the University of Utah's Post Theater (245 S. Fort Douglas Boulevard, Bldg. 636). Admission is free, and the event is open to the public and all ages. To reserve seating, attendees must RSVP online at <http://bestof.eventbrite.com/>.

Hosted by Spy Hop's Film & Video Director, Jeremy Nielsen, and Alumni & current PitchNic Film Intensive Peer Mentor, Phil Davis, this year's event will feature live music, a live radio performance, ten separate awards presentations, the premiere of Write-Shoot-Ride's new documentary film, *Toxic Utah*, light refreshments, and a glance at some of the best media created by Spy Hop students from this past year. Spy Hop will also honor its **Donor Of The Year**, Steve Denkers, President of the Willard L. Eccles Foundation.

Mr. Denkers will be honored by Spy Hop's Executive Director, Rick Wray, for the financial contributions made to Spy Hop's out-of-school multimedia programs dating back to 2003.

"Steve Denkers, and the Willard L. Eccles Foundation, are highly valued by Spy Hop staff, board, and students as an important community partner. Their support over the years has proven their commitment to programs that support positive youth development, and it is with great pleasure that we honor Mr. Denkers and the Willard L. Eccles Foundation for their contribution to our youth media organization, and for the impact he has made in our community," Mr. Wray said.

This year's Awards Ceremony diverges from Spy Hop's tradition of Fall Screening Events, in which some of the best work was simply showcased in a year end celebratory format at a local theater later in the fall.

"The nomination and voting process is something we've had in the back of our heads for quite some time, so we decided to try it out and put our curiosity to rest," said Event Coordinator, John Boyack. "We're all aware of sensitivity issues, and the possibility of hurt feelings of finalists not chosen as winners, so we're hoping to make it very clear that mutual respect and an air of congratulatory celebration should be our focus the night of September 2nd."

Nominations for each awards category were provided by the staff of professional mentors at Spy Hop Productions. Then, two rounds of voting were conducted in which all staff voted for their favorite pieces in each category. Spy Hop serves an annual population of more than 700 students from over 110 different schools throughout the Salt Lake area. Mentors were asked to submit as much work as they felt deserved recognition in as many of the categories as possible. The awards categories were intentionally left general as to

encourage competition between the disciplines for each award. From 57 original nominations, the finalists have been narrowed down to just 29 individuals. Winners from each category will be announced from the lectern at the Post Theater that evening.

Spy Hop's Musical Arts Instructor, Jeremy Chatelain submitted reasons for his Best Sound Design nomination, *Definition*, by Goldbug (Casey Blandford) & Malevolent MC (Ian Sanabria), "Ian had already recorded this vocal track to another beat. When we ran into a sample clearance problem...Casey took the vocal track home, chopped it up in Ableton and reworked his own beat to fit under the words."

Spy Hop commissioned local artist and former Spy Hop Loud & Clear Radio on KRCL 90.9 FM student, Marina Atherton, to create original art pieces as awards for each of the winners, as well as Mr. Denkers.

The night of September 2nd also marks the premiere of Write-Shoot-Ride's latest documentary film titled, *Toxic Utah*. Supported in part by National Endowment for the Arts, Utah Arts Council, Zoo, Arts & Parks of Salt Lake County, Salt Lake County Prevention, George S. & Dolores Doré Eccles foundation, Write-Shoot-Ride is collaborative documentary film program which brings high school aged students together to develop a film topic of their choosing before taking a week long road trip to gather the bulk of the footage they'll be using for their film. This year's documentary explores the history, past and present, of the uranium mining, milling and dumping industries in Utah, and has an expected running time of 15 minutes.

"This year's team has shown a surprising level of talent and excitement for the craft of documentary filmmaking. The project has come along in unexpected ways and I can't wait to see it with an audience at the screening," said Spy Hop's Documentary Arts Instructor, Frank Feldman.

Toxic Utah will be followed by a brief question and answer period for Write-Shoot-Ride students and members of the audience before the event concludes that evening.

Finalists for this year's 2008-09 Best Of Awards Ceremony are:

Best Personal Narrative

- John Campos, *Young Money*
- Zach Allred, *Zach Allred's Trivia Hour*
- Steve Schmit & Aubry Hollingshead, *Social Obscurity*
- Liz Tanner, *Giving Up But Not Giving In*

Best Storytelling

- Phil Davis, Spencer Sandoval & Sean Bagley, *Suspect*
- Patrick Engberson, Shea Stone & Zach Allred, *V4CCUM RBT*
- Daniel, Ian, Julian & Lennox, *The Hunter*
- Anna Berbert, *The Marble Lady*

Best Documentary

- Steve Schmit & Aubry Hollingshead, *Social Obscurity*
- Bryce Riley, *The Ladies Man*
- Anna Berbert, *The Marble Lady*

Best Creative/Artistic Expression

- John Campos, *Young Money*
- Sam Milliner, *Voyage*

- Landon Du, *Gum On My Shoe*

Best Sound Design

- Fall 2008 Audio Apprentices, Score from *Suspect*
- Goldbug & Malevolent MC, *Definition*
- Goldbug, Roe & UNI Verse All, *Visitors*

Best Song

- Malevolent MC & Goldbug, *Charm*
- Sam Burton, *Calling Me Out*
- Orion Chacon-Hurst, *Slam*

Best Peer Mentor

- Casey Blandford, Musicology
- Phil Davis, PitchNic Film Intensive: Fiction
- Maddie Alston, Loud & Clear Radio on KRCL 90.9 FM

Best Digital Design, Animation or Claymation

- Sam Milliner, *Voyage*
- Caitlin Chandler & Teague Czubak, www.spyhoprecords.com
- Mason Hall, *Cat Walking*

Alumni Achievement Award

- Colby Bryson
- Emma Lunbeck
- Jeremy Johnson

About Spy Hop Productions

SPY • HOP (v): *The act in which a dolphin rises above the water in order to navigate and determine its position in relation to other members of the pod. 2. To look ahead. 3. To tune in.*

Spy Hop Productions is a not-for-profit youth media arts and education center whose purpose is to empower youth to express their voice and with it create positive change in their lives, their community, and the world. Our mission is to encourage free expression, self-discovery, critical and inventive thinking, and skilled participation via the big screen, the airwaves, and the world-wide-web.

Spy Hop is committed to the following organizational objectives:

- Providing safe after-school and summer time mentoring programs for diverse youth (K-12) in emerging digital technologies and the media arts
- Developing 21st century skills in youth: community and global awareness, critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, and media literacy
- Promoting positive youth development thru individuality, leadership, creativity and intellectual curiosity
- Increasing higher education and/or vocational opportunities

###