



empowering youth through multimedia

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Salt Lake City Youth Produce Four Short Films to Premiere at  
Spy Hop Productions 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Pitch-Nic Premiere Screening**

**October 20, 2008**, SALT LAKE CITY, UT – Spy Hop Productions Pitch-Nic students will showcase their films, *Social Obscurity*, *Suspect*, *Fortunate Cookie*, and *Wild Side*, at a public premiere Tuesday evening at Megaplex 12 Theater at The Gateway downtown (165 S. Rio Grande), on November 11, from 7:30 – 9:30 PM. This event is free and open to the public.

**Members of the press are cordially invited to a private screening of the films on Monday, November 10, at 7 PM at Spy Hop Productions (511 W 200 S). Please RSVP to John Boyack at (801) 532-7500 or [john@spyhop.org](mailto:john@spyhop.org) if you wish to attend.**

Each year, students premiere four short films as the culminating event of an intensive year-long filmmaking workshop at Spy Hop Productions. Local youth filmmakers Qing Zhao, Tyson Call, Heather Todd O'Brien, Sean Bagley, Phil Davis, Spencer Sandoval, Steven Schmit, Aubry Hollingshead, Whitney Warren, Al Vallo, and Kenneth Larson have worked tirelessly to bring their collective film ideas to the big screen.

To view the trailers, please visit: <http://www.youtube.com/user/SpyHop>

2008 Pitch-Nic Films

**Social Obscurity** – Follow the story of Steven Schmit as he explores the consequences of life without a social security number. Documentary film by Steven Schmit and Aubry Hollingshead. Executive Producers Leslie Howa and Sue & Scott Ulbrich. Associate Producers Steve & Marti Denkers; Willard L. Eccles Foundation, Bart & Sheila Clennon, and Lewis Francis.

**Suspect** – An intense drama about a man who wakes up in the hospital...as he's being questioned, he tries to uncover what he's done. Film by Sean Bagley, Phil Davis, and Spencer Sandoval. Executive Producers Kevin & Donna Gruneich. Associate Producers Steve & Marti Denkers-Willard L. Eccles Foundation

**Wild Side** – Troubled youth spend months in Utah's backcountry at a camp designed to teach teens to get off drugs and deal positively with life's frustrations. Documentary Film by Qing Zhao, Tyson Call, and Heather Todd O'Brien. Executive Producers Steve & Marti Denkers-Willard L. Eccles Foundation. Associate Producers Carolyn Leone, Dr. Robert and Mrs. Diana Wray

**The Unfortunate Cookie** – A man suspects his fortune cookies are becoming reality. "An awesome movie is in your future". Narrative Film by Whitney Warren, Al Vallo, and Kenneth Larson. Executive Producers Leslie Howa, Sue & Scott Ulbrich. Associate Producers Steve & Marti Denkers-Willard L. Eccles Foundation, Judy & Blair Hicks.

Films are produced annually thanks to the generous support of financial contributions raised at Spy Hop Productions Annual Benefit and Auction held every spring.

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## About Pitch-Nic

An intense year-long workshop allows experienced student filmmakers to learn the ins and outs of creating a film on a whole new level. With the guidance of professional mentors—and with access to professional production values—these filmmakers truly learn and experience every aspect of the production process.

Students enter the program with simple plot and/or story concepts and spend the first three months honing their ideas into a short screenplay or documentary treatment. Aided by professional mentors, these young filmmakers spend months learning to write treatments, create storyboards, and plan budgets. Students then create a production booklet—a resource they will use to pitch their concept to potential producers. Spy Hop Productions holds an "auction" where the aspiring producers bid on the right to produce these films. As the workshop progresses, students finalize realistic budgets, search for actors, identify interview subjects, scout locations, collect props, design costumes, conduct interviews, build sets, and plan marketing schemes for each film. Once production is finished, students spend their time learning to edit, commissioning soundtracks and special effects, implementing their marketing strategies, entering festivals and holding screenings or premieres.

A Pitch-Nic film idea must be a fictional or documentary project that can be produced within six months of receiving its budget. The project should be capable of being produced at a low cost and by students. All films must be considered "short" (20 minutes or less) and all themes and topics are acceptable. We are looking for passionate filmmakers; films and ideas that spark emotion, make a statement, explore an issue, and inspire discussion.

Pitch-Nic was conceived in 2002 as an exciting, hands-on way to unite talented, passionate young filmmakers with supporters of youth filmmaking. This intense year-long workshop allows experienced student filmmakers to create a professional-caliber documentary or narrative film. With the guidance of professional mentors—and with access to professional production values—these filmmakers truly experience every aspect of the production process.

## About Spy Hop Productions

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

For more information, please visit [www.spyhop.org](http://www.spyhop.org), or call (801) 532-7500.