



empowering youth through multimedia

**MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Chris Howard
Phone: 801-532-7500
Email: cjh@spyhop.org

SPY HOP ANNUAL BENEFIT TO SUPPORT YOUTH MEDIA ARTS HOSTED BY PUBLIC BROADCASTER DOUG FABRIZIO

Spy Hop's annual fundraising gala features student-produced musical and visual art entertainment, followed by an unconventional auction to support youth voices.

SALT LAKE CITY, UT — Spy Hop's Annual Benefit will be held **Wednesday, April 28th at Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center in the Jeanné Wagner Theatre from 6:00 – 9:30 PM**. This year's theme '*Turn On. Tune In. Empower.*' recognizes how Spy Hop's mission has helped empower over 6,000 young people through multimedia arts education and mentoring since it opened its doors over 10 years ago. Spy Hop's Annual Benefit is its primary fundraising event of the year, raising critical program funds for Salt Lake's emerging generation.

KUER's Doug Fabrizio will be the evening's host. Rick Wray, Spy Hop's founder who will be stepping down as Executive Director later this year, will also speak. Kevin Gallagher will serve as the evening's auctioneer.

This year, Spy Hop invites its guests to turn on, tune in, and join us for an evening of the Spy Hop Experience: A visual and aural art experience produced by the students as a demonstration of what Spy Hop is about and the possibility of art and technology in the hands of curious and passionate youth.

Spy Hop Records band *The Direction*—whose sound can be described as medieval blues rock—will be performing in the lobby during guest check-in.

From 6:00 – 7:15PM, guests will enjoy food and drink from local Salt Lake restaurants including *Em's Restaurant, Oasis Cafe, The Tin Angel Café, Café Trio, Frida Bistro, Diva's Cupcakes, Carlucci's Bakery, Sages Cafe & Cali's Market, Harmons Grocery, Red Rock Brewing Company, and Vine Lore, Inc.*

Immediately following its social hour, there will be a one-of-a-kind presentation and live auction, where guests will witness live filmmaking, music, and radio performances combined with inspirational stories from Spy Hop students. Spy Hop Records artist Joel Brown—a soulful, emotionally raw singer-songwriter—will perform on-stage. Spy Hop's most advanced filmmaking students will pitch their film ideas on-stage and audience members will have the opportunity to become Executive Producers for the films.

Spy Hop will then auction off each of its four core programs to the audience, plus one Sundance Film Festival Package.

The evening closes with a thank you from Spy Hop Chair Lewis Francis plus a musical send off from current Spy Hop Musicology band *Idyll Rigamarole*.

All proceeds raised during the auction go directly to supporting the over 1,000 young people annually who attend Spy Hop's programs in film, audio, music and design. The producing sponsor for the event is *Zions Bank*. Supporting, contributing and patron sponsors for the event include: *Utah Film Commission, Jones Waldo, Salt Lake County Zoo Arts & Parks, Kevin & Donna Gruneich Family Foundation, Xmission, Redirect Community, and Beehive Insurance.*

TICKET INFO

\$75 General Admission, \$50 Spy Hop Alumni (21 years and older)

RSVP by APRIL 23rd online at: www.spyhop.org/benefit/ or by calling Kris Fenn @ (801) 532-7500

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 web.

###

511 West 200 South #100, Salt Lake City, UT 84101
Phone: (801) 532-7500 | Toll Free: (877) 4SPYHOP | Fax: (801) 532-7505
www.spyhop.org