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Images Available

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LOCAL YOUTH SHOWCASE FILMS IN L.A. FILM FESTIVAL'S HIGH SCHOOL SCREENING PROGRAM

Local youth, in conjunction with Spy Hop Productions, produced two short films that were accepted into the L.A. Film Festival's High School Screening Program, June 20th – 29th. Through Spy Hop Production's youth filmmaking and video production courses, students created these films, a narrative "Let Them Eat Cake" that explores a young man's relationship with his birthday cake and a documentary, "UP;RIGHT" that examines perspectives on how people utilize their rights to express themselves.

The eighth annual IFP/WEST Los Angeles Film Festival is a world-class event, featuring over 150 films and hosting talents such as Bill Pullman, Gena Rowlands, Holly Hunter, and Helen Hunt. Its High School Screening program was created to highlight the voices of the next generation of filmmakers. The festival's web site summarizes these voices: "Spanning from upperclass to underrepresented, from youth in Salt Lake City to first-generation Americans with roots in Central America, these high school students refuse to be categorized or defined by society's labels."

Spy Hop Productions is a non-profit organization formed to empower these youth voices through multimedia education. Its objective is to offer multimedia training that not only enables immediate hands-on experience, but also focuses on producing an end product that can be showcased at film festivals, special screenings, and through other channels of distribution. Spy Hop youth films have appeared on Home Box Office, in the 2002 Sundance Film Festival: Gen-Y Studio, at the Tower Theater and in other film festivals.

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Spy Hop Productions is a unique Salt Lake City not-for-profit organization founded in 1999, specializing in educational solutions through the multimedia arts. Dedicated to providing hands-on experience in documentary and narrative videography, photography, sound production, and web-based mediums, Spy Hop offers training in the technical and creative aspects of digital multimedia. Spy Hop's programming also enhances self-confidence and fosters valuable career and social skills while promoting critical thinking and media literacy, helping youth to critically evaluate the media barrage that defines our information age.

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