

## NSU University School Student Films Shown in New York

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By Debby Teich

Students at NSU University School recently produced eight films that were seen on the big screen at AMC Theaters in NYC's Times Square. It was all part of the All-American High School Film Festival (AAHSFF), the world's largest high school film festival.

"I am extremely proud of what we are accomplishing here at NSU University School," said Robert Adanto, M. F.A./ Film and TV Production instructor. "There's a consistency to the work, and we are being recognized for what we produce."

This year, the AAHSFF received over 1,400 video/film submissions from 48 states and 30 countries. The following student films were selected from NSU University School:

- Experimental Film: "Tori" (AAHSFF Finalist) examines the final moments of a young woman's life. Senior Quintin O'Connell produced the film.
- Documentary: "Beyond the Numbers" (AAHSFF Finalist) explores the rise in mass killings in the United States, and features an interview with NSU professor, Dr. Scott Poland. It was produced by senior Andrew Nemets and sophomore Max Internoscia.
- Public Service Announcement: "Keep the Arts" advocates for arts education in all schools. Junior Sierra Bardfeld shot and edited the PSA and junior Ayla Maulding wrote and provided the narration.
- Experimental Film: "Angel" explores a day in the life of a Russian prima ballerina. Senior Mitchell Beinfest produced the film.
- Public Service Announcement: "The Perfect Image" examines the negative impact that the media has on young ladies pursuing unrealistic goals. Juniors Sarah Topf, Jessica Roman, and Melissa Rabinowitz produced the film.
- Horror Film "The Bizarre Altercation" is about being careful about what you dream for and how willing you are to achieve it. It was produced by Carlos Doce, class of 2015, who is attending NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.



(L to R): Seated: Ayla Maulding, Sara Topf, Andrew Nemets and Sierra Bardfeld. Standing: Robert Adanto, Quintin O'Connell, Max Internoscia, Jessica Roman and Mitchell Beinfest

- Music Video: "Never Say Goodbye," which was created in Minecraft, and Documentary "Never Forget," which looks at retired University School Holocaust studies teacher Charlie Redler's personal connection with the Shoah, were produced by Ariel Desler, class of 2015. He is currently attending Emerson College in Boston, where he is studying film in the Department of Visual & Media Arts.

O'Connell's AAHSFF film took three days to brainstorm, write, and prepare for filming; three days to film; and a week to edit. He says it was a life altering experience for both him and Victoria Fiore, who co-wrote the film and plays the role of a depressed adolescent.

"Things got very intense, but in a positive way," said O'Connell. "It was a beautiful and enlightening experience."

In addition to becoming an AAHSFF finalist, O'Connell has won five international, one national and 12 state awards for direction, cinematography, screenwriting, and overall film. He currently works as a professional filmmaker, shooting commercials for Miami-based ad agencies. "I plan to create great and positive change in the world through film production," said O'Connell. It recently had four projects make the state finals at the Jim Harbin Student Media Awards. Three other projects made the finals for the high school section of the Ft. Lauderdale International Film Festival.

