

# News Release

## High School's IB Film Night Features Award-Winning Student Videos

Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., May 27, 2014—The Dobbs Ferry community is invited to attend the **Annual IB Film Night at the High School on Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium.** The program will feature the culminating short films produced by seniors who have participated in the two-year International Baccalaureate (IB) Film course.

The films are approximately 6-7 minutes in length and are rated PG-13. The students worked in production teams (3-4 students) and the groups spent three months developing their script treatment, producing storyboards, shooting footage and editing. These films are part of the IB Internal Assessment for 12<sup>th</sup> graders in the IB Film class and a major component of their final grade.

According to High School IB Film teacher Andrew Fischbeck, “this year’s IB films are reflective of the students’ hard work and a tight-knit group of seniors. They were extremely dedicated to the class and producing a great product. The kids put forth a wonderful effort and the audience will see their creativity in each story as it comes to life on the big screen.”

Mr. Fischbeck and IB Film teacher Tom Falconetti will introduce the evening and the films to be shown. The evening’s lineup includes six Poetry Project films and six “feature” films encompassing both drama and comedy. The IB final films are:

- ***Change*** is the story of a homeless man named Ben who endures the animosity of a few, while invisible to others. However, one woman’s mistake elevates his social status, exposing society’s inequalities. Directed by Thomas Newman, written by Ian Maddox, edited by Yusuf Kapadia, cinematography by Will Raderman and starring Harrison Harmon, this film won first place and was awarded “The Chester” at the Westchester County Future Film Maker’s Film Festival at the end of April. The film was up against 23 other entries submitted by schools across Westchester County.
- ***Overlaid***, produced by Nathan Flaks, Benjamin Hord, Marius Polakoski and Terence Taylor
- ***Please Sign Here***, produced by William Brosnahan, Sean Grogg, Luc Pergolotti and Dorrie Sacks
- ***Let Go***, produced by Maxwell Freiman, Antonia Kildare, Mac Josh Reandelar and Michael Selin
- ***Decisions***, produced by Gabriel Cassorla, Frederick Jones and Paul Monaghan
- ***Waking***, produced by William Brosnahan, Gabriel Erwin, Sean Grogg and Dorrie Sacks

The Poetry Projects, produced by 11<sup>th</sup> graders, are films based on a poem and run approximately 2-3 minutes. The poem serves as the voice-over for the video. The Poetry Project films are:

- *Still I Rise*, produced by George Argyros and Sean Sheely
- *The Spot*, produced by Niamh Deane and Catherine White
- *The Road Not Taken*, produced by Andrew Ford McWhirter and Paul Serban
- *What is the Grass*, produced by Noah Baron and Evan Cain
- *Beat! Beat! Drums!*, produced by David Acocella and Takanori Okkotsu
- *A Dream Within a Dream*, produced by Alexander Chuang and Harrison Harmon

In the first year of the challenging IB Film course in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, students make movies and study film history and film analysis. Students also take on the roles of writer, director, cinematographer, and editor in the production of their original films. By 12<sup>th</sup> grade, the second part of the two-year International Baccalaureate study in film, students make their final films for IB assessment, continue to practice film analysis, and do an in-depth study of movies from another culture.

“The criteria for the final IB film is very stringent and you are not allowed to use canned music, show any brand names or a TV set and of course it has to be language appropriate,” said *Change* student director Thomas Newman. The film crew worked within their \$10 budget and Editor Yusuf Kapadia even designed and built his own “slider” mount so that the camera could move smoothly to follow the action. The boys also scored the film themselves and enlisted a friend to play the violin accompanied by scriptwriter Ian Maddox on the piano. Newman’s grandmother and Maddox’s younger sister even had cameo appearances!

The group all agreed that IB Film was their favorite class. “Mr. Fischbeck is critical in a good way and you really want to please him because he holds you to a high standard and quality,” said Maddox. “The class is very structured and we learned great organizational skills and technical skills using Google Drive to share our script changes and edit scenes and call sheets, as well as review rough cuts during the editing process. The class is not easy, but it is fun and you become a much better writer and more cognizant of the creative process and the art of filmmaking.”

**For more information, please contact:**

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