

2008 Queens International Film Festival Youth Initiative

The 2008 Queens International Film Festival will again include a Youth Initiative, an element specifically designed to encourage young filmmakers. In collaboration with Our World Neighborhood Charter School located at 36-12 35th Avenue, Astoria, NY we will create a Public Service Announcement (PSA) on a theme that will be determined through a series of workshops held at the school. The weeklong experience will culminate in a screening at the festival's awards ceremony.

This exciting program will be facilitated by long time Queens resident and award winning filmmaker Don Cato and his wife, Katha Cato, Director of After-School Services at Henry Street Settlement. (Katha is also a former board member of O.W.N. Charter School).

Over the course of the week (November 3 – 7) the Catos will work with a cross section of middle and elementary school students who are already participating in their school's film appreciation enrichment club. The students will be immersed in hands-on pre/post production experiences both behind and in front of the camera as they develop a PSA on a topic of their choosing.

On Saturday November 8, the youth will attend a 10:00 am panel held at the Charter School with visiting filmmakers and industry professionals. The panel will focus on how these artists got their start and will provide insight on how to pursue a career in the arts, specifically filmmaking. Afterward the youth will break into their production teams and spend 3 hours shooting their PSA.

On Sunday November 9, the young filmmakers and their families will be the guests of the festival as they attend the award ceremony where they will be recognized for their work.

Questions about the Youth Initiative should be directed to:

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