



**PACIFIC ARTS**  
MOVEMENT

Moving Pictures, Moving Minds

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Local High School Filmmakers Shine During 13<sup>th</sup> San Diego Asian Film Festival

(San Diego, CA – October 22, 2012) – The San Diego Asian Film Festival (SDAFF) is excited to announce its 13th season which runs **November 1-9, 2012** at the **UltraStar Cinemas in Mission Valley** (7510 Hazard Center Drive, San Diego, CA 92108). SDAFF is especially proud to highlight another year of the Youth Filmmaking Internship - REEL VOICES. FREE Program to run, Sunday, November 4, 2012 at Noon. The San Diego Asian Film Festival is the flagship program of the Pacific Arts Movement (formerly San Diego Asian Film Foundation).

Since 2005, SDAFF has empowered local high school students to learn the art of documentary filmmaking through the Reel Voices Program. This intense 12-week summer internship help students become socially-conscious storytellers, learn Final Cut Pro editing, and experience all stages of production and post-production where in the end, students will have their own documentary which will premiere at the 13th Annual San Diego Asian Film Festival on November 1-9.

This year, Reel Voices presents the work of nine talented students whose works touch on issues ranging from personal experiences and struggles to an insider's look to the world of Taiko drumming and a teen refugee. Students are from local San Diego High schools including filmmakers from High Tech High, Torrey Pines High, and more.

### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **Life 100 Pounds Lighter**

**Director:** Adrian Altez, 17, Kearny High School International Business

**Synopsis:** We all have our insecurities. This film highlights an amazing physical and emotional transformation while showing that sometimes the only person who can help you is you.

- **A New Marine**

**Director:** Juan Gonzalez, 17, Hoover High School

**Synopsis:** The film follows the last few days of a young Marine recruit before he leaves for boot camp. Highlights the motivation and commitment of a new teenage Marine and features moving interviews with the family members he will be leaving behind.

- **My Life in 5 Minutes**

**Director:** Tram Ho, 17 Kearny High School International Business

**Synopsis:** A unique view into the life of a Vietnamese teen as she reflects on her journey to the United States and the pursuit of the American dream.

- **Naruwan Taiko**

**Director:** Emily Johnson, 16, Torrey Pines High School

**Synopsis:** An insider's perspective of Naruwan Taiko, a Japanese drumming group from San Diego, California. The film also highlights the teamwork, creativity, and physical strength necessary to perform with this highly skilled group.

- **As Asian Teens, We Hold A Heritage**

**Director:** Ha Young Kim, 16, Rancho Bernardo High school

**Synopsis:** A group of teenagers at a high school in San Diego show how it is their role to maintain the Asian heritage as people who fit into America's jigsaw puzzle called "Diversity."

- **Unforgettable Night**

**Director:** Clementine Mukarukundo, 17 Crawford High School

**Synopsis:** A detailed look at the lives of teen refugees after fleeing the Democratic Republic of Congo. Told from three unique perspectives, this film highlights the struggles of those forced to flee their war-torn homeland.

- **Teenage Time**

**Director:** Ashley Shin, 17, Bishop's School

**Synopsis:** How exactly do teenagers spend their time? TEENAGE TIME takes a unique approach to answering this question.

- **Beginnings**

**Director:** Kathleen Silverstein, 16, High Tech High School

**Synopsis:** An intimate look into the life of an adoptee. This highly personal film explores the filmmaker's history, including a trip back to her orphanage in Suzhou China.

BEGINNINGS shows us that there is nothing more important than the bond and love that you share with your family.

- **Life Under the Hood**

**Director:** Joseph Wilson, 16, Heritage Christian School

**Synopsis:** An intimate look into the life of a foster kid learning the craft of automotive maintenance. The amazing journey of a young man living and working toward a life where he can ultimately help others.

Previous Reel Voices films have earned students scholarships to film school and trips around the country. Screenings will be at UltraStar Mission Valley November 4, 2012 12:00 pm. For tickets and to view other scheduled films, visit <http://festival.sdaff.org/2012>.

Free post-screening reception sponsored by Chipotle and Popeye's.

For more info, visit [www.Pac-Arts.org](http://www.Pac-Arts.org) or call 619-400-5911. Connect with us on Facebook ([Facebook.com/SDAsianFilm](https://www.facebook.com/SDAsianFilm)) and follow SDAFF on Twitter (@Pac-Arts).

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