

2008/09 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships MTV Award



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Film
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When I was a kid, movies and television were all about entertainment. As I grew older and became more aware of my surroundings, my perception of films changed and I realized that for me, film is the way out of the cramped space I currently live in. A small town in Texas is not the best place to be creative. A town where creative means Western art, gospel music, the craft department at Wal-Mart and football. I am pursuing a BFA degree in cinematography because film has always been and will continue to be a compelling influence in my life.



My mom understood the greater opportunities we could work toward. To help us understand, she would take my sister and me for rides in the car on the weekend when we were little. I remember her taking us to the rich part of town, where we would ride around, look at the nice big houses and see the happy people through the windows. She told us that we would have a choice to make about our lives one day. We could study hard, go to college, work at something we really wanted to do every day and actively participate in life. Or we could end our education at high school, live in the exact same place we live in now and let other people tell us what to do and how to be. My sister and I both made the decision to attend college because we have already lived a lifetime here.



I think struggle has given me a larger variety of experiences to draw from and an ability to see from the bottom up; also living with my mom and sister gave me insight into the female perspective. During my first year of high school art, with no real education in video, I am proud to say that one of my videos won a state competition and this year my new video had the highest score possible at regional and area competitions, advancing to state level in April. I have also made time while in high school to take college classes, and I have 18 hours credit to date. With money from my job I bought an iMac for video work and saved a little for college.



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The question about how I think I can use my creativity to help society in the future has caused me to think about what my future might look like. I have been so busy trying to get to where I am now that I really haven't had time to think five, ten or twenty years down the road. Recently, I've been talking to a lot of high school kids who are interested in learning about making videos because they have seen mine at competition. In the future, I see myself continuing to talk to kids about making videos and encouraging them to enlarge their thinking and thus our world. I hate to think that how socially productive I can be will depend in part on how successful I am professionally, but it is a reality. If financially able, I would like to set up an art scholarship/internship where part of the criteria would be the applicant's willingness to pass on a gift to another student. And of course as a filmmaker I have the potential to influence many people, and this is without question a responsibility I take very seriously. After all, if a picture is worth a thousand words, how many words are 24 frames per second worth?