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# Festival will highlight teens' films

BY DOROTHY SUPRI

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Are you a high school or college student who has an eye for film? Maybe you've made a short movie with friends and you want to see how it stacks up against other student films?

You can submit it to the International Student Film Festival Hollywood Film and Video Competition, which will be held Nov. 14-18 in the NoHo Arts District in North Hollywood.

During the past four years, ISFFH has received entries from across the United States and countries around the world.

Locally, students in the film program at Grant High School in Van Nuys have submitted 25 to 30 films to the competition, said Alex Hakobian, film teacher at Grant.

He said students work for months on their films, which usually are 15 to 20 minutes long. They juggle their film schedules around their classes, which means

they often work after school and on weekends and holidays.

Josh Smith led a team of students whose film "Rumors" won first place in the high school/comedy category in last year's ISFFH competition.

The film is about four girls. One of them gets a new boyfriend and the other three become jealous. They begin spreading rumors that the girl with the new boyfriend shaves her face.

In the end, the three girls apologize over the school's P.A. system for the rumors they've spread.

The other students on the "Rumors" film team were Leeron Peretz, Fenny Canon, Lena Press, Shanshan Liang, Rosa Gasparian and Sean Real.

Smith, who lives in Sherman Oaks, will be a senior at Grant in the fall. He's already been accepted to the Brooks Institute of Photography in Ventura and plans to pursue a filmmaking career.

Another Grant High student, Brittany Marmo of Van Nuys, led a

team that's submitting a film in the ISFFH competition this year.

Titled "Now I See," the film is about a blind girl who is taunted by a bully. When the bully's friends desert her because of the way she treats the blind girl, the bully discovers what it's like to be an outsider — just like the blind girl.

Marmo, who will be a sophomore in the fall, was only a freshman when she led the team, made up of Khaté Tagle, Sangeeta Prabhakar and Noelle Bauer, in making the 15-minute film.

To submit a film, send it to: International Student Film Festival Hollywood, 4821 Lankershim Blvd., Suite F-132, North Hollywood, CA 91601. Submission deadline is Aug. 31.

For more information, go to [www.isffhollywood.org](http://www.isffhollywood.org) or e-mail [info@isffhollywood.org](mailto:info@isffhollywood.org).

**Dorothy Supri is director of development for ISFFH. She posted this story Aug. 8 to The Valley hub on valleynews.com.**



From left, Khaté Tagle, Robert Reber, Justin Shitanishi and Josh Smith work on a film project while Brittany Marmo, center, films the scene and film teacher Alex Hakobian supervises.