



ENTERTAINMENT

## Kids are filmmakers too, Saturday event proves



International Kids Film Festival organizers Nicole Scott and Samantha Henderson, seated, with founder Jacalyn Evone, outside the Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum theater, as the films were screened just inside the doors on Saturday. (Rachel Raskin-Zrihen — Times-Herald)

By RACHEL RASKIN-ZRIHEN | rzrihen@timesheraldonline.com | Vallejo Times Herald

PUBLISHED: December 8, 2018 at 3:36 pm | UPDATED: December 8, 2018 at 3:36 pm

Since the International KidsNFilm program is about building self-esteem and confidence, the winners of Saturday's first-ever KidsNFilm Festival must be feeling those things in spades right now.

Celebrating both youth actors and filmmakers, The International KidsNFilm Festival offers a forum for young talents to showcase their work and creativity, organizers said.

"We welcome films that are fun, positive, entertaining, thought-provoking, inspirational, including diverse backgrounds and ethnicities," they said. "Films submitted must be for a youth audience and family friendly. Films are chosen by a jury combined with youth, educators, and filmmakers, rating all entries on entertainment value, originality, acting ability, production value, and message conveyed."



### Maa-Becca Tucker

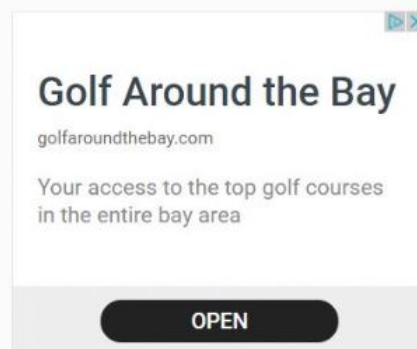
They were separated and judged in three categories – age 12 and under, age 13 to 17 and professional. The judges included Emmy award-winning actor Kim Estes (Criminal minds, Brooklyn Nine-Nine, Fresh off the Boat) and actor George Maquire (Fight club, Pursuit of Happiness,) as well as Patricia La Marr of the Northern California Filmmaker Coalition and Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Steve Dunsky, and others, included several student jurors.

“The idea is to provide opportunities for youth to show their creativity, and interact with other youth filmmakers,” Evone said.

Museum Executive Director Jim Kern said he was happy to oblige when festival organizers approached him with the possibility of holding it there.

“(Evone) had held an event here before, so we had developed a relationship, and she’s familiar with the venue and it was the right size for what she was doing, so she approached us about holding it here, and we were glad to do it,” he said.

Such arrangements tend to be a win-win, as the event organizers sell ticket (in this case, about 60), and the space rental brings some revenue to the museum, Kern said.



“It’s a great thing to have the kids involved,” he said.

Besides seeing the film, the festival provides an “opportunity to talk about challenges, techniques, goals, or simply the fun experienced during the filmmaker process,” Evone said. “It is your time to shine, inspire and show off your work whether in front or behind the camera to California’s North Bay Area community.”

Winners include:

First Place for Stop Motion 12 and under – The Dog’s Stroy by Arkhip Varfolomeev.

First Place Documentary Professional – March for our Lives by Robert Rothgery

First Place Narrative 13-17 – The Grounded Astronaut

First Place Documentary 13-17 – My Black Is by Micahel Valdez and Eunice Beato

First Place animation Professional – Contigo by Julia Quiceno

First Place Narrative Professional – Paper Beasts by Daniel Klein