



Young filmmakers find their focus

24-hour festival starts Friday

By Alyssa Urish Camera Staff Writer
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Cliff Grassmick

Camera

The Steven Spielbergs of the future — or at least the next generation of YouTube masters — collaborated Saturday during an afternoon workshop preparing young people for next weekend's fourth-annual The Shoot Out 24 Hour Filmmaking Festival in Boulder.

The festival, expected to attract 50 to 75 teams, challenges participants to create a short film in just 24 hours, starting at 9 p.m. Friday. Only in-camera editing is allowed, and filmmakers must incorporate five of 11 predetermined locations, props or phrases into their piece.

The top 10 films will be shown at Boulder Theater on Oct. 14.

Saturday's six-hour workshop at New Vista High School aimed to help would-be filmmakers ages 17 and younger build a foundation for next week's event, focusing on fast filmmaking, in-camera editing, storyboarding and other techniques.

"I think a lot of people are intimidated by the process of making a film," said Michael Conti, executive director of the festival. "What's great about the Shoot Out is it's actually really democratic in the fact that we do the in-camera editing, so you don't need to be a computer expert or a great editor. You just need to have a good story."

Previous Shoot Out winners were on hand to dispense insider advice.

It's more about how you film than what you film, said Jim Babb, a member of the Global Probing team, which has won for the past two years. The group showed its two winning films and gave tips to the nearly 20 students present.

"Do everything. Shoot something, edit together," Babb said. "You don't have to have a story idea; you don't have to have a script or a camera. You can make an interesting movie about belly buttons."

Austin Bush and Max McClellan, fourth-graders at Sacred Heart of Jesus School, came to the workshop with the goal of making an anime movie.

"I saw the movie 'Spirited Away,' and I thought it was kind of funny, but I really got into anime," Austin said.

The boys plan to form a three-man team with another friend for next weekend's competition.

"We've seen a lot of movies on YouTube, and now we want to try and make one by ourselves," Max said.

The students spent the rest of Saturday afternoon working in teams to put together short films.

"I think it gives the students a chance to get comfortable with the format and to practice," said workshop co-host Rebecca Cueto, of Looking Glass Arts.

Making their own movie helps the students learn pace, which is an important part of next weekend's competition, she said.



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