

Young people explore film

The work of budding movie-makers and editors of the future will be shown at a festival at the Labia later this month

THESSE days it is common to see high school pupils with cell-phones, often using instant messengers or social networking sites. However, a new youth film festival has caught the attention of some youngsters who have turned their attention to using technology to make short films.

The Youth Making Movies or YM² Festival takes place at the Labia on Orange Street next Saturday, August 27, giving Cape Town audiences an opportunity to view short films made by pupils from Alexander Sinton, Voortrekker, Immaculata, Westerford, Rustenberg, Symphony and Belhar high schools on the themes of gender discrimination and stereotyping. The participating pupils all watched the documentary *Courting Justice*, which deals with these topics, before attempting to make their films.

The festival will be in the form of a judged competition, with the winning pupil walking away with an editing course at City Varsity. Cash prizes will be awarded to the runners up.

Festival organiser Annette Fatti, who has been promoting the documentary, says she felt this was fun to do with school pupils.

"I have been flabbergasted by (the children's) wealth of creativity. Making movies really transcends boundaries.

"They keep it real, about things in their own lives," she says

"Kids have grown up on movies, it's like their second language."

They made do with what they had: "Some made basic Powerpoint presentations, while others produced dramatic and astounding media. They used their friends and family members as actors."

Westerford boys Alex Andipatin and Dean-Ross Parker, both in

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tgw saturday



TRIO: Immaculata High pupil Angelique Petersen is submitting three short films.

Grade 10, are shooting a short documentary on teen suicide.

Their still untitled film will feature four young people telling of the experience of attempted suicide.

"I would like to move people on an emotional level because this is a real problem," says Alex.

He explains that the subjects of the documentary are victims of stereotyping; youngsters who are thought of as nerds or emos.

Alex is the director and Dean-Ross is editing and shooting the film, which is being made at their school: "I know this school (Westerford), so I will be looking for good angles to shoot from," he says.

Dean-Ross is composing the musical score for the film. And if they win, Alex says his partner should take the editing course prize.

The young director, who dreams



YOUNG ARTISTS: Alex Andipatin, left, and Dean-Ross Parker of Westerford High School, both 16, are making a trailer and a short film for the Youth Making Movies festival. PICTURE: JEFFREY ABRAHAMS

of studying at film school AFDA, says he is nervous about their film screening but that participating in the festival has been amazing.

Immaculata High pupil Angelique Petersen is submitting three short films – *Who is the Real Boogiemans?*, *Behind Closed Doors* and an untitled film she is still working on.

Who is the Real Boogiemans? is about an abused girl looking into a cupboard for a boogiemans and *Behind Closed Doors* is about a child staring through the keyhole of a door listening to an argument.

"I used my cellphone and a digital camera to film it and pupils from my school's drama group and my friends appear in the film," she says.

The 18-year-old originally wanted to be an accountant but is now thinking otherwise.

"Doing this has shown me what I can accomplish. If accounting doesn't work out, I think I have a career in video making."

These are her first films and the young woman says she is nervous about the screening.

"I am excited at the same time,

for people to see what I made. But I am really nervous."

● The festival starts at 11am with a screening of *Courting Justice*. The pupil's screenings will start at 12.30pm. This will be followed by a question and answer session with the young directors.

A photo exhibition titled *Photospeak*, taken by Belhar pupils, will be shown in the foyer of the Labia.

Entrance is R20. For more information visit www.courtingjustice.com

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