

Tuesday, May 9th 2017, Sixth Annual Tri-Co Film Festival



BRYN MAWR, PA - The Sixth Annual **Tri-Co Film Festival** was attended by over 160 guests, filling theater #3 at the **Bryn Mawr Film Institute** last Thursday, May 4th. This year, the festival was organized by Harlow Figa and Sarah Moses, both Haverford College '16, and was juried and programmed by curator Sally Berger (former curator at MoMA) and filmmaker Stephen Winter (director of *Jason and Shirley*).

From over 50 submissions, Berger and Winter created a two-act program comprised of 17 recent works by student filmmakers from Haverford, Bryn Mawr, and Swarthmore Colleges, representing notable diversity in form, aesthetic, and genre. These student films were made in a variety of contexts including production courses, scholarships for international film programs, and extracurricular projects. After the screening, Sally Berger shared the jurors' remarks on the submissions. Berger and Winter said:

“The selection of films for this year’s Tri-Co Film Festival was outstanding: Each film has a distinct point of view, and offers a unique perspective and creative approach. It is enlightening to see and hear stories that are local to the tri-college area and Pennsylvania, personal and intimate about being a college student and coming of age, and explore identity and cultural backgrounds – all in ways that reflect out more universally. The ability to look at life with humor as well as gravitas radiates through the films.” -- Sally Berger

“It's great to let go of your everyday life and jump into the world of a person with a plan. That's how I felt while reviewing all of your films. I didn't know exactly where I was, I didn't know any of the players involved, but every time I got to the destination I always felt satisfied. So, great work! Always question the system and try to make it better. Support local music and independent film. Tell your stories.” -- Stephen Winter

Awards and Honorable Mentions - Juror Descriptions available on Tricofilmfest.org.

The award for Poetic Storytelling goes to **Morrison Gong** for *Eros Diary*.

The award for Narrative goes to **Holden Blanco** for *Soused*.

The award for Creative Non-Fiction goes to **Connor Cassidy** for *Puerto Rico == Colony*.

The award for Audience Favorite goes to **Forrest Reid** for *Hardwork Movement - On the Rise*.

Honorable mention to **Van Le** for *Thoughts out of Season*.

Honorable mention to **Jesse Cason** for *Samara*.

Honorable mention to **Saket Sekhsaria** for *ACE*

Prizes this year included a one-year membership to **International House Philadelphia's Lightbox Film Center**, courtesy of Robert Cargni Mitchell, three one-year memberships to the **Scribe Video Center**, four sets of two tickets to see movies at the **Bryn Mawr Film Institute**, four \$200 credits towards a crowdfunding campaign on **Seed&Spark**, and three 1 TB hard drives. The festival and awards ceremony was followed by a celebration in the Multimedia Room at the **Bryn Mawr Film Institute**.

This year's festival also debuted a **Directors' Sidebar**, which included the first-ever multimedia project to be featured by the Tri-Co Film Festival. This multimedia installation, entitled “*Exposing Forces of Oppression: Marginalized Bodies and The Construction of The (Pre-) Criminal*,” by **Isabella Siegel**, **Anya Bernhard**, **Reid Cohen**, **Hope Ebert**, and **Adam Stambor**, was on display at Haverford College's Woodside Cottage on Friday, May 5th. The Directors' Sidebar also included three student films that were not programmed to screen at the festival, representing a student from each of the three schools in the Tri-Co: *Intervention* by **Cody McElhinny** (Swarthmore), *Pull the String*, *Gently* by **Courtney Lau** (Haverford), and *Planet Goose* by **Emily Schalk** and **Ben Harowitz** (Bryn Mawr and Haverford).

The 2017 Tri-Co Film Festival was made possible by: **The Film & Media Studies Department at Swarthmore College**, **the Film Studies Program at Bryn Mawr College**, **the John B. Hurford '60 Center for the Arts and Humanities at Haverford College**, and **The Bryn Mawr Film Institute**. Gratitude was expressed to Valerie Temple and Mike McCracken at the Bryn Mawr Film Institute; to this year's faculty advisor, Vicky Funari; to James Wessinger, Kerry Nelson, and Noemí Fernández at the Hurford Center; and to the student representatives from the Tri-Co: Kevin Medansky, Pavan Kalidindi, and Anushka Robinson.

Photos of the event, courtesy of the Haverford College Communications office, taken by Wanyi Yang (HC '20), can be found [here](#). The festival program and Directors' Sidebar can be found on the festival website, tricofilmfest.org.

