



NEXT GEN FILMMAKERS PROGRAM

TCM Presents Women Make Film aims to shine a light on the remarkable contributions that women have made to film, honoring their unique talents and approach to filmmaking that have existed all along while empowering the next generation of filmmakers.

TCM and WarnerMedia are pleased to have partnered this year with [re:imagine/ATL](#) for our TCM Presents Women Make Film: Next Gen Filmmakers program.

With the support of WarnerMedia, re:imagine/ATL's No Comment program helps students ages 14-19 to write, produce, film and pitch their films giving them the experience and support system needed as they develop and refine their craft. The focus of the No Comment program aligns beautifully with the mission of TCM Presents Women Make Film. This is also an important part of TCM and WarnerMedia's ongoing efforts and commitment to Diversity & Inclusion across all we do.

We are pleased to showcase this year's winners for our TCM Presents Women Make Film: Next Gen Filmmakers program.

WINNERS RECEIVE:

- \$5000 equipment credit courtesy of WarnerMedia Diversity & Inclusion
- \$1000 cash prize from TCM
- Featured on our TCM YouTube channel and dedicated microsite
- Promotion across TCM social platforms
- A visit to WarnerMedia Studios to visit with TCM staff and hosts
- Passes to select film festivals where their winning submissions will be featured

THIS YEAR'S WINNERS



WINNING DOCUMENTARY FILM Naila Julien, 17, Walton High School

Growing Up Gen-Z

In Growing Up Gen-Z, 5 Gen-Z kids of differing ages, ethnicities, and genders consider the influence technology has had on their childhood thus far, and its potential effects on the coming generations.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH FILM](#) ▶



WINNING NARRATIVE FILM Sam Stewart, 18, Chapman University

Ode to Cutlery

Forks and spoons who work in an office have a rivalry, but when a spork comes into the office, each group must decide where they stand.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH FILM](#) ▶

PERSONAL STATEMENT

With this project, I wanted to give my peers an opportunity to voice their concerns and worries about being the first generation to grow up in the digital age. I feel as though while the majority of people are aware of many of the more widely discussed issues regarding digital culture (cyberbullying, negative body image, etc.), the culture created by the media is much more nuanced and multifaceted than what is frequently discussed. Although technology has created so many new opportunities and avenues for globalization, is there an age where it is too early to be accessing the digital world that exists at our fingertips? While many of the kids that I interviewed agreed that growing up in a virtual culture has come with many benefits, it has also brought some negative influences that have stayed with them for a long time. Some examples are the explosion of influencer culture, the rise of targeted internet ads, the relatively slow increase in diversity over the years that has still left multitudes of kids feeling left out and forgotten. It is my hope that these influences are addressed in the coming years, and I think that bringing more attention to the fact that they exist will help them to be redressed faster. I hope that my documentary encourages people to start conversations with others about some of the harmful messaging they've personally seen in the media.

WHAT/ WHO INSPIRED ME TO GET INTO FILMMAKING

My parents are the two main people who inspired me to get into filmmaking. Although they are both in STEM fields, they've always supported me as an artist since I was young and making action movies with my little brother on our iPad in the backyard. They are the ones that first gave me the unreal news that it was possible to combine my love of movies and TV with my love of writing into a career. My parents gave me my first ever professional film experience after putting me in a film program the summer after my freshman year and since then I've been determined to be a filmmaker. They watch and critique my work and are always looking for opportunities to help me get better at filmmaking. I have an incredible support system at home, and it's not something that I take for granted.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

This film began as my application to Chapman University film school application, where the prompt was to tell a story of a character making a difficult and dramatic decision without dialogue. I knew I wanted to make something about bringing people together, as that is what I believe filmmaking does as a whole. However, I did not want to make the story about a specific group of people, so I decided to make the characters not human. Although the idea of the characters being cutlery is comedic, this short film can represent divisiveness about multiple serious things, such as: race, gender, religion, political ideology, sexual orientation, and more. I did this intentionally, so viewers could laugh, and also apply the themes of this film to whatever is most relevant to them.

WHAT/ WHO INSPIRED ME TO GET INTO FILMMAKING

My love for filmmaking started with an interest in sound design. I knew I wanted to go to film school, but was very lost on how to get in. I applied for the No Comment Filmmaking Fellowship with re:imagine/ATL, and realized that I wanted to be a director. NOCO taught me everything I know about filmmaking, and helped me so much with my film school applications. Now, I am so excited to finally be starting classes at my dream school, Chapman University.