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The Story

Story is the cornerstone of culture.

The stories we tell and the way we tell them create the fabric of our community - the basis for our learning as a culture.

ICiT: Inspiring Creative Innovative Thinkers is a groundbreaking vision to equip the next generation to bring their inspiring stories to light in a relevant and innovative way.

Summary...

The arts unlock and nurture the imagination. The arts allow young people the opportunity to create something out of nothing and gives them a concrete picture of how their unique voice can contribute to culture.

Agencies throughout the Nashville area including the Mayor's office and the Metro Nashville Arts Commission have identified an urgent need for the development of supplemental arts programming especially for children in the middle school grades.

ICiT is a collaborative partnership of artists, educators, creative catalysts, youth agencies and patrons working together to address this need by providing arts education and extraordinary, creative experiences which inspire confidence, develop character, and foster a positive attitude toward a youth's creative abilities. Youth that go through the ICiT experience are encouraged and empowered to explore how their abilities can be used to generative and caring influences in their world.

What is ICiT?

ICiT is a month long summer program for youth ages 10-15 that teaches them the fundamentals of storytelling through the medium of **film**. Participants in this experience learn the structure of storytelling and the techniques of writing scripts for the screen. Throughout this summer intensive they work one-on-one with a mentor to write their own original screenplay for a **10-12 minute film**. At the end of the camp a jury chooses one winning screenplay from each group. This script is then carefully handed to a team of professional filmmakers, who in turn produce it into a **world-class cinematic experience**, with the participants of the program watching and learning every step of the way. These new storytellers are then able to see their idea crafted into something that is applauded and rewarded - with a screening at the prestigious **Nashville Film Festival**.

The impact that this process has on these individuals, who often have never been given a chance to create or even dream, is nothing short of **life changing**.

So join us! Not only can you be a part of producing an incredible film, you can be a part of making an impact on someone's life that lasts much longer than after the credits finish rolling.

ICiT 2011-2013

2011 Camps

In July 2011, Jeff Durham, an accomplished screenwriter and teacher for 20 years with experience in both Los Angeles and Nashville welcomed 18 bug-eyed children from East Nashville's underserved community into the downtown YMCA for the second annual month long ICiT camp. He had been carefully working on his unique, original curriculum for these children for over a year. He was ready to open their minds to a world they had never experienced. They were ready to be given a chance to tell their story.

There were two camps of 9 youth: one was for children ages 10 - 12, and the other was of young teenagers, ages 13 - 15. Durham came prepared with an extensive curriculum containing lectures and assignments on story structure, great characters and formatting a screenplay properly, but he started the class with one objective: tell *your* story and make it *extraordinary*. Who could have known how *extraordinary* their stories would be?

Throughout the month long intensive, each child was working on their own original 10-12 page screenplay, each hoping that theirs would be chosen for production. However, each learned more about their own creativity than they had ever known and were being encouraged to do more than just dream.

The last day of class, the Executive Producers arrived and each child turned in their screenplay. They had done it! They had given us a glimpse into their world, into their history. These were given to a carefully selected jury of film executives, producers, writers, editors, directors and teachers, entrusted to select one winner from each group.

The jury was amazed at the quality and creativity of each child's writings. Some scripts made them cry, others made them laugh, while some inspired a stirring sense of hope and compassion. Finally, two were chose, one from each group to be made into the world-class films that the stories deserved.

2011 Winning Scripts

Here are the two summaries of the scripts chosen:

***On the Edge* - Written by Jaida Utley (age 11)**

This is a beautiful story about a young girl living in the projects of Nashville. It opens with the heroine's father walking out the door, giving up on her alcoholic and drug addicted mother. This young girl begins to draw a pill bottle as she contemplates suicide.

At school she experiences constant bullying and abuse but continues to draw, finding comfort in its creative expression. Her art Teacher recognizes her rare talent and cry for help. This wise Teacher reaches out to her, giving her the help that she needs, while encouraging her to finish the drawing because it is "not yet finished."

The story is that of the hope that art can bring and the beauty that it can have in the lives of those hurting around us, possibly even saving people from the darkest of moments.

Help me to Love - Written by Jessica Polk (age 14)

This is a quirky and fun little tale about teenage love and the help that we need to get past the barriers that we build for ourselves. Its something that every young teenager can relate to - not feeling comfortable in your own skin, especially around those you feel you don't deserve.

Meet "J", a young cupid angel (yes you read that right), who has been sent down from above to help someone who feel unable to reach out to the one they love. To help someone that needs a little kick in the pants. She meets a young teenage couple that is unable to get past their own rejections and insecurities. J makes it her mission to help them see how special they are, and right they are for each other.

It is a story filled with original creativity and beautiful little nuances that offers hope in an ever insecure environment.

The Filmmakers

When the scripts were chosen, they were then handed to their respective directors, Steve Taylor and Paul Skidmore. These accomplished, innovative and visionary filmmakers met one on one with both young writers and helped flesh out their ideas into shooting scripts ready for action.

Bella Veritas Productions, a Nashville based production company, and executive producers of the ICiT program, brought the final piece to the puzzle, the producer. They needed to find someone who had experience working with visionary directors, and also someone who had experience balancing two productions at the same time. The man for the job? Rob Cheplicki, an award winning producer with over 20 years of experience, and experience working on every type and level of project. The team was ready. The scripts were ready. It was time.

Then it all had to wait.

The project's budget was \$30,000, which included everything - the development, the camps, the selection process, the making of the films, and the exhibition of the films at the Nashville Film Festival. The \$20,000 that had been committed to the production of the films (\$10,000 per film), had been committed by a well-known organization in Nashville. At the moment to move forward, the executive producers were informed that this organization was no longer able to deliver on their commitment. This made everything come to a screeching halt.

So here we are. These films need to be made so that 18 children can see that they can must be taken seriously. These films need to be made so that two writers can be given a chance to have their voices heard. These films need to be made so that two remarkable stories can be told at the highest level. These films need to be made so that we can see two powerful films screened at a world class festival and a statement can be made that great storytelling is found in the most surprising places. That's where you come in. You can be a part of this story. You can be a part of history.

Photos from Camp





How youth are involved in the production

The goal of the ICiT program is to educate and empower children. The two winning writers Jaida and Jessica have already gone through an extensive mentorship process with professional screenwriter, Jenna Horn. They have also spent extensive time with visionary directors Taylor and Skidmore through the many revisions of their scripts.

However, every youth that participated in the program will participate in 5 more extraordinary experiences along the way of the film getting made.

Stages of Participation

- 1) **Casting** - All of the youth will come and see how the director and casting director hold auditions for the film. They will see how the actors prepare and what questions are asked of them during the audition and call back process. They will get to see how the director and producer must choose who the best artist is for these particular stories.
- 2) **Pre-production meeting** - All of the youth will come and sit in on the final pre-production meeting with all of the department heads (Director of Photography, Costume Designer, Art Director, etc) as they prepare to film. They will see how the producer addresses any last minute needs, and how the director inspires the crew for the journey they are about to embark on.
- 3) **Production** - All of the youth will be invited to be on set the entire time of production. They will see how a film comes to life. They will spend time with each department and watch/listen/engage with what they are doing specifically to make their film happen.
- 4) **Post-production session** - All of the youth will come and watch the editor and director cut the film, learning how all the pieces have to be put together to make a cohesive and beautiful movie. They will see that this is another stage of the storytelling process, encouraging them that their story is always being shaped and perfected.
- 5) **Film Premiere** - Everyone will be invited! The youth's families and friends will get a chance to see their film at a private premiere and then come to the red carpet event at the Nashville Film Festival showing in April of 2014. It will be a chance for everyone to honoring these extraordinary artists for their creativity, hard work and courage. This is something that they never thought possible. This is something they will never forget.

Producers and Directors

Executive Producers



David Perry - *BVP*



John Farkas - *CreateNashville*



Elena Dering - *BVP*



Matt Rampulla - *BVP*

Directors

Steve Taylor

Filmography:

- **Blue Like Jazz** (Producer, Director)
- **Kabul 24** (Associate Producer)
- **The Second Chance** (Producer, Director)
- **Homeless Man: The Restless Heart of Rich Mullins** (Producer)
- **Newsboys: Down Under the Big Top** (Producer, Director)
- **Baby Talk** (Director)



Paul Skidmore

Filmography:

- **Time to Pass** (Producer, Director)
- **Sleepwalking** (Producer, Director)
- **The Glass** (Producer)
- **John Gray** (Producer)
- **Shotgun Stories** (Producer)
- **Max** (Producer)



Budget for ICiT Films

Breakdown

- Each film has a budget of \$10,000 (\$20,000 total). You may be asking, 'why such a high budget for short films?' The answer is that we want to have a high production value so that these youth can experience their stories in the way a film should look and sound like, and not in a cheap and thrown together manner. In reality, with the creative team assembled, this is an extremely low number for the quality that will be delivered.
- \$5,000 has already been raised by the Executive Producers from the Memorial Foundation.
- Due to the project being a non-profit, all funds will be processed through Artists for Community Transformation (ACT), a 501(c) 3. This means that all donations are tax deductible. However, this means there will be a 10% administrative cost.
- The cost for the exhibition of the films at the Nashville Film Festival and a private gala premiere has already been donated and will be coordinated by the Executive Producers.

Budget for ICiT Films:

Item	Amount	Number	Total
Film Production Budget	\$10,000	2	\$20,000
Financial Processing Fee	10%		\$2,000
Budget raised	\$5,000		-\$5,000
Total Needed			\$17,000

Making this Happen

What we need

We need \$17,000 to make these two extraordinary films. Investing this money into these films will allow us to make two high level films that will be screened at a world class film festival. But more importantly we will be leaving a mark on these youths for the rest of their lives.

What you get

You give these children a chance to be a part of something that they never thought possible. **You** can inspire them and give them the tools they need to get out of their seemingly impossible situations. Who knows? Maybe they end up getting full scholarships to universities because of the track they choose *because* of these experiences.

You get a tax deduction for your donation, and you will receive a receipt from Artists for Community Transformation (ACT) immediately after processing.

You will get a chance to get the credit of Executive Producer, with your name coming first (as the financier), on two films directed by two highly successful directors that have had international success (if you don't believe us, look them up). Your name will be seen around the world!

You get a chance to see how a film is made. Yes **you** too will be invited to be a part of each stage of production and post-production so that you can see your film go from script to screening. Try it. You may get addicted.

Conclusion

Don't miss this chance to do something that will leave a legacy. This is not an ordinary project. Let's make a film together. Let's change a life together.

