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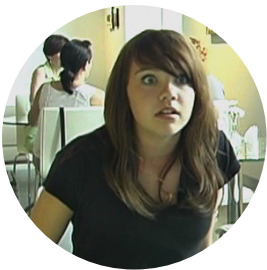
Atlantic Film Festival Association

ViewFinders

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FOR YOUTH

Alumni On Their Way To Becoming Tomorrow's Filmmakers

The **ViewFinders: International Film Festival for Youth** has seen thousands of students attend screenings & workshops over the last seven years and many alumni have chosen to pursue post-secondary education in the film & television industry, and continue to explore their creative options, producing films and other projects.



Bev



Herbert



Lucas Mancini

Aven Fisher, a fifteen-year-old Haligonian, first took part in ViewFinders in 2006 where his animated film *Bruno* won the ViewFinder's Animation Challenge People's Choice Award and then went on to win him a second place Teletoon Animation Scholarship at 2006 Ottawa International Animation Festival and a First Time Filmmaker Award from the Brooklyn KidFest. In addition to entering *Bruno* in the Animation Challenge he also took part in that year's Pitch for Production workshop where students develop and pitch film ideas to a panel of local industry executives. His entry *Herbert* about a chameleon who goes to the movies has since won him a \$10,000 prize for Best High School Animation at the Ottawa International Animation Festival and an invitation to the 2008 Berlin International Film Festival.

At ViewFinder's Just Kidding! Open Mic Comedy Event, local 12-year-old **Lucas Mancini** has been getting a lot of laughs, and a lot of attention. In 2006 Lucas stepped up on stage for the first time with *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* host Mark Critch and wowed a packed audience at the Keshen Goodman Library with his excellent comedic routine. Then in 2007, after spending time developing new material, he returned to win again. He so impressed organizers of the Halifax Comedy Fest that they invited him to perform at the Halifax Comedy Fest Finale Gala where he was a huge hit with the packed audience.

Sacred Heart School graduates **Kat Shubaly**, **Sarah Warren** and **Leah Ostrey** are also ViewFinders alumnists. Their film *Bev* was chosen along with Aven Fisher's *Bruno* as one of the 2006 Pitch For Production projects that were developed during the summer of 2006 and screened at the 26th Atlantic Film Festival. Shubaly and Warren have since been inspired to study film and arts at Dalhousie University while Ostrey is in the film program at Ryerson.

Justin Tomchuk has been making films since he was five or six, and he's grown up participating in ViewFinders. In 2006 he entered *Children Purple*, an experimental film for the Animation Challenge that won him the NSCC Bursary Award. *Canadian Bistro Division* was his Movie Challenge entry and it won him a second NSCC Bursary Award. In 2005 he produced a lego animation for ViewFinders called *His Mind's Account* that was accepted into the Canadian National Youth Film Festival in Ottawa in 2005. And at the 27th Atlantic Film Festival, Tomchuk was one of 10 filmmakers chosen to take part in the very popular 10 X 10 Project, where 10 artists teamed up with 10 filmmakers to create 10 music videos over 4 days. Tomchuk has been accepted at the Vancouver Film School.

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