



Birds of a Feather Photography

Student Film Festival

Talent abounds as students, teachers, presenters, and the audience celebrated our most recent Student Film Festival

Participants of the 2022 EAC Student Film Festival gathered on stage after our awards ceremony of Friday, Nov 11

Participants came from the following school districts:

East Penn
Homeschool group in EPSD
Northwestern Lehigh
Bethlehem Area Vo-tech
Allentown School District
Bethlehem School District
St. Ann's, Emmaus
Harmony Township SD, NJ

The 2022 Emmaus Arts Commission Student Film Festival marked our 18th year hosting this well known event. This year we had participants from multiple school districts in and around the greater Lehigh Valley region including an entire class from Harmony District in NJ.

Presenters and Judges

This year we had a stacked lineup of notable judges and presenters at our student film festival. We wanted to reach out to the local community and showcase how the arts, cinema, theater, music and editing, digital media, and higher education are related to film making. Each of our presenters has a background in one of these artistic areas and gave students a glimpse into how their current professions relate to the many roles of our participants in the student film festival. Whether students were writing scripts, taking photos or filming, directing, editing, creating music or sound effects, or acting in the film—there was representation from our community in each of these areas.



Evan and Matt



Matt and Evan



Zeke Zelker



Shea Zukowski



Christina and Michelle

We would like to thank our amazing emcees the improv duo, Evan Stutts and Matt Candio. These two had it all: laughs, comedy, dramatic wait times, one liners, and the perfect blend of middle school jokes and adult humor. Evan and Matt also presented the award for Best High School Film: 1st Place in lieu of our Mayor LeeAnn Gilbert, who was unable to attend this year.

Matt Candio is a comedian, performer, and improv instructor. He began his comedy career in 2009 and has since studied at *Upright Citizens Brigade* (NYC), *Magnet Theater* (NYC), and *The Second City* (Chicago). You can see him perform regularly at SteelStacks (Bethlehem) in various comedy shows, including "We're Good, You're Great!"

Evan Stutts has been writing and performing comedy since 2008. He has trained at the *Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre* in NYC and has also studied at *The Second City* in Toronto. Evan regularly performs throughout the Lehigh Valley and beyond as 1/2 of "We're Good, You're Great." He has created, directed and performed in many shows over the past 14 years and teaches Improv comedy classes/workshops helping facilitate learning/performing improv comedy in the Lehigh Valley. You can follow him on Instagram @MCWALLABEE.

Zeke Zelker made a surprise appearance to present the HS Best Film: 2nd Place award. Zeke can be seen in and around the Lehigh Valley with his new business, Zekraft. Zeke Zelker has been striving to build a filmmaking career for over twenty years far outside the filmmaking epicenters of Los Angeles and New York, staying true to his commitment of making films in his hometown of Allentown, PA. Zeke produced the first transmedia project at the Sundance Film Festival, *Pandemic* and most recently produced part of David Cronenberg's *Body Mind Change* which is touring various museums around the world. His last feature film *InSearchOf* was one of the first to embrace streaming platforms such as Hulu ultimately being in the top 20 dramas viewed on the portal for over seven years.

Christina and Shea presented our Best in Show 1st and 2nd Place prizes for middle school students. **Christina Devlin** is a comedic performer, producer and director in the Bethlehem area, and a K-6 grade drama teacher at the Plymouth Meeting Friends School. **Shea Zukowski** is the current President of the Board of Directors for JuxtaHub, an up-and-coming community arts center in Emmaus. She is an active musician, playing fiddle, for the South Mountain String



Stephen Furry

Band. Shea has a diverse background in media acting as an editor, writer, and author specializing in earth-friendly information and natural living. A former senior editor for Rodale Books, she spent years seeking out the best advice related to cooking, health, nutrition, and pets.

Stephen Furry, the Virtual Production Supervisor and adjunct professor, at DeSales University, presented the award for the Best Director. Stephen is a Lehigh Valley native, who moved to Los Angeles to work on major television and film productions. Focused on lighting, became a Local 80 Grip working on such incredible productions as *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *The Mandalorian*, and *Star Trek: Picard*.



Wayne Lawler

Wayne Lawler hosts multiple podcasts which discuss movies and cinematic themes. He is the VP of Creative at Octane Marketing. He leads his design team for large marketing campaigns for several high end clients. He also holds the position of Secretary on the Emmaus Arts Commission and has co-chaired several events. Wayne was so inspired by the Student Film Festival 2021 that he joined the EAC after attending last year while supporting his wife, who was presenting.



Tyler Wursta

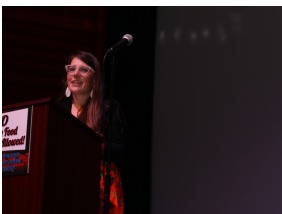
Tyler Wursta owner of an award-winning video and production company, Tyler Wursta Video. Tyler has been working on several projects in and around Emmaus for notable organizations such as JuxtaHub, Knauss Homestead, and Borough of Emmaus. He presented our Best Editing award.



Nick Lindsay

Nick Lindsay presented Best Use of Sound. As an Emmaus resident, Nick can be found in the music and theater scenes as he is a singer/song writer for the band Vulcans, singer and guitarist for the cover band, The Audio Files, and he is a member of a local improv group in Bethlehem. Nick really helped us a lot when we were in search of some local talent to present at our festival. We really appreciate his outreach.

Michelle Rieder is the artistic director at DCP Theater in Telford. She is a long-time Emmaus resident, actor, and educator at Cedar Crest College where she creates prosthetics for nursing students to use for practice while honing their medical skills. She also is a prop designer for the theater. She had the pleasure of presenting Best Prop.



Lindsey Kleinberg

Lindsey Kleinberg is a graduate of Emmaus High School who completed her BS in graphic design and later furthered her studies with a M.Ed. She has previously taught stop-motion and short film classes to middle school students. Lindsey can be found in and around the Emmaus area working with JuxtaHub and the Emmaus Arts Commission where she holds the position of Vice President. She has a diverse background and love of all things creative.



Jamie Sommers



Mike Dunn



Nick Luciano



Michael Robinette



Bridget Paulson

Jamie Sommers presented Best Writing, as a representative from Let's Play Books, where you can find her on most days. She is a singer/songwriter and music editor/producer. Her work can be seen in and around town as she has recently started a new company called, "Eclectic Rainbow."

Mike Dunn presented Best Visual Effects. Mike is a former student of both Emmaus and Downingtown HS. He has recently returned from a European tour where he played drums. He is a music/video producer and editor, and all around musician.

Some of our presenters also had the privilege of judging our films. We were honored that several judges volunteered their time from all over the country. Thank you to everyone who donated time, effort, and gave feedback to our student participants. Along with some of the presenters listed above, various other community members and professionals in their field were able to help us choose our winners for this year. Please keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming news involving a Q&A with judges as well as a scholarship opportunity in the near future.

Nick Luciano is a former EHS graduate. His love for film has been evident since a young age. He now resides in Los Angeles where he creates, writes, acts, and edits his own films. He is known for his work in "I Used to Work at Blockbuster Video". He has previously worked with Upright Citizens Brigade and now works at ABC Studios. He studied Film and Art History at PSU.

Michael Robinette is a news video editor. He has worked with Fox59, CBS4, WTVD, and ABC11 News. He has a BA in Communication, Mass Media with a minor in Film studies. Mike also focuses on digital filmmaking. Along with video editing, he has experience in robotic studio cameras, digital video cameras, and computer graphics. He resides in Indianapolis and viewed and judged films virtually.

Bridget Paulson serves as a creative marketing lead with HULU. She has held the roles of producer, assistant producer, and production coordinator at Warner Brothers, Open Road, and Deva Studios. She has been working in producing and marketing since graduating from Drexel University with a degree in Marketing and Advertising. She currently lives in Los Angeles.



Photo by April Gamiz

Alan Sylvestre is an award-winning photographer and videographer who has traveled the world for his work. A lover of all things photography, his work is a culmination of inspiring people, places, and topics.

No two stories are the same, so no two stories should be told the same. As a visual storyteller, he's committed to creating images and videos that construct a narrative unique to the story it represents. -Alan Sylvestre Media

Alan Sylvestre, a member of both the Entertainment Commission and the EAC, was the consistent chair for this Student Film Festival. Alan spent many long hours working with teachers, speaking in classrooms, and working within our community to make sure that we had the things we needed to move forward with the SFF this year.

After a rocky start, Alan along with the executive team of Karri Schreppel, Lindsey Kleinberg, Wayne Lawler, and Joe Fritz, and member Sarah Plaza, all pulled together to reorganize, reimagine, and reconstruct the SFF in order to ensure that this tradition continues.

Sponsors, Donors, and Partners

This year we were excited to announce that we were working with several community organizations, programs, and businesses in order to host the 18th Annual Emmaus Arts Commission Student Film Festival in 2022. Like most years, this student film festival was geared towards all middle-school to high school aged individuals located in and around the greater Lehigh Valley area. This year we had supporters from outside Emmaus also pitch in to help make this a great year for our students.

We are starting to market our sponsorships and donations differently this year where tiered giving will account for more visibility in the community. Our top tier donors will receive recognition and visibility for more of our events for an entire year. Thank you to all of our sponsors and supportive partners who help to make events like this possible.

Thank you to the various partners & sponsors in 2022

Ai Orthodontics, County Pest Control, CuminNEat, DeSales University Film and Video Department, Emmaus Farmers Market, Emmaus Public Library, Emmaus Main Street Partners, Eric Loch Jewelers, Funk Brewery Hammer to Nail Maintenance, House of Metalworks, Jasper Initiative, JuxtaHub, Knauss Homestead, Lehigh Valley Chamber, Lehigh Valley News, Let's Play Books, New Tripoli Bank, Now & Then Books, Rising River Brewery, Schmidt Ironworks, Skyler Schrepp author of Three Strike Summer, South Mountain Cycle and Nowhere Coffee Cafe, Switchback Pizza, Yergey Brewing

Sponsorships are available at many levels. Donations are always welcome, year-round in person or on our website emmausarts.org. Anyone can volunteer to help with our events throughout the year. If you have a passion for the arts but cannot commit to the full responsibilities of a commission member, reach out about how to volunteer for future events. Please remember: all components (including but not limited to contacts, designs, procedures) of our events are property of the EAC, and therefore, the borough of Emmaus.

The EAC is an appointed, volunteer-run, non-profit sector of the government body of the Borough of Emmaus. We follow and respect the guidelines and regulations set forth by the governing body of the Borough manager and the Borough Council, we recognize and adhere to the set code of conduct.



Thank you to all the participants who engaged in the 2022 18th Annual EAC Student Film Festival. The goal of this event has always and will be focused on the creativity, teamwork, and vision of the local youth in the community. Congratulations to all the nominees and winners, and for everyone who tried their best! See you next year.

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