

2005 FILMMAKER BIOS

Brent Barrow – *Lincolnland Riots*, LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AWARD

Brent Barrow was born and grew up in Springfield, Illinois. After graduating from Illinois State University with a B.F.A. in photography and cinema studies, he worked on numerous film and television productions in Chicago. He then attended graduate school at Northern Illinois University where he studied documentary film. *Lincolnland Riots* is his first documentary.

Jim & Kesara Becker – *Ice Cream Man: Action!*, Featured Short

Jim Becker grew up in central Illinois near White Heath. After completing a bachelor's degree in cinema at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, he joined the Peace Corps in 1987 and lived in Thailand for two years. There he met his wife Kesara who also grew up on a farm, was the youngest of four children and was within six months of his age. Talk about a small world. Kesara holds a business degree from Ramkhamhaeng University. They have two daughters and live in Salem, Illinois.

Michael Berry & Rod Weber – *Day of the Grackle*, BEST OF FEST

This is Michael's debut as a film director, but he is resi-dent director of Regarde Nous Theater Co. in New York and has directed many of its productions. As an actor, he has worked on Broadway, national tours, feature films, television and regional theater. He recently was nominated as Best Featured Actor in a Play for his role of Starbuck in The Work's production of "Moby Dick.

Director of photography and editor Rod Weber has been studying films for 25 years. In 2003 he created a Los Angeles-based production company that shoots music videos, concerts and promotional reels for actors. As an actor, Rod has appeared on Broadway in "The Civil War," "Jekyll & Hyde," and "Saturday Night Fever," and toured in "The Full Monty," "Mamma Mia," and "Starlight Express."

Aaron Boyette – *Travis Love*, People's Choice Comedy Entry *Goat Hill West*, People's Choice Drama Entry

Aaron Boyette is a teacher/filmmaker who lives in central Texas. Over the past year, he completed Austin Film Works Productions I and II courses under the guidance of highly respected Austin filmmaker Steve Mims. Aaron has directed several short films, a full-length documentary, and plans to produce a feature film in 2006. His films have screened at Atlanta Under-ground Film Festival and Gulf Coast Film Fest.

Seth Camillo – *22 Feet* and *Gravity*, Featured Shorts

Seth Camillo ran away with the circus before he turned three (with his mother, an artist and writer). He re-turned to the Carson and Barnes Circus after living in both London and Barcelona, acquiring a degree in economics, taking graduate courses at the University of Iowa Writer's Workshop, and finally detouring to a dot.com in Silicon Valley. Currently a graduate student in film studies and comparative literature at the University of Iowa, Seth is finishing a feature-length documentary *Matchmaker* which took him and his co-director Dustin Morrow to Lisdoonvarna, Ireland, site of the world's oldest match-making festival.

John Cernak - *Joyride*, BEST ANIMATED FILM

Cernak directed this film produced by Out of Our Minds Studios established in 2000 as a 3D animation and special effects studio. Its six founding members were award-winning artists of all trades (designers, painters, illustrators, photographers, sculptors). Within the second year, it had produced several regional and a few nationally recognized fully computer-generated commercials and provided digital effects for the award-winning independent feature *The Rough South of Larry Brown*.

Its first animated short *Dear, Sweet Emma* has screened at over 100 film festivals and won 29 awards/special nominations. *Flyaway*, its second short, has won 22 awards including Best Animated Film at last year's Route 66 Film Festival. The studio began work on its first animated feature in March.

Jonathon Christians - *The Guardian*, People's Choice Entry

Born in Jacksonville, Jonathon has lived in central Illinois for most of his life. As a child, he had a very active imagination, always wanting to be in movies —not as actor, but actually in the movie, either flying in the Millennium Falcon or fighting the Joker with Batman. He didn't understand what a film director did until he was in high school. When he realized what this wonderful occupation was, Jonathon decided to try to become a part of the film industry. Now living in Taylorville and currently an art major at Lincoln Land Community College, he hopes to continue his study of film at Columbia College, Chicago.

Nina Davenport – *Parallel Lines*, Featured Documentary

Parallel Lines, Nina's third film, has been shown at dozens of festivals and has won several awards. She has received many grants including one from the National Endowment for the Arts. Her films have been broadcast on television and shown at festivals throughout the world, garnering numerous awards. Nina works part-time as a producer and cameraperson on television shows and was a teaching assistant in the filmmaking program at Harvard College, her alma mater.

John Dilworth – *Life in Transition*, People's Choice Entry

Academy Award-nominated director John R. Dilworth is a New York-based animation director and designer whose work has appeared on CBS, Showtime, HBO, FOX, Cartoon Network, Nickelodeon, MTV, Canal +, and Arte. He has produced thirteen independent films, which have widely traveled the film festival circuit, including "The Dirty Birdy," and "The Mousochist." Dilworth is also the creator of the Cartoon Network series "Courage the Cowardly Dog." This is his 13th animated film.

Ex'pression College for Digital Arts – *Spiral*, BEST STUDENT FILM

Located in Emeryville, California across the bridge from San Francisco, Ex'pression College has begun an inno-vative program to assist students in entering their live- action and animated films in film festivals around the world. Students generate about 12 live-action films every five weeks taking turns as director, cameraperson, audio mixer, boom operator, gaffer, and production assistant/continuity. Students responsible for *Spiral* are Trammell Serruggs, Charlotte Cushman, Emma Meyers, Clara Coulter, and Ben Collins.

Jennifer Gauthier – *HKJG03*, Featured Short

Jennifer Gauthier's previous short film, a 35 mm narrative comedy entitled *Making Up* played last year at film festivals across the U.S., from L.A. Shorts to Brooklyn International. Jennifer is currently writing a feature narrative screenplay as well as a teleplay for a dramatic television series pilot.

Kimberly Gebhart – *Maggie's Mission*, People's Choice Entry

Kimberly Gebhart is a second-year film student at Miami Dade College, in Miami, Florida. She made her directorial debut with, *Greta's Gum*, a short recognized locally in the 2004 Made in Miami Film Festival. Her second film *Forget Me Not* was included in a student showcase screening at the Tower Theater in Miami. *Maggie's Mission* is her third labor of love. Kimberly will begin production for another short, *Carp Diem* in the fall of 2006 and is currently writing and developing her first feature-length project, which she hopes to produce and direct as an independent film.

**Josh Hester – *Dear Mr. President*, People’s Choice Entry
Dromophobic, Featured Short**

Dear Mr. President has screened at a number of festivals including the first-ever International Student Documentary Competition where it won the award for “Best Contribution to Global Peace and Understanding.”

Josh has also directed a documentary short on a driver of the Emergency Traffic Patrol on the Chicago freeways entitled *Minute Man* in 2002, and other varied experimental and narrative work. A graduate of Columbia College, Chicago, Josh teaches Film and Photography classes at Robert Morris College and the Springfield Art Association.

Chris Hite – *Sir Josh*, People’s Choice Entry

Residing in North Carolina, Chris has studied and produced film and video for 15 years. He has worked as an editor, director of photography, sound recordist and animator for hundreds of commercials, industrials and short films. Chris teaches courses and workshops on editing and two-dimensional animation and collaborates with his wife Alena to produce animated segments for a children’s show honored at the 2004 regional Emmy Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Children’s Programming.

Ken Kimmelman – *Hot Afternoons Have Been in Montana*, People’ Choice Entry

Kimmelman is an award-winning filmmaker who has received Emmy awards for his film *The Heart Knows Better* and his contributions to “Sesame Street.” He has produced films for the United Nations against prejudice and apartheid and has received numerous awards for his public service and children’s films. He has taught film and animation at New York University and the School of Visual Arts, presented papers on the lives and work of filmmakers and published articles in journals and newspapers world-wide. This film is based on Eli Siegel’s 1925 *Nation* prize-winning poem. Ken is currently developing a documentary about Anna Ella Carroll, a Civil War heroine, and an animated TV series “Pig William.”

Paul Lee – *The Offering*, Peoples’ Choice Entry

Born in Hong Kong in 1963 and moving to Toronto with his family in 1976, Paul earned a B.S. in biology and an M.A. in anthropology from the University of Toronto and an M.B.A. and M.F.A. from York University. Since 1991 he has organized film festivals in Canada, USA, Japan and Thailand and produced films for first-time filmmakers and international co-productions. His first film *Thick Lips Thin Lips* screened at over 100 film festivals and won eight awards. His second film *These Shoes Weren’t Made for Walking* premiered at the Sydney Film Festival, was screened at over 50 festivals and won six awards. *The Offering* is his third film.

Blackhorse Lowe – *5th World*, Featured Drama

Born and raised on a Navaho reservation in New Mexico, Blackhorse began watching movies at a young age. It wasn’t long before he began making his own movies with the help of his family. Family loyalty and honor are the motifs that resonate in his work. His short film *Shush* received multiple awards and screened at Sundance. *5th World*, his first feature film, received Best First Feature at Cine Las Americas festival.

Shannon N. Mathesis – *Habits and Vices*, People’s Choice Entry

Shannon grew up with an interest in horror films. Her first film *Help Wanted* screened at the 2004 Route 66 Festival. An employee of Family Video in Springfield, she finds an eager cast and crew among her coworkers.

Chris Metzler & Jeff Springer – *Plagues & Pleasures on the Salton Sea*, Featured Documentary

After graduating from USC, Chris’ film career has gone from the depths of agency work to coordinating post-production for awful American movies seen late at night in Belgium. He has

directed and produced Christian and country music videos, finally succumbing to commercial rock n' roll culminating in a Billboard Magazine Music Video Award. Chris is now pursuing docs featuring gay truck drivers and Australian opal miners.

A fellow USC graduate and frequent collaborator with Chris, Jeff was born in California and raised in Hawaii. After living for a winter in Russia, he returned to Los Angeles to direct music videos and shorts and to edit for UPN, Fox, Geffen Records and Lucasfilm. *Plagues and Pleasures* is their first feature documentary, which has won the Robert Altman Award and the BAVC Videomaker Award.

John Mossman – *Spaceman Dan's 243rd Flight*, People's Choice Entry

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, John has written, produced and directed several award-winning short films and videos. Among them are "Best Director" at the Chicago Community Cinema and Audience Favorite at Palm Springs International Short Film Festival for *Jell-Ohh Lady*. He has also served as director for the Discovery Channel series *The Internet Coach* and has performed at numerous theaters. John is an acting instructor at The Artistic Home and teaches film at Chicago Filmmakers and Columbia College.

Jody Lee Olhava – *Mamochka: A Russian Folktale Retold*, Featured Drama

Jody has enjoyed a 30-year career in theater, television and film including a recurring role in the soap opera *Santa Barbara*, numerous pilots and an outstanding supporting actress award for the Arizona Arts Commission. For 20 years she has worked as a volunteer on-camera acting coach for SAG Conservatory. *Mamochka* marks her directorial debut; she credits Women in Film for training her through the PSA program. Her cast and crew of 60 included 32 women, 13 children and 8 persons with disabilities.

Julia Radochia – *Eddie's Winning Date*, PEOPLE'S CHOICE COMEDY WINNER *Like His Father*, People's Choice Entry

Julia's film *Sally's Dream House* won Audience Favorite at the 2004 Route 66 Film Festival. This year two more of her projects for Los Angeles City College are premiering. Another of her films *Jimmy's House of Hugs* recently screened at the Plymouth Independent Film Festival. A native of Boston, Julia lives and works in Los Angeles and invites you to visit her website <http://homepage.mac.com/joycehepburnsdaugh>.

Nick Ravich – *Bosa Nova Scotia*, Featured Short

A Philadelphia-based independent filmmaker and television production professional, Nick has worked on a variety of cultural and arts documentaries for the past 8 years including projects for PBS stations WGBH (Boston) and WHYY (Philadelphia). He has also produced a number of short independent films and public service announcements for non-profit organizations.

Giovanni Sanseviero – *The Empty Building*, BEST DRAMA

The Empty Building is Giovanni's directorial debut. Prior to this three-year endeavor, he pursued acting: first in New York with the Gene Frankel Theatre, followed by private coaching with Mark Marno in Los Angeles. Also in L.A., he became a member of Theatre West. He has participated in a few film and stage productions. The setting for the film, an empty building in New York City, was condemned shortly after the end of the shoot, demolished and reduced to a parking lot.

Lisa Seidenberg - *Pledge of Allegiance Blues*, Featured Documentary

Lisa was one of the first camerawomen in network TV news, finding herself on presidential campaigns, going to war zones and later, as a freelance director of photography, filming around the globe in Russia, Asia, North Africa, etc. Earlier films include *Being Human* where she followed naked activists in the U.K. and *Mongolia on the Edge of Time* about democracy and rock and roll in remote (outer) Mongolia. *Pledge of Allegiance Blues*, her first feature, was Lisa's first real journey "discover-ing" America. The story begins with the

controversial case of atheist Michael Newdow to remove the words “under God” from the Pledge of Allegiance, but the filmmaker soon finds herself on a quest of her own.

Aaron Sheehan – *Third Eye*, PEOPLE’S CHOICE DRAMA WINNER

Born and raised in central Illinois, Aaron spent two years living in Sicily in the US Navy. Upon returning to Illinois he worked as a graphic designer and pre-press technician. In 2002 he went back to school full-time earning his BA at Northern Illinois University. He has always been fascinated by horror movies such as his favorites: *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, *Dark City*, and *Hellraiser*.

R. Emmett Sibley – *A Jersey Yellow*, People’s Choice Entry

R. Emmett, born in New York and raised in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, is a true product of the tri-state area. He became interested in making films during a high school screenwriting class. When he started making short films at Villanova University, his true talents began to shine. After a chance viewing, a teacher urged R. Emmett to get his master’s in film. Three years later, he now has his MFA in film production from Chapman University. He resides in Southern California where he continues to make short films and write feature-length screenplays.

Mark K. Sullivan - *Cleveland in My Dreams*, BEST COMEDY

Mark Sullivan grew up Southeast Kansas. Always fascinated by the film medium, he made short stop-motion animations as a child, using a Bolex regular-8 camera. In high school, he built a home computer. In college, Sullivan and best friend Jeff Olsen applied the computer to controlling an animation stand for a 16 mm camera. As an adult, Mark designed electronic equipment for industrial automation applications but never lost his desire to make movies. His experience with electronics and industrial automation has served him well in constructing low-budget special equipment for the production. *Cleveland* is his first serious effort, and he hopes to apply the experience gained from its production to a future feature-length project.

Rogier van Eck & Rob Rombout – *Amsterdam via Amsterdam*, BEST FOREIGN FILM

Rogier was born in Paris and studied at the Superior National Institute of Performing Arts, Brussels and Lausanne University, Switzerland. He has worked primarily as a film editor and lecturer at INSAS, Brussels’ film school. He has directed several commissioned documentaries and has been guest lecturer in Zimbabwe, Thailand and Cuba.

Born in Amsterdam, Rob graduated from R.I.T.C.S. Film School in Brussels. He has taught the documentary genre in Brussels, Strasbourg and Paris since 1988. He has presented workshops and lectures around the world for the past 10 years and has made many documentaries including prize-winning *The Trap of Kerguelen* and *Between Two Towers*.

Vince Williams, Director; Tamara Kihs, Producer - *The Malt Shop in the Sky*, PEOPLE’S CHOICE DOCUMENTARY WINNER

Director Vince Williams received his bachelor's degree in Cinema from Southern Methodist University in Dallas and his master's degree in Film Production from Chapman University in May 2005. Having written and directed many projects in both undergraduate and graduate school, Vince has a passion for telling true-life stories.

Vince's master's thesis project *The Malt Shop in the Sky* was nominated for Best Documentary at the 2005 Cecil B. DeMille Awards. He has also been the Director of Photography for over ten short films and has edited the majority of his films along with several others.

Producer Tamara Kihs is a graduate Film Production student at Chapman University. She received her bachelor's degree in Cinema and Media Communications from George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon. She produced her senior project, *Between the Lines*, which received rave reviews at the Fox Film Festival in 2002 and was nominated for best picture. She is

now a veteran producer of six graduate films.

Saturday Schedule

9:30 – Noon – Screenwriting Workshop, Stan Sowa, Screenwriters Group, Chicago

1:00 People's Choice Contest

1. **Maggie's Mission**, Kimberly Gebhart
2. **The Malt Shop in the Sky**, Vince Williams
3. **Hot Afternoons Have Been in Montana**, Ken Kimmelman
4. **Dear Mr. President**, Joshua Hester
5. **Travis Love**, Aaron Boyette
6. **Sir Josh**, Chris Hite
7. **Eddie's Winning Date**, Julia Radochia
8. **A Jersey Yellow**, R. Emmett Sibley

3:00 Politics in Film

Pledge of Allegiance Blues

Lisa Seidenberg

Lincoln Presidential Library Award

Lincolnland Riots

Brent Barrow

6:00 People's Choice Drama

1. **Like His Father**, Julia Radochia
2. **The Guardian**, Jonathon Christians
3. **Goat Hill West**, Aaron Boyette
4. **Habits and Vices**, Shannon N. Mathesis
5. **Third Eye**, Aaron Sheehan
6. **Spaceman Dan's 243rd Flight**, John Mossman
7. **The Offering**, Paul Lee
8. **Life in Transition**, John Dilworth

7:30 Late Show

Dromophobic

Joshua Hester

5th World*

Blackhorse Lowe

Plagues & Pleasures on the Salton Sea*

Chris Metzler and Jeff Springer

*May contain language or situations not suitable for children.

Sunday Schedule

12:00 p.m. Foreign Lands

Bosa Nova Scotia

Nick Ravich

Best Foreign Film

Amsterdam via Amsterdam

Rogier van Eck and Rob Rombout

1:30 Fun for Kids of All Ages

HKJG03

Jennifer Gauthier

22 Feet

Seth Camillo

Best Student Film

Spiral

Trammell Serruggs, Charlotte Cushman, Emma Meyers, Clara Coulter, Ben Collins

Mamochka: A Russian Folktale Retold

Jody Lee Olhava

Ice Cream Man: Action!

Jim and Kesara Becker

Best of Fest Award

Day of the Grackle

Michael Berry and Rod Weber

2:45 Featured Documentary

Parallel Lines

Nina Davenport

4:30 Short Films and Awards

Gravity

Seth Camillo

Best Animated Film

Joyride

John Cernak

Best Drama

The Empty Building

Giovanni Sanseviero

Best Comedy

Cleveland in My Dreams

Mark K. Sullivan

