

## First Emerging Talent Festival a Success!

COQUITLAM, January 30, 2012. Evergreen Cultural Centre, School District 43, Polygon Homes Ltd. and the City of Coquitlam would like to congratulate the award-winners from the first annual **Emerging Talent Festival**, a multidisciplinary showcase of talented and dedicated young artists, which took place on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at Evergreen Cultural Centre.

The winners of the **Emerging Talent Special Recognition**, given to the three most promising visual artists in the **Emerging Talent XV** art exhibition as selected by Evergreen staff, were **Anna Semyonova** (BRONZE) from Gleneagle Secondary, **Christine Park** (SILVER) from Gleneagle Secondary and **Violet Patrich** (GOLD) from Dr. Charles Best Secondary. Patrich was awarded the top prize for her trio of carefully staged photographs, *Barbie*, *Bomb Shelter Beauty* and *People of Ash*. All three artists received gift certificates to Colours Art Supplies and Framing.

The first annual **Emerging Talent Film Festival** screened five award-winning student-made films selected from over three dozen submissions. The winners were *Return to Nature* (Best Documentary/Non-Fiction) by **Jonathan Kang, Trevor Clelland** and **Gregory Lum**; *Refuge* (Best Narrative – Drama) by **Brandon Hillier, Sebastian Faber, Haider Nayani** and **Kelvin Chung**; *The Toronto Connection* (Best Narrative – Comedy) by **Kira Urquhart**; *Women as Agents of Change* (Best Animation) by **Raiya Jessa**; and *Who I Am* (Best Experimental/Music Video) by **Brandon Hillier**. *Women as Agents of Change* and *Who I Am* shared the coveted award for Best Film, and both filmmakers received two free student passes to the Vancouver International Film Festival in recognition of the quality of their work.

The film festival was judged by Evergreen film mentor Pia Yona Massie, local filmmaker Eva Wunderman, and Evergreen Cultural Centre staff members. The first time festival received much praise and emails are still pouring in. Melanie Stokes, SD43 Art Teacher wrote, “Thank you for an excellent festival opening night. The performance, music and film components were great additions to the gallery art.”

Another audience member wrote, “I was surprised at the variety of films. I like how Pia challenged the Evergreen group to try to get at what motivated a teen punk rock band – no easy subject. The Evergreen Theatre Ensemble are obviously enthusiastic about their program. The little teen theatre I've experienced elsewhere has tended to feel more like initiation than entertainment. That didn't even cross my mind last night: I just enjoyed the show.”

A complete festival program and artist statements, as well as links to award-winning films, are available online at [www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca](http://www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca) or on the Festival's [Facebook](#) page.

**Emerging Talent XV** continues in the Art Gallery at Evergreen until February 18. Gallery hours are Monday – Saturday, 12-5pm and free gallery tours are available Saturdays at 2pm. Drop by and place your vote for the People's Choice Award.