

FLAMING ANGEL FILMS

419 N. Larchmont Blvd. Box #90, Los Angeles, CA 90004
Phone: 323.463.1996 • E-mail: tv@flamingangelfilms.com

Girls Behind the Camera Go Hollywood for Premiere of Films

Contact: Eric Keith, Producer of RISK: At-Risk Girls Behind the Camera and CEO Red Echo Group
Phone: 816-472-1710 or 917-407-8362
Email: eric@redechogroup.org

KANSAS CITY - The girls behind the camera move into the spotlight for a red-carpet premiere of their original films.

Twenty-eight Kansas City-area and St. Joseph-area girls who participated in the *RISK: At-Risk Girls Behind the Camera* intensive three-week summer filmmaking program will showcase their films at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 11, at the historic Granada Theatre, 1015 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, KS. The event displays the girls' newly acquired cinematic talents with their work on public service announcements, animation and documentaries focusing on their personal stories and what it's like to be a teen girl in today's pop-culture world.

The Girls Behind the Camera Premiere Gala will feature red carpet arrivals for the girls and the full paparazzi experience in the Hollywood tradition. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the premiere. Tickets are available at the door on a "pay what you will" basis. For more information, visit www.girlsbehindthecamera.org or call 816-472-1710.

The girls, ages 11-14, were brought together for *RISK* by Flaming Angel Films of Los Angeles, CA, and Red Echo Group of Kansas City. Director/Producer Tara Veneruso created the program, and she and her team have been documenting the program, as well, for a feature film to be released in 2008.

Veneruso brought professional filmmakers from around the United States to the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph for the program, which taught the girls everything from visual storytelling to operating a camera. The girls even created music and edited their own movies.

"These girls are so incredible and so intensely full of life," Veneruso says. "I believe all girls ages 11-14 are at-risk, and I'm so proud that our girls are doing something positive this summer. I expect the community to come out and support them in full force."

Part of Veneruso's process was one-on-one interviews with the girls to track their progress in the program. As the girls went through the program, they were also mentored by social workers from the KC Metro area and Missouri Western film students.

One of the girls in the program, Rachel Downs, 13, wasn't sure what to expect before arriving at the program. Now Downs has taken a personal interest in filmmaking thanks to her inspirational one-on-one interview with Veneruso. Once Downs realized that she and Veneruso had similar backgrounds, it was easy to open up and talk about what was important in life.

"I learned that if I were doing drugs I wouldn't be able to do what I want to when I grow up," Downs says. "Before I came here, I wanted to go to parties, I thought it was cool. Now I realize that if I keep doing that I'm going down the wrong road."

Now, Downs is hooked on filmmaking. “This is what I want to do,” she says. “I want to keep making movies my whole life.”

The program has been assisted by generous donations from many local individuals, businesses and groups throughout the Kansas City and St. Joseph metro areas.

Eric Keith
CEO- Executive Producer
Red Echo Group Inc.
917.407.8362 913.789.9206