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## [News](#)

# 'Do It Your Damn Self!!' film festival coming soon

Tue Nov 04, 2008, 10:01 AM EST

Cambridge -

The award-winning Teen Media Program of the Community Art Center will present the annual "Do It Your Damn Self!!" National Youth Video and Film Festival Friday and Saturday, Nov. 14 and 15, at the Boston Public Library and MIT's Wong Auditorium.

The DIYDS!! Festival was created in 1996 by four inner-city teenage girls who felt misrepresented in the media and sought a means for their videos to be seen by a wider audience. The festival serves as a tool of empowerment for today's youth — helping them gain important leadership and public speaking skills as they express how they view their role in today's society. It has become a nexus in the growing youth media field, and its school screening at the Boston Public Library attracts hundreds of students and teachers from media production classes throughout Massachusetts. This year, more than 100 entries were screened, from which 13 films were selected as finalists.

Film selections for DIYDS!! 2008 include:

- The Y Project (Teen Media Project, Cambridge) — A creative narrative about questioning assumptions inspired by Ralph Brancaccio's Y-Project sculptures erected at various locations installed in various Cambridge parks.
- Racism in Espanola (Espanola High School, Espanola, N.M.) — A documentary about the racism experienced by people around our country in which teens ask why Mexican-Americans are discriminated against.
- Hard Knot Life (Truce Harlem Children's Project, Harlem, N.Y.) — A documentary that takes a realistic look at ghettos and substance abuse in Harlem.
- Applying for Change (Community Television Network, Chicago, Ill.) — A narrative of two brothers, one who hustles his way through the streets and one who wants to go to college.

On Friday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., filmmakers from around the country will be at the Boston Public Library to participate in a panel discussion, and more than 300 Boston-area students and teachers will attend the school screening and workshop. On Saturday, Nov. 15, from 1 to 3 p.m., families and children are invited to the Central Square Theater to join the first CommUNITY Media Day featuring family-focused workshops as well as screenings of the new DIYDS Jr.!! feature films created by 6- to 12-year-old filmmakers and the "Chickens of Ventura Fabien," directed by Nina Hassan.

The Do It Your Damn Self!! National Youth Video and Film Festival comes to a close the evening of Saturday,

Nov. 15, with the ticketed premiere screening held at MIT's Wong Auditorium. The premiere screening will be followed by a moderated discussion and question-and-answer session with the filmmakers, allowing audience members to connect with the films and their creators in a unique way. A celebration from 9 p.m. to midnight in MIT's Morss Hall follows the premiere, and tickets for the premiere or celebration are available online at [www.diyds.org](http://www.diyds.org).

For a complete schedule of the Do It Your Damn Self!!' National Youth Video and Film Festival, for tickets or for more information, visit [www.diyds.org](http://www.diyds.org).

DIYDS!! 2008 is hosted by MIT and the Boston Public Library, with major funding from United Way, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Draper, Novartis and 484 Phi Alpha Foundation.

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