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## Young directors pick final cuts

Thursday, November 9, 2006

### Do It Your Damn Self Film Festival starts Nov. 17

On a chilly Saturday evening last month, the patrons of the Season's Restaurant in Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard, were enjoying a different kind of karaoke; namely, some hip-hop tunes sung by members of the Teen Media Program from Cambridge's Community Art Center.

The teens descended on the island for a retreat to choose the final reel for their self-made Do It Your Damn Self! National Youth Film Festival, the longest running youth-curated festival in the country, created 11 years ago by the teens at the TMP who felt they were not being properly represented in traditional media.

The filmmakers in the festival tackle self-image, moral dilemmas, current disasters and political situations. Young women discuss concepts of beauty, body weight and teen pregnancy. Young men mull over the choices in their lives, the war in Iraq and the street code on snitchin.'

After diligently reviewing 33 videos out of 117 submissions from eight states, with lots of spicy discussion, the 14 teens chose 16 videos for the final reel. The festival will be at the Museum of Fine Arts and the Brattle Theater on Nov. 17 and 18.

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