



# YDA

youth documentary academy

Each summer the Youth Documentary Academy trains high school students (ages 14-18) from underserved communities in all aspects of documentary film production. YDA is a unique tuition-free academy, located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Most film production programs for youth are located on the East and West coasts and serve students from primarily advantaged backgrounds. YDA levels the film arts playing field by targeting youth from underrepresented communities and providing professional mentorship and instruction with industry standard production gear.

Teaching documentary production and story-telling skills offers a unique opportunity to provide students not only with technical (and vocational) skills but also a vehicle in which they can locate story ideas from their own lived experiences, stories that often scour social taboos, and craft those personal experiences into a form which becomes broadly accessible to their communities and the wider public.

YDA students have directed short documentaries which have explored contemporary issues ranging from domestic violence, media representation of African American girls, teenage suicide, and adoption, among many others. What educators, film festivals and reviewers are saying about YDA films is that they approach controversial societal issues through the eyes of teenagers, offering fresh and unvarnished personal accounts of deeply compelling human-interest stories.

To learn more visit [www.youthdocumentary.org](http://www.youthdocumentary.org)



“ **We need programs like the Youth Documentary Academy to help harness the talent of our young people and to provide them with hope. That they are driven to tell stories from their own communities and develop a craft to do so is a real gift to all of us.** ”

DAVID DAHLIN, PRESIDENT, COLORADO SPRINGS FINE ARTS CENTER

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Russell Grinnell  
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## YOUTH DOCUMENTARY ACADEMY CONGRESSIONAL SCREENING

Hosted by US Representative Diana DeGette

Tuesday, May 17, 2016



### **SHADE** by Antreise Lacey



Antreise Lacey, 18, attends Widefield High School in Widefield, Colorado. Antreise (Tricey) came to YDA wanting to explore how the representations of light and dark skinned African American girls play into damaging stereotypes. She enlisted five young women, friends, and peers, to weigh in on the issue for her film SHADE. Tricey's interest in filmmaking is matched by her interest and experience in acting. She looks forward to attending Hofstra University in the Fall.



### **AFTER WAR** by Bailey Francisco



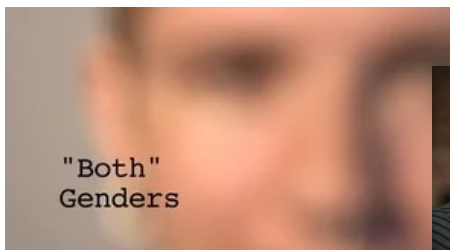
Bailey Francisco grew up on an Army base in Fountain, Colorado. He currently attends Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO. After having been selected for a YDA fellowship, he decided to explore the impact of his father's Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury on his family. Bailey's film, AFTER WAR, provides an unvarnished account of the costs of war, not only on soldiers themselves, but those who are closest to them.



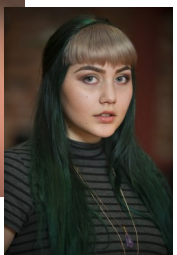
### **UNDER THE WIRE** by Madison Legg



Madison Legg, 17, was adopted from Cambodia when she was 16 months old. When her brother, Jacob, also an adoptee from Guatemala, attempted suicide last year, Mady investigated an epidemic of attempts and completed suicides by teenagers in the area. She decided to make a highly personal film exploring the emotional dynamics of her brother's story. In addition to filmmaking, Mady loves writing and used many of her own journal entries to construct narration for UNDER THE WIRE.



### **BOTH GENDERS** by Stevie Earnest



Stevie Earnest, a recent graduate of Sand Creek High School, wrote in her YDA application about gender identity and wanting to make a film that explored gender non-conforming identities. Through the local organization Inside/Out, she met a subject who identifies as a "demi boy" and obtained unusual access to film his story. Stevie hopes that her passion and interest for filmmaking, storytelling, and painting will land her work in the creative arts.