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Cal State LA students win big at the 2015 CSU Media Arts Festival



Cal State LA screenwriting students Robert Ellsworth (left) and Matt Braaten during the CSU Media Arts Festival (Credit: Heather Fipps/Cal State LA)

Los Angeles, Calif. – Two California State University (CSU), Los Angeles (LA) students in the TV, Film and Theatre MFA program took top prizes at the 2015 California

State University Media Arts Festival. More than 4,000 students across the CSU submitted work to the annual festival, which celebrates film, video and new media.

Cal State LA student Robert Ellsworth, who is originally from Revere, received the first place Rosebud Award in the feature screenplay category for his script, *The Sect*. The film tells the story of a near fatal encounter that leads a man into a steamy relationship with a mysterious woman on the lam from a sinister sect. What follows is a nightmare of illusion, betrayal and psychological terror. The screenplay illustrates that beauty is only skin deep.

Student Matt Braaten, who is originally from Minnesota, took third place in the feature screenplay category for his script; *Cu Chi*. This is the first episode of a miniseries in which two Marine Corps pilots crash in the Vietnamese jungle during the final months of World War II. One pilot is rescued by U.S. allies. The other is aided by a poor rice farmer,

who must risk his life to guide the pilot on a treacherous journey through mountains and dense jungle to make it to safety.

"I am so proud of Rob and Matt's win in the Feature Screenplay category," said Kristiina Hackel, director of the MFA Program in Television, Film and Theatre. "Although we have won Rosebuds in other media arts categories, this is our first writing win. I think it speaks to the talent of the students in the MFA Dramatic Writing Option, as well as the work of our excellent faculty."

The festival is an opportunity for CSU students to showcase their work before a panel of distinguished faculty and entertainment industry professionals.

This year's festival was co-sponsored by the CSU Entertainment Industry Initiative and Cal State LA's College of Arts and Letters. A panel of industry experts chose 42 finalists out of 194 entries from 17 CSU campuses.

Visit www.mediaartsfestival.org for more information.

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COUNCILLORS UPSET | from page 1

said students that sent threatening tweets to Godino were disciplined in accordance with the student handbook.

Councillor-at-Large-elect George Rotondo also expressed his frustration with the issue. At the council meeting, Rotondo said that Godino skipped her gym class and that's why she was given social probation, according to what the family told Rotondo. He said he's skeptical. He also said that Godino skipped because she didn't feel safe and didn't feel safe going to the administration either.

Council President John Powers said he thinks this is an issue for the school committee to deal with. "At the next school committee meeting, this should be discussed. That's where this belongs – certainly not in front of the city council," he said.