



400 sibley street, suite 125
saint paul, minnesota 55101
t: 651.224.9431
or toll free in minnesota and new york city at 1.800.995.3766
f: 651.224.3439
I: www.jeromefdn.org

● PRESS RELEASE

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The Jerome Foundation's Minnesota Media Arts Program panel met on June 29 and 30, 2006, to review 74 applications (64 from individuals who had not been previously funded by this program and 10 from previous recipients). Nine grants totaling \$108,000 were awarded, ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000. The panelists were experimental filmmaker Marcus Young; John Mhiripiri of Anthology Film Archives, New York City; and Jane Minton, Executive Director of IFP Minnesota.

C. CHANNON DOERR received support for the production *A Man Made of Gold*, an experimental black and white 16mm reversal film and color Kodachrome on old wind-up cameras, to create an overall historical effect consistent with its Civil War setting. The film is based on a poem, written by Doerr, about a mysterious Civil War era man who appears to be made of brilliant gold and who turns everything he touches to lead or gold. Is he mad or some apocalyptic beacon of light? The answer will be provided in this 50-minute film.

A grant was awarded to **DAVID EBERHARDT** for *Korsang*, a 90-minute documentary that will detail the lives of a group of Cambodian-American deportees forced back to the urban despair of Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The film will chronicle their efforts, assisted by a tough ex-addict woman from Boston, to run a newly formed NGO (non-governmental organization) dedicated to reducing the harmful impacts of drug addiction and prostitution.

MAERI S. HEDSTROM received a grant for a 15-minute narrative film titled *Interludes*, which is composed of three five-minute vignettes, thematically linked by the same actress whose appearance and character change to represent the three emotions of fear, sadness and love. The central idea of this film is to reveal how a woman's physical appearance determines the manner in which she navigates her way through the world and expresses herself to others.

WILLIAM KRUSE was awarded support for *Big Boy*, a short narrative video about sex, using the context of the "coming of age" talk between a father and his adolescent son. The story projects across three vignettes: First Sexual Experience, Married Sex and Sex Between Seniors. With *Big Boy*, the method of storytelling is as important as the message. The structure of this narrative piece addresses the new way in which audiences view content.

Support was awarded to **MOUA LEE** for the production of *Dab Neeg* (a Hmong word meaning Stories or Tales). This feature-length narrative contains three short stories: *Forest Keeper*, *Poj Ruam* (a Hmong phrase referring to a girl who is mentally incapable of speaking) and *Unforgettable Smile*. The stories involve themes of actions and consequences. *Forest Keeper* is about a man who loves to hunt; he kills for the thrill, until he learns a valuable moral lesson. *Poj Ruam*, focuses on the brutal rape and murder of a young girl and the supernatural forces that exact justice on the four men responsible. *Unforgettable Smile* is about the obsession of a young man with a beautiful young woman he sees in a crowd. He goes back to the same location year after year looking for her, until she one day appears and agrees to marry him. But his health takes a downward turn soon after the wedding. He's unaware that the woman with whom he is so obsessed was killed shortly after he laid eyes upon her the first time.

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ABINADI MEZA was awarded support for the production of *Like Snow, Falling*, a 25-minute experimental video exploring memory and the winter landscape. The non-linear narrative of the video will be generated from five interviews with people having a memory linked to a specific space. The metaphor of snow falling will illustrate the ephemeral yet cumulative nature of memories—how they build up layers and weight, yet eventually disappear.

WYATT MCDILL received a grant for *Apartment 39*, a feature-length narrative about eBay auctioneers August, Bella and Carthage, who search the obituaries looking for estates to auction off on eBay. As the story begins, these three come to find themselves on the deserted farm of one Einar Anderson—a recently deceased farmer whose sad life might only ever be known through the possessions now being sent via UPS to all corners of the country and world. As they disassemble a life lived—and the mystery of that life deepens—the three young people are simultaneously caught up in two other intrigues. A mysterious connection among the three auctioneers, the dead farmer and a young woman on a voyeur web site, apartment 39.com unfolds.

CHRIS NEWBERRY received support for *Medicine Box: Health Care and the New Americans*, an hour-long documentary that uncovers the struggles facing immigrants and refugees as they navigate the American health care system. Every week, at least 50 new immigrants arrive in Minnesota—Mexican, Somali, Hmong and Russian, many of them refugees. The differing social and medical needs of these diverse immigrant groups are often minimized or misunderstood. The result? Poor healthcare for immigrants and more expenses for our health care system.

A grant was awarded to **MARK TANG** and **LU LIPPOLD** for *Open Season*, a one-hour documentary about a still festering multiple shooting incident for which a Hmong immigrant hunter is convicted of killing six white hunters in northern Wisconsin. Part courtroom drama, part intimate portrait, this documentary brings into high relief the simmering tensions—racial, cultural, economic—that lurk in America's heartland.

For more information, please contact Robert Byrd at the Jerome Foundation, 651.224.9431 or 800.995.3766.

Visit the Jerome Foundation web site at www.jeromefdn.org.

The JEROME FOUNDATION, created by artist and philanthropist Jerome Hill (1905-1972), makes grants that support emerging artists in the creation, development and production of new works.

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