

Fall 2003 Program Update

Special Guest



Our Guy Sean

In September and October, Regent Park Focus was home to Sean Devlin, a young person from Belfast, Ireland. Sean joined Regent Park Focus as part of an exchange program to gain experience as a youth development worker. During his 10 week internship with Focus, Sean worked on a variety of projects including the Art of Cool program at Nelson Mandela Park Public School. Unfortunately Sean was just getting into a groove when it was time to leave. Sean hopes to take what he learned in Regent Park back home to share with his community in Ireland. We would like to thank the Irish Canadian Development Institute for inviting Regent Park Focus to participate in the program and wish Sean the best of luck with his future work and dreams.

Internet Club



Focus Members in the Internet Club

In October, Regent Park Focus created an Internet room to help provide members with computer and internet access for research and homework purposes (Ha - can you say chat). The room has high speed access and is available for use on a first come first serve basis. The room is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays after-school to 9 pm in the evenings. Currently we are looking to upgrade the computers so donations are welcome.

Catch da Flava website

Over the months of September and October, Focus staff and members have been busy revamping the Catch da Flava website. The revamped website was launched at the end of October. We now have the capacity to display much of our work on-line, including audio plays, soundscapes, and photography projects. There is also an archive of past radio shows, newspaper articles, and a complete description of all the available videos. In the next few months, we hope to develop a live web broadcast of events that we host and do video streaming.

KRANK IT UP!!!

On November 2, 2003 Regent Park Focus held a public screening to celebrate the works of youth that were involved in the summer media arts program. The two hour showcase, known as *Krank It Up!*, was held at Innis Town Hall and featured public service announcements on the electoral political system, photography slide shows, videos, Super8 Films, and audio art works. Congratulations team!!!

EYE Video

The first annual Regent Park Film Festival was held on November 20-22, 2003 at Nelson Mandela Park Public School and Regent Park Focus was there to screen some film creations.



Focus Film Directors Emmanuel, Raymond and Vinh talk about their films

On the first day of the event, EYE Video took the stage with the following films:

The Drop – by Raymond Wilson
Olympics Bid – by Vinh Duong, Maxime Dery, Olivier Bert
It's My Turf Too – by Emmanuel Kedini
Welcome to Canada – by Anne Lague
Side Effects – by Jamal Robinson
The Slap – by Sihama Dirie
The Kiss – by Brandi Costain
Armageddon – by Brandi Costain

The event was well attended and everyone responded positively to the films. On the final day of the festival, Regent Park Focus film directors - Vinh Duong, Raymond Wilson and Emmanuel Kedini - held a Super8 film making workshop with a group of interested youth. The group produced two short films that Focus hopes to feature in next year's program.

Catch da Flava Radio



Catch da Flava Radio continues to be broadcast live from our site on the first and third Tuesday of the month. During the fall Catch da Flava Radio covered the municipal and provincial elections, interviewed candidates and encouraged youth to get out and vote. All of our shows can be heard on our website www.catchdaflava.com.

Catch da Flava Newspaper

The fall edition of Catch da Flava newspaper featured articles on bullying, western media portrayals of Middle Eastern Societies, and had a Face Off about high-class cars in low-income neighborhoods. Our new Sexpert column was full of pertinent information about pregnancy and birth control to young people. The next issue of Catch da Flava is scheduled for release in February and is on the theme of Art and Activism. The newspaper will be distributed to every household in Regent Park and community centres and libraries across downtown Toronto. All Flava articles, past and present, can also be read on-line at www.catchdaflava.com.

Zapparoli Studio for Photography



Vanesa and Elizabeth, two aspiring photographers

We've had such an interest in our photography works that we are starting another Snap Shots program. The six week session will be held Monday evenings here at Focus. The program is dedicated to teaching young people how to develop and create stunning photographs. The Snapshots program is run in partnership with Gallery 44 Centre for Photography and will conclude with a public exhibit of the work. In addition to the Snap Shots program we are constructing a photo gallery. The gallery will host the works of our aspiring artists and be a place where the community can meet and see exhibits of amateur and professional photographers. Construction is scheduled to begin in March.

EYE Video CED

EYE Video CED members, Raymond Wilson and Emmanuel Kedini, are working on a video called, *What's It All About*. The aim of the video is to help inform Regent Park youth about the redevelopment process and to encourage them to get involved. The video was sponsored by the Toronto Housing Community and is scheduled for release in March. EYE Video CED has also completed a video documenting a youth conference on racial profiling sponsored by the Canadian Heritage Foundation. If your interested in hiring experienced youth videographers to film or edit your event, please call 416-863-1074 and ask for Adonis or Sarah.

Art of Cool



(Left) Students at Duke of York are busy filming a scene. (Right) Eastdale students are busy editing Cheap but Good.

Each year Regent Park Focus partners with local schools to create peer educational resources. In November Regent Park Focus began its annual work with the schools by establishing four *Art of Cool* projects. Here is a brief summary of the projects.

At Regent Park Duke of York School students met twice a week to develop a video drama script on peer pressure. The video is currently in production and is scheduled for release towards the end of March.

Students at Nelson Mandela Park Public School students are in the final stages of completing a video on the harmfulness of teasing called *The Trickster's Tale*.

At OASIS Alternative Secondary School students have completed a video exploring masculinity. The video documents the activities and discussions of a group of male high school students. The video was presented in December at a screening involving the entire school body and was followed with a lively hour long open discussion on the topic. Copies of the video will soon be available.

Students at Eastdale scripted, filmed and edited a video called, *Cheap But Good*. The video challenges a group of students to feed a party of eight people with only twenty dollars. Can

they do it? *Cheap But Good* is a video educating students about healthy eating. The video was screened in front of the entire school body. Copies of the video will soon be available.