

To the Independent Arts Foundation



The last 2 weeks have been quite a blur since I started high school and debuted in my first Fringe production. Thank you for your patience while I gathered my thoughts about this wonderful award. Being recognised as the best young filmmaker under 24 years old in SA at the Fleurieu film festival for my work on my short film Selma, is the most humbling and exciting experience of my filmmaking career. The recognition alone is powerful motivation that I'm on the right track as a filmmaker and a story-teller.

It's amazing that the Independent Arts Foundation has chosen to so generously support young filmmakers like me. Creating films is an expensive endeavour, as I'm learning each day. The cash prize awarded to me by the Independent Arts Foundation will help immensely to keep my inspiration flowing. I'm considering several uses for the money.

1. I'm going to blow it all on mixed lollies. Just kidding!
2. My current sound recording system is really clunky. Currently it consists of an old laptop with an external digital audio box connected to my boom mic. It requires an extra set of hands just to make it work. The cash may be used towards an all-in-one professional audio recorder that streamlines this in one tiny pack that I can operate myself while directing.
3. I'm hoping to travel interstate next year to attend a three-week filmmaking course on the Gold Coast that offers specific tuition for young filmmakers 13 and older (that's why I have to wait another year!). The cash prize could help me make this dream a reality.

I'm not yet sure which of these will come to fruition first, but the money provided by the Independent Arts Foundation will definitely help make one of these dreams come true.

Thanks once again for your kindness when we met at the Fleurieu Film Festival and for the generous support of the Independent Arts Foundation. I hope to make you and your organisation proud as I continue my filmmaking journey and I look forward to our next opportunity to meet.

Sincerely,

Harrison 'Rizz' Thomas