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Chapman Film Student Receives Directors Guild of America Grand Prize

Pasadena resident is one of two Chapman film students recognized by the DGA

Orange, Calif., Nov. 3, 2004 Chapman University film student Stacey Kattman received the Grand Prize of the Directors Guild of Americas 2004 Student Film Awards on Oct. 19.

A Master of Fine Arts student at Chapmans Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, Kattman will receive a \$2,500 cash award along with a DGA production grant valued at \$1,000 for her short film *Love Thy Neighbor*. Her film also will be screened at the Cannes Film Festival on Kodaks Emerging Filmmakers Showcase.

I have been very fortunate to have such a supportive group of teachers through my process of filmmaking, Kattman, 27, said. Coming to Chapman has been one of the smartest life decisions I have made. I'm also shocked and excited about being able to attend Cannes. I have to admit that I'm a little nervous at the same time because I can't speak French.

Now in its 9th year, the student film awards recognize college level African-American, Asian-American, Latino and women filmmakers. Kattman, who received an honorable mention for the 2003 award for her film *Change of Heart*, was the West Coast winner in the womens category for *Love Thy Neighbor*, a 25-minute romantic comedy about a woman who breaks up with her next-door-neighbor boyfriend.

Kattmans Chapman classmate, Georgiana Gomez, received an honorable mention in the womens category and a \$500 production grant for *Tyrone Jones*.

Stacey has a great eye for human nature and a pretty savage sense of humor, said Ken ODonnell, one of Kattmans film professors. She learned filmmaking the hard way, though, with very long hours, a lot of time spent helping fellow students and relentless perfectionism in her own work. This is an award she earned and genuinely deserves, and I think it speaks volumes for the caliber of filmmaking that goes on at Chapman.

Kattman, a Pasadena resident, will receive her award and have her film screened at a ceremony on Nov. 10 at the DGA headquarters in Hollywood.

The DGA presents these awards to honor the outstanding work of women and minority film students, DGA President Michael Apted said. We are hopeful these films mark the beginnings of some promising careers.