

## **NEWS / Monterey County Film Commission**

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### **Film student scholarship winner's film to be screened at the Mill Valley Film Festival**

The Monterey County Film Commission's first film student scholarship recipient, Estee Blancher, will have her short film, "In My Heart: A Child's Hurricane Katrina Story," screened at the Mill Valley Film Festival, which runs Oct. 2-12 in Mill Valley, Calif.

Blancher's film was selected to be screened within a "The Home in My Heart" program which features four up-and-coming Bay Area filmmakers' short films. The Mill Valley Film Festival showcases international feature films, documentaries, shorts and children's films. This year over 1,500 entries were submitted, and only the top five to 10 percent are selected for screening.

Blancher previously won a \$500 prize in the 2008 Monterey County Film Commission Scholarship and Awards Program, which was established to provide financial help and encouragement to the next generation of filmmakers who reside in Monterey County, or are enrolled in a college or university in the county. The scholarship fund is a permanent endowment with the Community Foundation for Monterey County. Blancher received her award at the May 4 Monterey County Film Commission's "An Evening with Alison Eastwood" event in Pacific Grove, at which Clint Eastwood introduced his daughter Alison prior to the screening of her directorial debut film, "Rails & Ties."

Blancher is a recent graduate of the California State University, Monterey Bay Teledramatic Arts and Technology Department (TAT). She collaborated on her film production with fellow TAT student Clinton Kuska.

To view the Mill Valley Film Festival program and get ticket information, see [www.mvff.com](http://www.mvff.com). "The Home in My Heart" program of film shorts is sponsored by California Film Institute. The program is scheduled to be shown Friday, Oct. 3, at the Smith Rafael Film Center in San Rafael at 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Throckmorton Theatre in Mill Valley at 4:15 p.m.

For more information on the Monterey County Film Commission Scholarship Awards program, go to [www.FilmMonterey.org](http://www.FilmMonterey.org). Applications for the 2009 scholarship and awards program will be available online in November.

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*The Monterey County Film Commission is a nonprofit organization proactively marketing Monterey County as a destination for the motion picture, television and related industries, for the purpose of stimulating economic development, creating jobs, providing and supporting educational opportunities in those areas.*