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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Art Effect Hosts *Reel Exposure International Teen Film and Photography Festival* This April!

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY (Mar. 11, 2021) – The Art Effect is hosting its popular *Reel Exposure International Teen Film and Photography Festival*. The festival is a 3-day event, April 7 - 9. It includes an in-person (or virtual) photography exhibition opening on April 7 from 5-7pm at the Trolley Barn Gallery in Poughkeepsie followed by a two-day virtual event at 7pm on April 8 and 9, showcasing short films made by creative young artists around the world. This year the festival has youth work from nine countries—giving the audience a global teen perspective and celebrating some of the world's strongest youth art and media!

The Art Effect's annual event encourages youth creativity, invigorates the local community through the arts, and showcases the incredible work done by the next generation of artists from around the globe and right here in Poughkeepsie! "Seeing a film you put all of this work into actually get attention, to have people genuinely enjoy something you made at Reel Exposure, it's really special, especially when you're just starting out. It was a call to action for me, like, 'This is something you're supposed to do, keep at it!'" - Matthew Hamilton, 2020 *Reel Exposure* Participant

About the Photography Exhibition

Professional and youth jurors selected 55 photographs from 172 submissions from teens ages 13-19 across the world including Singapore, Italy, Islamic Republic of Iran, and the United States. Opening with a public reception on April 7, this exciting youth exhibition will remain on display through May 13 accompanied by a virtual gallery tour for those unable to attend.

About the Film Festival

Viewers can expect to see a mix of film genres in this year's film festival lineup, including animations, documentaries, dramas, horror, and comedies from teen filmmakers. 12 short films will be screened virtually on April 8 & 9, 7PM from a total of 54 submissions from The United States, United Kingdom, Spain, Poland, Mexico, China, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The film portion of the event will conclude with a live virtual awards ceremony and Q&A on April 9. This event is free, however pre-registration is required at thearteffect.org/reel-exposure.

Expanding Accessibility

For the first time *Reel Exposure International Teen Film & Photo festival* will utilize open captioning services for film screenings as well as a live remote captioner for the awards and Q&A portion of the event to increase accessibility for the hearing-impaired community.

“There is no doubt that accessibility issues have greatly limited people with hearing loss, including when it comes to the entertainment industry. We strongly believe that everyone should have the right to enjoy a full cultural life and we are excited to extend this access to hearing-impaired audiences, so we can all watch these powerful films together.” Says Executive Director, Nicole Fenichel-Hewitt .

Tickets to the festival are free. Pre-registration is required. Visit thearteffect.org/reel-exposure for more information and to access viewer choice poll, virtual photo exhibition and live screenings during the festival, April 7 - 9.

Reel Exposure is made possible, in part, through funding from New York State Council on the Arts, Vassar Brothers Institute Donor Advised Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Millman Harris Romano Foundation.

About The Art Effect: The Art Effect empowers youth to develop their creative voice to shape their futures and bring about positive social change. The organization facilitates educational programming for youth in the Hudson Valley to explore, experience and excel in the arts. The programs provide introductions to visual arts and media, giving participants the opportunity to develop real skills in these fields and guiding them towards achieving their academic and career goals. The Art Effect is anchored by the belief that the arts have the power to create a more vibrant, caring and sustainable world led by a generation of youth who value creative thinking, diverse voices and stronger connections between all people.

This graphic contains the event schedule and logo. On the left, a film strip graphic lists the following items:

- April 8 - 9 2021
- Youth-Produced Short Films
- Exhibition Opening April 7
- Teen

Next to the film strip are vertical bars with the following categories:

- Animation
- Documentary
- Portrait
- Drama
- Landscape

The main purple area on the right features the "Reel exposure 2021" logo and the text "2-Day FREE Virtual Event". At the bottom right, it includes the social media handle "@FeelTheArtEffect" and the website "www.feelthearteffect.org" with icons for Facebook and Instagram.