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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Art Effect Presents Reel Expressions International Teen Film Festival - Free for Under 21

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY – Celebrating its sixth year, the <u>Reel Expressions International</u> <u>Teen Film Festival</u> features a variety of youth-produced films from the Hudson Valley and around the world. Reel Expressions takes place on Friday, June 15 from 5:00pm – 7:30pm at the Bardavon 1869 Opera House, 35 Market St, Poughkeepsie, NY. Doors open at 5:00 pm and the film showcase begins at 5:30 pm.

Themes for this year's film showcase address many issues modern teens face including self acceptance and mental health through narratives and documentaries. A Q&A panel with the young filmmakers takes place after the showcase. First place receives a \$500 award, and first and second runners up receive a Sparky Trophy and certificates at the end of the evening.

Special host for the evening is local musician <u>Ayo Nish</u>, known for her self-love social media campaign #iMADTOD (I'm a different type of different.) The event features dynamic media activities before the showcase, light refreshments, door prizes (including a pair of SnapChat Spectacles,) and giveaways.

This teen showcase encourages youth creativity, invigorates our local community through the arts, and showcases the incredible work done by the next generation of media-makers. Out of over 100 films submitted, only XXXXXXX are being showcased for Reel Expressions.

This festival is created for teens and adults; families are welcome; however, some themes are mature for younger audiences.

Tickets are free for individuals under 21, \$12 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors. For tickets, visit feetbearteffect.org/store/reel-registration.

About The Art Effect: Formerly Mill Street Loft and Spark Media Project, The Art Effect is committed to being a catalyst for youth empowerment and community engagement through the arts and media across the Hudson Valley. We foster personal and professional development for youth through sequential, impactful arts and media programs that encourage youth to explore, experience, and excel. From our youth employment programs, to our award-winning <u>Dutchess Arts Camps</u> and <u>The Art Institute</u>, exhibitions, workshops, and performances, The Art Effect is dedicated to supporting personal growth, fostering self-expression, and enhancing human services through the arts to build a shared sense of community. Learn more at <u>feelthearteffect.org</u>.