

Blue Valley North

RECYCLED FILM FESTIVAL

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

The BVN Recycled Film Festival invites students to “recycle” a public-domain film by tearing it apart and editing a completely new three-minute film. What’s a public-domain film? What’s a public-domain film? That means that the film isn’t protected by copyright, and that you can use it for free. And here’s the best part: you don’t need any specialized equipment to participate in this contest—just a computer and one of the many consumer video editing programs available. The contest is open to everyone at BVN.

About the Footage:

This year’s footage is a complete film called *American Look* (1958). *American Look* is a tribute to mid-century (1950s) designers and architects; consequently you’ll see many shots of objects and environments. It’s a gorgeous film, but it doesn’t have much of a “story,” which is why it’s perfect for this contest. (It’s a competition, after all.) Good luck. We can’t wait to see what you create.

The Rules:

1. You may use only this year's challenge video. You may layer the video, add text, graphic overlays, or special effects if you have the capability, but you may not add any video from outside sources.
2. Add to or modify the audio any way you like.
3. Your film may be no longer than three minutes (including any titles or credits).
4. School-appropriate, please.
5. You may submit only one film per category. (See “categories” below.)
6. You must submit your video on or before the first day of school (August 18, 2010). You may submit your film electronically (on a CD or DVD) or post it to a video sharing site, such as YouTube, Vimeo, or Photobucket, and then email the link to Mr. Huette (chuette@bluevalleyk12.org). When you submit your film, please indicate which category you wish to enter.

The Categories:

When you submit your entry, please do so in one of the following categories:

- **Music Video:** This is video plus music. Do you really need an explanation? If you don’t know what a music video is, you should probably ask one of your friends.
- **Narrative:** These films tell a story, which is another word for a narrative, which is a story.
- **Experimental:** Experimental films deviate in striking ways from the expectations of conventional films. They may lack a coherent narrative, or may use effects or certain editing techniques in unusual ways. Successful experimental films do not aim to baffle the audience, but suggest meanings that the audience completes.
- **Documentary:** Documentary films attempt to “document” or capture reality in some way. This is a very broad category of nonfiction films, and so we’re very open-minded about what constitutes a “proper” documentary film.
- **Comedy:** Comedies are supposed to be funny, even to people you don’t hang out with.

How to do it:

First you'll need video editing software, such as iMovie or Windows Movie Maker. There are other programs you could use, but those are the most common. If you have a Mac, you probably have iMovie on your computer. If you have a Windows computer without Movie Maker, you can download it for free from Microsoft. After you do that, you'll need to download the footage in a format that is compatible with your software. You'll find the footage, which is 28 minutes in total length, divided between three reels. Let me say that again: the film is divided into three parts, each about ten minutes long. You'll find each of the reels on the LMC Web site, and you can download the video in two formats:

- Quicktime (choose the one with the .mov) for Mac.
- Audio Video Interleave (choose the file with .avi) for Windows

If you need another video format (or compression codec) and can't figure out how to get it, please email Mr. Huette and he will help you out. Please note: the videos provided here are fairly low quality/high compression videos. If you wish to get higher quality video, please visit the original:

http://www.archive.org/details/american_look

Once you've located the correct file from the list, follow these steps:

1. RIGHT CLICK each link (or, if you're a Mac user, use CONTROL + CLICK) and save the linked files to your computer.
2. Open your editing software.
3. If you don't already know, you should learn how to use your editing software (free tutorials for most software are available on the Internet).
4. Import the footage into your editing software.
5. Create your film.
6. Get it to Mr. Huette on or before the first day of school.

Prizes, Awards, and Accolades:

In the fall, when school starts up again, a panel of judges will review all the entries and choose finalists in each category. The finalists will be shown at a public screening at a time and place still to be determined. Winners will air on the North Report in the fall semester and will receive fabulous prizes, maybe even a special chevron that can be sewn on the sleeve of your letter jacket. (What's a letter jacket?)

Questions?

Please email any questions or comments or problems to Mr. Huette: chuette@bluevalleyk12.org

Film Credits:

American Look (1958)

Directors: W.F. Banes and John Thiele

Produced by the Handy (Jam) Organization

This film resides in the public domain, and can be found at the Prelinger Archives

(<http://www.archive.org/details/prelinger>).

Technical-assistance shout-outs must go to Terri Snethen and Abby Cornelius in the BVN library, and to Rob Keeney, Web developer for the Blue Valley School District.