

AMERICA FOR DUMMIES (8:14 min)

Directed by Niaz Mosharraf.

Produced by Reel Works Teen Filmmaking

Winner of the Youth Voice Award

*Acknowledged for effectively employing fair use
by the Center for Social Media*

Supported by Adobe Youth Voices



About the Film

Witnessing and experiencing the apathy and ignorance of American youth towards the world and the people that govern it has become an astonishing aspect of the "American Lifestyle." Growing up in a third world country, traveling the world and really seeing both sides of the picture made me question the capability of the future leaders of our world.

America for Dummies is my quest to uncover why we are so apathetic about the world, let alone our nation, especially in our post-9/11 atmosphere.

In the film, I attempt to reveal the average youth views about education, politics and the world. If this is the youth attitude towards these crucial aspects of our society and life, how will these future leaders of our world be prepared to take on that responsibility one day?

Filmmaker Bios

Niaz Mosharraf, Director

Niaz Mosharraf was born in Bangladesh and immigrated to the United States in 1997. He recently graduated from the elite Brooklyn Technical High School and is now attending both Baruch College and Brooklyn College studying film and business in order to pursue his ambitions as a filmmaker. Niaz has traveled to numerous countries around the world and wants to continue to do so in order to document and tell stories to amplify the voices of the people which often go unheard. Currently he is curating the 2008 Urban Visionaries Youth Film Festival and interning with Red Glass Films in association with Local Projects. In addition to the feature length film that Niaz is writing right now, he is also working on several films with his internship, including one for the Beijing Olympics and one for Arte.

Reel Works Teen Filmmaking, Producer

Reel Works Teen Filmmaking, supported by HBO, is a free after-school program that challenges high school students to create short documentary films about their lives. Working one-on-one with professional filmmaker-mentors, students write, shoot and edit personal narrative videos on subjects they choose. In the process, they gain self-esteem, develop media literacy and master state-of-the-art digital filmmaking technology. We say to teens: You have a voice! Use it!

And the world is listening! Since we began in 2001, our students' films have been broadcast on HBO Family, PBS and LINK-TV and have been presented at film festivals nationwide from the American Film Institute in Hollywood to the Paley Center for Media in Manhattan. Our teen filmmaking program has been featured in the New York Times, The Daily News and on MSNBC, PBS and NY1 News. We have won numerous awards including four Honorable Mention National Student Emmys. Today, our films are being used in classrooms to teach powerful life lessons of diversity, tolerance and hope. Reel Works is a full-time nonprofit arts organization that serves over 150 teens each year through four core programs: The Lab, The Lab Master Class, Reel Impact and Teen Film Camp.

Take Action Links

Pew Research Center (<http://pewresearch.org/newsiq>)

How much information do you really retain from the news you consume? Are you well informed of the world around you? Take this online quiz compiled by the Pew Research Center and compare your results with other quiz takers!

Youth Venture (<http://www.genv.net>)

So you want to create change but don't know where to start. Be the young voice in your community that makes a difference. Youth Venture uses their social networking platform to share team questions, best practices, difficulties, and successes in starting youth-led organizations.

Youth Media Exchange (<http://www.ymex.org>)

Youth Media Exchange is an online social network for youth interested in using digital media tools to share information on major global issues. Become an expert in the field to share your global insights with your online peers.

For more information about *America for Dummies* and the other films from the eighth annual Media That Matters Film Festival, visit www.mediathatmattersfest.org or contact us at festival@artsengine.net.

