

AFI and Chapman film students earn kudos



Andrew M. Davis of Chapman University and Sean Stiegemeier of the American Film Institute (AFI) shared top honors in the 2008 American Society of Cinematographers (ASC) Laszlo Kovacs Heritage Award for Outstanding Cinematography on a student project. Davis was chosen for his work on *The Line* and Stiegemeier for *The Butcher's Daughter*.

"These students demonstrated an ability to use artful cinematography in a collaborative environment," says Isidore Mankofsky, ASC, chairman of the organization's Education Committee. "We weren't looking for beautiful images. We were judging how effectively the films submitted by student cinematographers creatively presented the stories."

Andrew Davis on *The Line*

Davis is a native of Spokane, Washington. He earned a Bachelor's degree at Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts in May 2007.

The Line is the second short film that Davis shot for fellow Chapman student director Kent Bassett. The film focuses on two sets of fathers and sons whose characters attempt to rebuild their relationships under new circumstances and their lives eventually cross paths.

Davis describes his visual grammar as "heightened realism." He and Bassett referenced photographs taken by migrants from Mexico and ranchers who live along the border.

"I tried to illuminate how these people perceive their environment and the extremely complex situation of which they are a part," says Davis. "I found a great sense of optimism and companionship in the photos taken by the migrants at the beginning of their journey, but an increasing amount of desperation and isolation as their trek progresses. I sought to capture those sentiments on film."

Davis chose the Super 35 widescreen format, which allowed him to isolate characters within the vast landscapes. The 2.4:1 aspect ratio also gave him the ability to

have two characters in the frame during more intimate moments. After testing a variety of films, Davis and Bassett decided on KODAK VISION 200T 5274 for daytime exteriors, and the 500T 5279 stock for day interiors and all night sequences.

Sean Stiegemeier on *The Butcher's Daughter*

Stiegemeier was born and raised in Park City, Utah. He earned a Bachelor's degree at Chapman University, and graduated from AFI with a Master's degree in film arts with a concentration on cinematography in December 2007.

His AFI thesis film *The Butcher's Daughter* follows a young farm girl living with her aging father on the secluded plains of the Midwest during the Great Depression whose lives are forever changed when rumrunners show up on their doorstep making demands, and secrets are revealed.

Stiegemeier explains that he started with classic soft filters and

then slowly pulled them out to get a rawer image. He also opted for the Super 35 format, using KODAK VISION2 500T 5218 film in the beginning and transitioning to the 5279 500T stock for more grain and contrast in the end.

"We wanted to achieve the effect of transitioning the look of the film to the progression of the story in camera rather than in post," says Stiegemeier. "We were able to see the difference in the print dailies at Deluxe and learned from that experience."

Vilmos Zsigmond, ASC presented the awards to Davis and Stiegemeier during the 22nd Annual ASC Outstanding Achievement Awards ceremony in Hollywood on January 26. They both plan to continue their pursuit of a cinematography career with the goal of entertaining and inspiring audiences in the future.

For an in-depth story on the making of these two award-winning student films, visit www.kodak.com/go/incamera.

1 Andrew Davis of Chapman University
2 Sean Stiegemeier of the American Film Institute (AFI)