

I am good inside. Inside Out announces recipient of 2007 Mark S. Bonham Scholarship.

For Immediate Release

(September 20, 2007) Toronto, ON – Inside Out is pleased to announce Jo SiMalaya Alcampo as the sixth recipient of the annual Mark S. Bonham Scholarship for Queer Studies in Film and Video. Jo is currently enrolled in the Integrated Media Program at the Ontario College of Art and Design.

As Jo explains, Inside Out played an integral part in her coming out experience, “A friend invited me to my first Inside Out Festival before I came out to myself. It was incredibly empowering to see representations of my desires, longings and imaginings on screen,” she explained. “I saw how video could be used to tell stories that were often unseen in mainstream media and it resonated with my experience as a second-generation Filipino-Canadian lesbian. I saw how progressive community organizations like Inside Out could create social change through art.”

Not long after, Jo submitted her first video to Inside Out in 2003. “I screened my first video *i am good inside* at Inside Out. It explored some of the lessons I have learned about self-acceptance, healing, and cultural pride.” The video won the Mikey/Shmikey Audience Award for Best Short Film or Video. The following year, Inside Out invited Jo to be a mentor for the Festival’s 2004 curated program Video Virgins where first-time videomakers were mentored by an establish artist to produce their first work. Jo and director Nila Gupta assisted njeri damali-campbell with her video, *FADING...*, which earned the first-time director the jury award for Best Up-and-Coming Toronto Film and Video Maker.

Jo comes from a working class immigrant family and is the first person in her family to attend a post-secondary institution and the first to pursue a career in the arts. “I would not be able to be in school without this support,” she explained. “I am proud to accept an award for Queer Studies in Film in Video because it affirms my desire to express myself as an artist with my race, class and sexual identity visible to the world.”

Jo’s work is based in community and progressive politics. She is influenced by her ancestors, mentors, family and friends and she uses her artwork to represent her individual story and their collective struggles. Jo’s current projects combine hybrid forms, such as footage from toy cameras, 16mm film and HD video to explore concepts of memory and recovery.

Jo was chosen as the 2007 recipient of the Bonham Scholarship from more than two dozen applicants. The \$5,000 scholarship is awarded annually by a jury made up of industry professionals, educators and Inside Out representatives.

Established in 2001, the Mark S. Bonham Scholarship for Queer Studies in Film or Video is a \$5000 cash scholarship that assists a Canadian student who identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual or transgender in pursuing post-secondary studies in the field of film and/or video. The Scholarship is awarded annually by Inside Out, organizers of the Toronto Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival. Previous recipients of the scholarship are Adam Jones, Mary Fogarty, Christopher Sanchez, Jung Kim and Cam Matamoros.

The annual deadline for applications is March 1 and complete information is available at www.insideout.ca.

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