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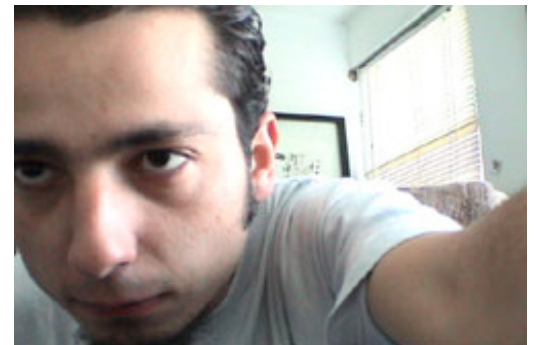
City College New York (CCNY) New York, NY

A Perfect Day at Cityvisions 2004 By Lauren Wissot

While the East Coast spotlight shines on expensive, private film schools a hidden gem lies in the public sector quietly building an international student body that would impress even the most jaded NYU grad. For two days in June, The City College of New York sparked with its annual Cityvisions Film & Video Showcase at the uptown Clearview Cinema where even keynote speaker Sigourney Weaver was taken with the caliber of the film that directly preceded her address. And it's no wonder since it was Bernardo Loyola's *The Perfect Day* -- a 16mm, 12 minute satire detailing one man's struggle to commit a "spectacular suicide" -- that went on to win Best Film (Fiction), Best Screenplay and Best Editing. But for the Mexican director and Fulbright scholar himself it was the enthusiastic audience response that surprised the most.

"Cityvisions was the first time we screened the film for an audience," said Bernardo who received his MFA in Filmmaking the day after the event. "I guess I didn't really know what to expect from the showcase, I didn't know how an international audience would respond to the film. In the end the experience was great. People started laughing from the second line to the last frame. Ornella Jaramillo who produced the film and came from Mexico for the screening and me were completely surprised by the way the jokes, the irony and the dark humor of our film worked with subtitles. It was a great time and I really can't wait to show again on the big screen!"

Which shouldn't take long with Bernardo putting his total prize money of \$1400 towards furthering the cause. "We will use some of the money to distribute the film. By that I mean sending it to festivals, making copies and organizing a screening in Mexico City and Queretaro (my hometown) in Mexico during the summer. Part of the money that we got for Best Screenplay will go to Hector Falcon, a friend of mine who co-wrote the film with me, and if there is anything left we will maybe use it to go to whichever film festivals accept it!" the director enthused.



Director, Bernardo Loyola

► [Read More about *The Perfect Day*](#)