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## Short Film Contest 2010

### The challenge?

**To create a film or video that conveys the importance of preserving the world's moving image heritage.**

Increasingly, our cultures are reflected through moving images – as news, entertainment, and historical artifact. This year AMIA celebrates its 20th anniversary as an association of professionals dedicated to preserving those moving images.

As part of our 20th Anniversary and in celebration of World Day for Audio Visual Heritage, AMIA launched its first short film competition. The challenge? To create a film or video that conveys the importance of preserving the world's moving image heritage.

The winning entries, as voted on by AMIA members, are those that best convey the importance of saving the world's moving image heritage. It's about originality, imagination and the ability to engage the audience and tell a story in 180 seconds or less.

### CONTEST WINNER

#### **HIS FIRST DAY**

Director/Writer: Brian Rose  
Cinematographer: Brian Rose | Music  
by Josh Gumiela

Synopsis: This is the story of a kid who grew up watching "the flickers," who aspires to make movies, and has just landed his dream job on a 1930s studio lot. And on "His First Day" he has to help move dozens of reels of old film. Most would hate such menial labor, but



he's thrilled! Yet he is soon to discover a harsh reality to life in show business, and before the day is out, will have to make a choice with serious consequences.

Inspiration for the Film: "His First Day" was inspired by the stories of dozens of films that would have been lost forever ... were it not for a few individuals who thought they were worth saving. My own work owes a huge debt to the silent cinema, and I shudder to think what that work would be like, and what kind of person I would be, had someone not cared to save films like "The Passion of Joan of Arc" or practically anything by Buster Keaton. That is the ultimate message of my film: that one person's decision to save a single film can have an untold and lasting impact on generations of filmmakers and film lovers. The lesson is that we cannot make the choice for them, deciding which films they shall know, and which films they shall only read about. It is for their sake that every film that can be saved must be saved!

About the Director: Brian Rose, 26, was raised on the classics: Pwell & Pressburger, Chaplin and Hitchcock to name a few. In high school he took a crack at making his own movie, a short animated film about two Rubik's Cubes, and he's been at it ever since. American history has played a role in nearly every film he's made, on subjects ranging from the 60s protest movement in Illinois to the Civil War in Missouri. He continues to develop new projects, while earning his keep as a cinematographer and writer/researcher. "His First Day" marks the second collaboration with sound artist and composer Josh Gumiela, who previously wrote the score for Brian's feature-length documentary James Polk (2009).

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## **RUNNER UP**

### GET THE PICTURE

Director: Susan Kennedy/Jon Steiner

Writer: Jon Steiner

Cinematographer: Jon Steiner

Synopsis: An avant-garde pastiche of behind-the-scenes news production and channel-surfing parody that depicts a world without archival moving images, where producers of news and documentaries must resort to re-enactments to fill their programs.



Inspiration for the film: The brief for the competition inspired us to portray a parallel universe where no moving images have been preserved. We hope to convey how absurd such a world would be.

About the Filmmakers: The film was a collaboration between six staff in the archives at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Our ages range from 25-65. Two of us have extensive stage acting and one has a film degree. We are archives researchers, a record officer and a collection management person.