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Local High School Senior Anjini Taneja Azhar Wins Prestigious Award in IndieFEST Film Awards

Seattle, WA, February 9, 2018 – Anjini Taneja Azhar of Bellevue Big Picture School, has won a prestigious Award of Merit for Best Short Film from the IndieFEST Film Awards. The award was given for Anjini Azhar’s exceptional short film, “Third Option.” The film was originally a project for her year-long internship, but later skyrocketed into a full SAG production and was sent off to festivals. “Third Option” features a fresh, strong cast, driven crew, and an important storyline with a crucial message. In the film, protagonist Ellie K., struggles as she lives, submerged in the dark world of an eating disorder. The message of the film is about more than eating disorder awareness; it is about human vulnerability. The film dives into the vulnerability of the protagonist, a simple, “everyday” high school girl.

“Third Option is a pivotal step in my film career. To me, it means so much more than just a first film. This film was the catalyst to my discovery of who I am becoming as a filmmaker, and the stories I want to tell. It has helped me realize my passion for capturing humanity: who we are as human beings and why. Those are the stories I want to tell. The ones that help us rediscover ourselves as a species.” – *Anjini Taneja Azhar, Director, Writer, Producer*

The IndieFEST Film Awards recognizes film, television, videography and new media professionals who demonstrate exceptional achievement in craft and creativity, and those who produce standout entertainment or contribute to profound social change. Entries are judged by highly qualified professionals in the film and television industry. Information about the IndieFEST and a list of recent winners can be found at www.theindiefest.com.

In winning an IndieFEST Film Award, Anjini Taneja Azhar joins the ranks of other high-profile winners of this internationally respected award including Liam Neeson as the narrator of *Love Thy Nature, A Path Appears* Documentary featuring George Clooney and Blake Lively, *Radical Grace* executive produced by Susan Sarandon, a searing expose *Dauids and Goliath* by Leon Lee, and *Touched with Fire* starring Katie Holmes. Rick Prickett, who chairs The IndieFEST Film Awards, made a statement in regards to this year’s winners, “The IndieFEST is not an easy award to win. Entries are received from around the world from powerhouse companies to remarkable new talent. The IndieFEST helps set the standard for craft and creativity. The judges were pleased with the exceptional high quality of entries. The goal of The IndieFEST Film Awards is to help winners achieve the recognition they deserve.”

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