

Wanted: Young people to watch and critique films



Youth Jury 2016 and BC Pires, mentor and film critic (left to right) Fayola John, Marc Angus Skinner, BC Pires (mentor), Asa Reyes, Christopher Lou-Hing and Alexander Edghil.

Now in its fourth year, the Youth Jury panel at the trinidad + tobago film festival (ttff) offers five young people the chance of lifetime to see great films from all over the world, as well as learn the 'how-to's' of critiquing them and gain exclusive access to some of the Festival's major film events.

According to three members of the 2016 Youth Jury - Marc Angus Skinner, Christopher Lou-Hing and Asa Reyes - the experience was both amazing and transformational.

Nineteen-year-old Skinner described it as "spectacular". *"This [was] my first time sitting on a jury and I enjoyed interacting with people my own age. It was really wonderful to see different personalities interact, watch the same movie and come up with different conclusions..."*

Lou-Hing, now a film student at University of the West Indies (UWI) stated, *"I really didn't know what to expect coming into the jury but it was so much more."* The 20-year-old said, *"being on the jury really helped me with developing that critical eye"*

when watching a film, which I think was a really good stepping stone into university for me”.



was a need for teamwork as I discovered each juror had their own perceptions of the different films.” After serving on the youth Jury in 2016, Reyes returned to school to finish her Bachelor's Degree in Education.

The tff is currently accepting applications for this year's Youth Jury. The Festival is looking for those who love watching movies, have a critical eye and can help select the winning film for this year's Youth Jury Award, which will be presented during the Festival's Award ceremony on September 26. The application deadline has been extended to July 14.

Successful applicants will be mentored by film critic and journalist BC Pires, watch Caribbean and international feature-length fiction films featuring young protagonists. The winning film selected by the Youth Jury will receive an award and cash prize of \$5,000 TT.

To be considered for this year's jury, applicants must be 16 to 21 years old and must submit an essay of no more than 250 words saying what their favourite film is, and why, to submit@tffilmfestival.com