

# Lights, Camera... Oklahoma?

Unfortunately, that's how a lot of people react when you tell them that Oklahoma has a thriving film culture. Last year, when the Oklahoma Film Critics Circle, an organization made up of professional movie reviewers, was formed, entertainment writers from all around the nation responded with the snarky question, "They have movies in Oklahoma?"

Yes, and movie-makers as well. And now, thanks to the Metropolitan Library System's Downtown Library, central Oklahoma is going to have its first contest for teen filmmakers. It's the "I Can't Believe I Shot That!" Teen Film Contest.

"I can't believe we finally got this thing rolling," said Downtown librarian and Teen specialist Kimberly Edwards. "I've been thinking about something like this and trying to put it together for a couple of years, and now here we go."

Kimberly's love of movies goes way back. She presents a series of movies at the Downtown Library on Wednesday evenings and is especially fond of old, cornball horror and science fiction films.

"The cheesier, the better," she laughs. "And don't call them 'old.' Call them 'vintage.'"

The contest is open to teens in grades 7-12. The movies should be originals that tell a story or express a point of view. Music videos are discouraged as they would involve the use of copyrighted songs.

"These movies will be made entirely by teens—written by teens, directed by teens, shot and edited by teens," Kimberly explained. "You may use adults or younger kids as actors, but you don't have to."

A set of the complete contest rules can be obtained at the Downtown Library.

Entries must be turned in at the Downtown Library on or before February 8, 2008. Any of them may be eligible for presentation at the ICBIST Teen Film Festival on March 20, 2008.

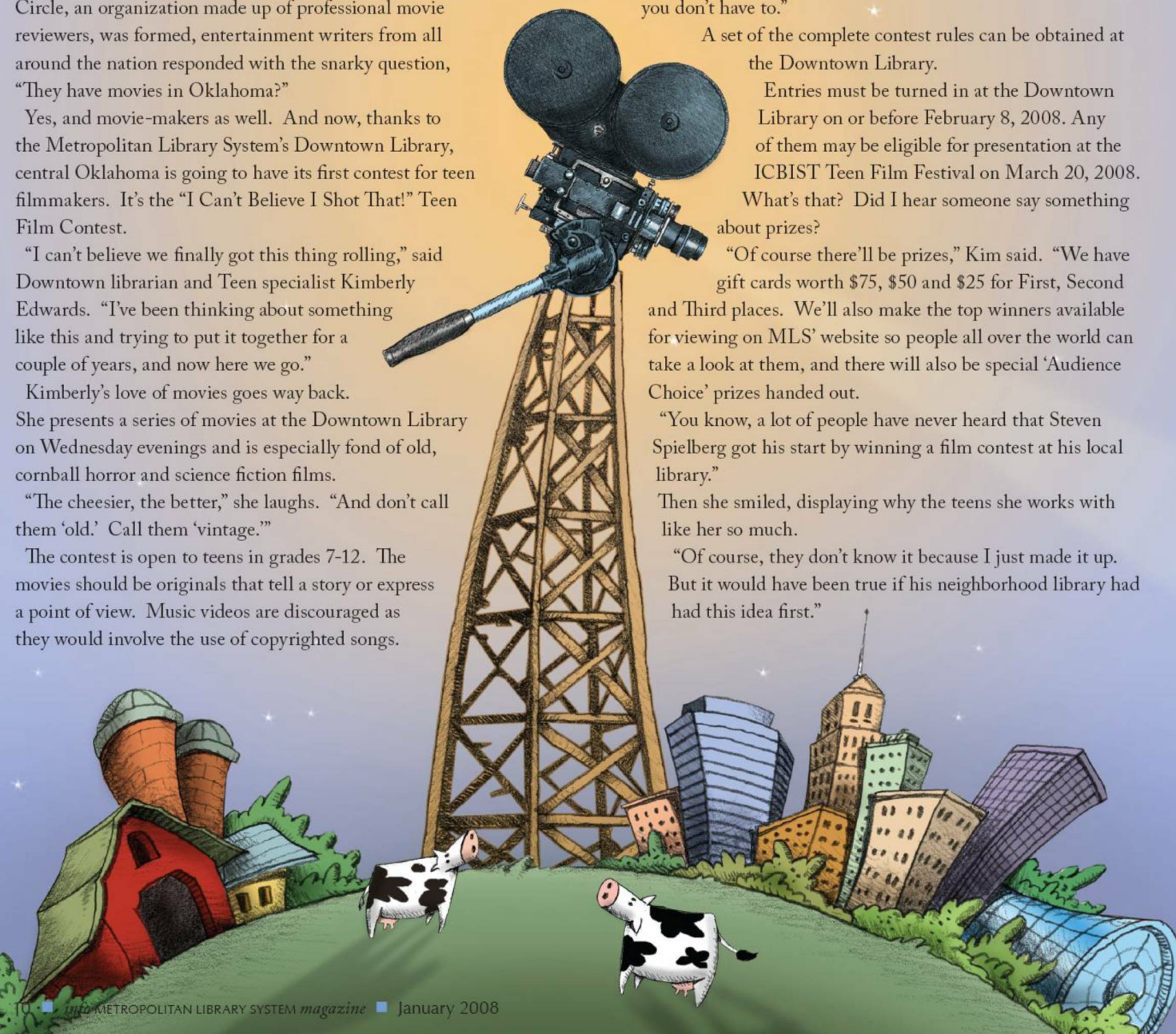
What's that? Did I hear someone say something about prizes?

"Of course there'll be prizes," Kim said. "We have gift cards worth \$75, \$50 and \$25 for First, Second and Third places. We'll also make the top winners available for viewing on MLS' website so people all over the world can take a look at them, and there will also be special 'Audience Choice' prizes handed out."

"You know, a lot of people have never heard that Steven Spielberg got his start by winning a film contest at his local library."

Then she smiled, displaying why the teens she works with like her so much.

"Of course, they don't know it because I just made it up. But it would have been true if his neighborhood library had had this idea first."



# I Can't Believe I Shot That!

## Teen Film Contest

### Guidelines for entries

- \* Contest is open to teens, grades 7-12.
- \* Original ideas preferred (remakes discouraged). Films should tell a story or express a point of view (as in a documentary); music videos are strongly discouraged.
- \* Films must be original creations directed, filmed & edited by teens, grades 7-12 (actors may be of any age).
- \* Entries must be between 5-10 minutes long.
- \* Films should be edited before being submitted.
- \* Entries must be submitted on DVD format.
- \* Entries must include the phrase "Metropolitan Library System" or its logo.
- \* Filmmakers must follow copyright regulations (no use of copyrighted material – including music – unless written permissions have been obtained).
- \* Titles & credits must be included in your film.
- \* Films may be on any topic, but language & subject matter must be "G" or "PG" or will be disqualified. Films will be previewed for content.
- \* All films remain the property of their creators
- \* Each entry submitted must be accompanied by a completed entry form.
- \* Students may submit up to two (2) projects for consideration, but only one project per dvd.
- \* The decision of the judges is final.

**Prizes** [to be given out during the ICBIST Teen Film Festival **March 20, 2008**]

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: \$75 Gift Card
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$50 Gift Card
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$25 Gift Card

The top 3 prize winning films may be viewed on the MLS website.

There will also be special "Audience Choice" prizes given during the ICBIST Teen Film Festival on **March 20, 2008**.

Submit your original film (between 5-10 minutes) and you could win!

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE TURNED IN TO YOUNG ADULT LIBRARIAN KIMBERLY ANN EDWARDS AT THE RJN DOWNTOWN LIBRARY BY **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2008**.

Top entries (along with the winning entries) will be shown at the "I Can't Believe I Shot That" Teen Film Festival on **Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 6pm**.

Items in **Red** are subject to change.

