

for immediate release | May 4, 2011

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ALUMNUS JEFF CHIBA STEARNS RECEIVES 2011 EDITH LANDO PEACE PRIZE

Vancouver, BC | Emily Carr University of Art + Design is pleased to announce that 2001 alumnus Jeff Chiba Stearns has been named the recipient of the 2011 Edith Lando Peace Prize for his feature-length documentary, *One Big Hapa Family*, which tackles issues surrounding identity, race, and family. The juried prize is awarded by the Reel 2 Real International Film Festival, for the film that best utilizes the power of cinema to further the goal of social justice and peace on earth.

"It is a huge honor to receive the 2011 Edith Lando Peace Prize, especially considering that I also took home the award in 2006 for my short animated film, *What Are You Anyways?*," says Jeff Chiba Stearns. "The spirit of this prize coincides perfectly with my own filmmaking philosophy, in which I only create positive films that help inspire creativity, educate thought, and encourage discussion between youth and adults. In both films, I explore topics of multi-ethnic identity, multiculturalism, diversity, and tolerance."

The desire for media exploring topics of multi-ethnic identity has led Stearns to continue making documentaries on the subject. And, it is his hope that these new films will incite dialogue and educate Canadians on these important issues. Stearns cites winning the Edith Lando Peace Prize for motivating him to continue to make films that have the power to make a difference in the world.

"Jeff is that rare filmmaker who is able to bring social issues to life in a way that is entertaining, touching, relatable, and still very personal. This honour is a testament to his creativity, generosity and hard work," says Eva Bouchard, Alumni Relations + Annual Fund Officer.

Stearns' 2005 short animated film, *What Are You Anyways?* (the 2006 Edith Lando Peace Prize winner), became the inspiration for the feature-length documentary, *One Big Hapa Family*.

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