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On the Cover:

(Top) On set of "White Air," Lake Tahoe, CA. Shot on Panasonic VariCam. Photo courtesy of Scott Spears.

(Bottom) On set of Asgard Entertainment's "Tengu." Camera Operator: Meryem Ersoz; AC: Adam Snow.





Publisher's Desk

studentfilmmakers
The # 1 Educational Resource for Film and Video Makers



Welcome to the Special Holiday Edition of *StudentFilmmakers* Magazine. This exciting edition highlights inspiring educational articles ranging from DSLR filmmaking, steadicam, and documentary shooting – to directing, audio, and animation – to guerrilla filmmaking techniques, screenwriting, and film business topics. This great edition features interviews and articles written by directors, cinematographers, and camera operators shooting with various cameras including Panavision film cameras, RED cameras, Canon 7Ds and T2is, Panasonic HVXs and HMC150s, Sony EX3s and HDV A1Es, and the ARRI Alexa.

If you haven't yet signed up, don't forget to register online for our New York City Continuing Education Workshops and Networking Events held at the StudentFilmmakers.com Studio in Manhattan, New York City. Back by popular demand, we have lined up a new series of Cinematography Workshops, Sound Workshops, and HDSLR Filmmaking Workshops for 2011-2012. Our new HDSLR Filmmaking Workshops will highlight new Camera Movement Techniques, new Audio Techniques, and new Jib Operating Techniques. Don't miss our brand new EPIC Workshop and Professional Training seminar led by DP Jon Firestone. Attendees will each have an opportunity to shoot a 3-minute clip each, and take indoor and outdoor test footage with the new EPIC camera. Check out Jon's article on the EPIC in this issue.

Stumped on what to get the special filmmakers your life? Don't despair. Turn straight to the 2011-2012 Holiday Gift Guide which highlights Top 10 Holiday Gift Ideas and Top 10 Holiday Stocking Stuffers for filmmakers and digital storytellers. Celebrate the next back-to-back holidays and *celebrate the filmmakers in your life* who are making a difference in the creative communities and film world by telling and sharing their stories in the form of moving images. Our Top 10's range from gift ideas for the filmmakers in your families, to the filmmakers in your classrooms, to the filmmakers in your crews. And, these are great gift ideas to treat yourself with. Have a super cinematic holiday!

Enjoy this edition.

Truly,
Kim E. Welch
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

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Q&A with **Steadicam Operator** Jerry Franck

The Perfect Balance of Technicality and Creativity

StudentFilmmakers Magazine talks with steadicam operator, Jerry Franck, who recently wrapped his second feature for the year called *April Apocalypse* starring Reece Thompson (*Assassination of a High School President*), Rebekah Brandes (*Midnight Movie*) and George Lopez (*George Lopez*, *Balls of Fury*, *The Spy Next Door*).

***StudentFilmmakers* Magazine: What is an example of a shot that you are most proud of to date?**

Jerry Franck: Being a perfectionist it is not always easy to enjoy your own work as much as your clients do. When we were shooting the new *Social Distortion* music video earlier this year there was a shot that we got on the second day, which I still think is very close to perfection. We were losing daylight and there were still a bunch of shots we needed to get. The scene was the final shootout between the police and the gangsters. While the other camera was shooting inserts, steadicam branched off with the Director and DP to get this arrival shot of the main police officer. The shot consisted of me pushing onto an approaching cop car and then pulling back with the cop coming out of the car and firing at the gangsters. The shot is very energetic as the frame size changes constantly, and then coming to a rock solid lock off at the end when the cop fires his rifle past camera. We rolled the rehearsal and got the shot on the first take. The DP and director were thrilled to move on and get the



On the set of feature film, *April Apocalypse* shot in Sept./Oct. 2011. Jerry Franck works as "A" Camera/Steadicam Operator. Directed by Jarret and Brent Tarnol. DP: Kyle Hartman. RED MX Camera with Ultra Primes lenses. Lead actor Reece Thompson prepares to fight zombies.



On the set of the short film, *One Bad Thing*, starring Devon Graye. Shot on the new Arri Alexa camera with Ultra Primes lenses. Director: Domenic Moen. Cinematographer: Justin Gurnari. Steadicam: Jerry Franck.