

Interview with **Dilarah & Penny Earle** (Winner *Sensory Impaired* category 2007)

What was the day like?

Dilarah: Hi, I'm Dilarah Earle and I won the Young Film Critic of the Year for the sensory impaired category. Oh the ceremony was fantastic. I got to meet lots of inspiring people. They...it gave me an insight to what the film industry was like. What it was like writing for the film industry, instead of just acting or directing and it just really gave me a good boost for saying 'yeah this is what I want to do'

Penny: The day was a blast we got to watch a really great movie and listen to Paul Greengrass, the director, which was just a stunning opportunity for me. Great fun coming down to London and what can I say about parental pride! You know, it was just fantastic. Photos against the wall of fame and yeah it was so exciting and when she won the award we were just blown away.

Has participating in the Young Film Critic competition changed the way you view film?

Dilarah: After winning this award, you know, I'll notice different things and I'll see how the director made this work and how they brought the script to life. I really enjoy film. Going to the cinema is great. You just kind of go in, the lights are down and you sit there and the screen comes on, its huge and you see a storyline that's been put together through camera work, actors. You see how that actor...is that actor portraying that character well. It's really good just to see a story being planned out in front of you, you know, you feel excited or sad or frightened. I can't sit down without going 'oooh' that shot was good or 'oooh' long lens, great! You know 'that position was great' or 'that director is fabulous!' You know, 'I want to see more of his films!'

Do you look at film reviews in magazines/newspapers differently now?

Dilarah: I look at the review and I see if I agree with what he or she has written. Whether that makes me want to go and see the film, whether I agree if I've seen the film already. It's really interesting to see how they word it, you know definite sentences to make you want to go and see it or you know, whether they say its rubbish don't go and see it. I think oh well I can write about that film and compare it in contrast to what they said.

Would you recommend the Young Film Critic competition to others?

Dilarah: I would definitely recommend going and writing up any review, going to the cinema, just sitting down, seeing what you think of the cinematography, how the actors acted, how you felt watching it. Anyone can enter, even I entered and I didn't think I would get through to the final, let alone win my category, that was amazing. Just go for it. What I would recommend for people writing reviews is, you know, pick up a paper if you are on the bus, on the train, on the tram, whatever, pick up the metro, any newspaper, magazines if you like, read the reviews that they write, even the short ones, the long ones, see what works, see how they phrase it and use that as a guide but really write what you think, write how you feel about the film, how it made you feel. Would you recommend it or not.

Penny: I would certainly recommend it. Its quite amazing how Dilarah's view of film has changed and its made me watch films differently. I'm much more aware of how much people can learn through film. Biographical or historical or something like *Last King of Scotland* you know, what average sixteen year old knows about Idi Amin if they haven't gone to see a movie like that. I'd also recommend it because we have a home entertainment system in our house now! (laughs) which I benefit from as well! And its just developed her enquiry skills and her observational skills of how films are put together, and she is working on a whole different level.

How important is visual literacy?

Dilarah: There's so many people that say TV ruins the young minds, they should read. Of course you should read but you should watch as well because it sends out a message through a visual way and for me, as a deaf person, I'm a very very visual person so I like sitting there even if I can't catch every single word when its not subtitled. I can see how their expressions, their actions, the way things are done. Film is a great thing, it can be funny, it can be tear-jurking, it can just do so much. As for writing a review, it brought a whole new awareness to the film itself which was great and it gave me a great new insight and so even if you don't consider yourself to be a film critic, you're just writing what you think of the film and showing it, and sharing your opinion with others.