

# **Coca-Cola**

## **“Environmental Champions”**

### **Film Documentary**

#### ***Student Filmmaker Biographies***

*Student filmmakers from seven countries created vignettes profiling the personal stories and environmental achievements of seven “environmental champions” selected by Coca-Cola as torchbearers for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay. The students’ collaborative documentary film, “Environmental Champions,” premieres August 13, 2008, at the Coca-Cola “Shuang Experience Center,” within the Olympic Green complex of sports venues in Beijing.*

*Biographies of the student filmmakers begin on the next page.*

*The “Environmental Champions” film documentary was produced by The Coca-Cola Company in partnership with the Film & Video office in the Department of Communication at Georgia State University, in Atlanta, Georgia. The global project was coordinated around the world by KEF Media, of Atlanta.*

*Scheduled to attend the world premiere August 13 (8:30 p.m.) are featured environmental champion torchbearers Nikolay Drozdov, Liu Hong-Liang and Doug Stoup, along with project faculty advisor Dr. Niklas Vollmer and the film student team from Georgia State University that handled final production of the documentary.*

*Media can register to attend the film documentary world premiere by sending e-mail requests to [tcccolympics@mslpr.com](mailto:tcccolympics@mslpr.com). Seating is limited.*

*More information at:*

*[http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/presscenter/presskit\\_olympicgames2008\\_env\\_documentary.html](http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/presscenter/presskit_olympicgames2008_env_documentary.html)*

## The Student Filmmakers

### Australia

*Producers of film profile of environmental champion Alby Wooler, from Australia.*

**CLARE ELLIS** – University of Canberra student Clare Ellis has a passion for professional filmmaking and aspires to become a film editor or first assistant director. In 2003, Ellis created a short documentary about her father’s business, which helped his firm win a government grant. She says this achievement, as well as her experiences with the “Environmental Champions” documentary, have confirmed her desire to work in the film industry after graduation. Age 25.

**MICHELLE FIELDING** – Michelle Fielding is a student at the University of Canberra recognized for her involvement in various aspects of theater production. In 2007, she received two University of Canberra Blues and Leadership awards for writing, producing and acting in “Solo en Londres,” a theater production at the university. After she graduates, Fielding plans to work overseas as a foreign correspondent. Age 20.

**BEN HURTH-GYE** – Australia native Ben Hurth-Gye is a student at the University of Canberra. He is a recipient of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, which honors adolescents who challenge themselves to perfect their talents, volunteer their time and keep physically active. He also mentored children at a sustainability environmental conference held in Canberra. After college, Hurth-Gye plans to follow his passion for film as a documentary producer, but he has not ruled out the idea of becoming a pediatrician. Age 22.

**MICHAEL O’ROURKE** – University of Canberra student Michael O’Rourke studies communications and media and also has worked the past six years as an editor and sound operator with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. O’Rourke took courses at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, which has helped develop his skills as a camera operator and director of photography. He was the director of photography for several short films and has received awards for his cinematography. He aspires to become a director of photography for major motion pictures or music videos. Age 21.

## China

*Producer of film profile of environmental champion Liu Hong-Liang, from China.*

**QIAOQIAO LI** – Qiaoqiao Li is a student at Beijing's Communication University of China, the alma mater of several prominent Chinese television journalists. Li participated in the Elite Course of Research News, which was designed by the university in partnership with CBS. She was also responsible for finishing an advertisement for the LePu Medical Equipment Company. Li was born in east-central China, in the province of HuBei, and aspires to become a movie producer. Age 23.

## Pakistan

*Producers of film profile of environmental champion Yasmin Rashid, from Pakistan.*

**HASSAAN ASHRAF** – Hassaan Ashraf is a student in the Film and Television Department at the National College of Arts Lahore, in Pakistan. Originally from Lahore, his goals include work on documentaries and music videos. Age 21.

**MUHAMMED ALI IJAZ** – Muhammed Ali Ijaz is a student at the National College of Arts in his hometown of Lahore, Pakistan. He was the recipient of the 2007 IBDA'A Media Student Award for Best TV Documentary for his project, "Freedom for Money." His winning documentary – selected from more than 2,000 international student entries – showed the struggles birds may face when they are captured from their natural environments. Ijaz also submitted the best youth documentary film at the 2006 Vaasa Wild Life Farm Festival in Finland. After he graduates, he wants to become a natural history documentary filmmaker, starting with a series about rare animal species in Pakistan. Age 24.

**KHIZER IDREES** – National College of Arts Lahore student filmmaker Khizer Idrees, from Islamabad, Pakistan, has directed several films, the majority of which are in the field of music videos and fiction. He says he would love to continue directing films after he graduates. Age 22.

**AMNA MUMTAZ SUBZWARI** – Student filmmaker Amna Mumtaz Subzwari studies at the National College of Arts in Pakistan and has a passion for creating awareness of societal issues that often go unnoticed. During her first year at the university, Subzwari scripted and directed a documentary about a traditional Pakistani breakfast meal that was quickly losing popularity. The film, "Daas Kulcha," received special mention at the Karachi Film Festival in 2006. Subzwari also created a documentary that won Best Film at the Zambeel Film Festival. Originally from Lahore, she wants to use her talents to create awareness of environment-related issues in the near future. Age 23.

## Russia

*Producers of film profile of environmental champion Nikolay Drozdov, from Russia.*

**VLADIMIR ARTEMOV** – Vladimir Artemov graduated from the Russian State Institute of Cinematography, with an emphasis in film photography. He served as director of photography for the Russian vignette about Nikolay Drozdov in the Coca-Cola “Environmental Champions” documentary. Age 28.

**VLADIMIR AUGUSTINOVSKIY** – Composer for the Russian portion of the Coca-Cola “Environmental Champions” documentary, Vladimir Augustinovskiy is a five-year student of the New Moscow Film Institute. Age 23.

**EUGENIY CIBULIN** – Moscow State University student Eugeny Cibulin played the part of the “logger” in the Russian vignette featuring “Environmental Champions” torchbearer Nikolay Drozdov. Age 22.

**DENNIS DIBA** – Dennis Diba is a professor at the Russian Academy of Theatre Arts who has choreographed several famous ballets. He is featured as the “creative forces dancer” in the Russian vignette from the Coca-Cola “Environmental Champions” documentary.

**TATIANA DONSKAYA** – Production director Tatiana Donskaya is a student at the Russian State Institution of Cinematography. She also serves as the chief executive officer of an experimental television show called “Fighter.” Age 28.

**ANDREY JAKUNIN** – New Moscow Film Institute student and aspiring actor Andrey Jakunin played the role of a young torchbearer in the Russian vignette from the Coca-Cola “Environmental Champions” documentary. Age 19.

**EUGENIY REZANOV** – Eugeny Rezanov for three years has attended the New Moscow Film Institute, where he focuses on acting technique. His role in the Coca-Cola “Environmental Champions” documentary included acting in the vignette about Russian torchbearer Nikolay Drozdov. Age 19.

**OLGA SAFONOVA** – Olga Safonova acted in the Russian vignette of the “Environmental Champions” documentary and is a second-year student at the Shepkine Theatre School in Moscow. Age 19.

**ANATOLIY SMIRNOV** – New Moscow Film Institute student Anatoliy Smirnov served as the director, editor and camera operator for the Russian vignette in the Coca-Cola “Environmental Champions” documentary. Age 22.

**MARIA SUSOVA** – Film manager and associate director Maria Susova is a student at Moscow State University. Age 21.

## Tanzania

*Producer of film profile of environmental champion Anna Tibaijuka, from Tanzania.*

**ESTHER NJERI KIHANG'AH** – Esther Njeri Kihang'ah, a graduate of Kenya's Daystar University, aspires to own a multimedia company and produce films that share the successes of the African people with the global community. Before graduating with a degree in communication and a specialization in electronic media, Kihang'ah was very involved with 103.1 Shine FM, Daystar University's student radio station. She was the producer for all evening shows and the anchor for a three-hour relationship show, for which she was named the station's Most Promising Presenter in 2006. Kihang'ah also gained journalism experience as a reporter for *The Involvement*, Daystar's student newspaper. She received the Daystar University Yakuti Award for Best Media Personality and a 2008 Creativity Award, as well as Daystar's Best Original Music Composition Award in 2005.

## Turkey

*Producers of film profile of environmental champion Filiz Demirayak, from Turkey.*

**EMIR ARKMAN** – Emir Arkman attends Bahcesehir University in his hometown of Istanbul, Turkey. He is a member of the Visual Communication Design Department and is on a full scholarship. Arkman also works as a motion designer for an advertising agency and designs new media products. His goals include involvement in project creative direction and working with a creatively driven team. Age 22.

**ASLIHAN CETIN** – Aslihan Cetin was awarded a full scholarship to attend Istanbul's Bahcesehir University. He also works as a directing assistant for international film projects and has served on co-productions with film crews from India. Cetin plans to continue working on international film projects and hopes the experiences will help him become a more-qualified associate director. Age 23.

**OKAN ÜLKÜSAL** – Okan Ülküsal received a scholarship to attend Bahcesehir University and is currently studying in the school's Film and Television Department. He hopes to become a screenwriter or director's assistant for commercial films. Age 21.

**DAMLA YOLAC** – Damla Yolac attends Bahcesehir University in Istanbul, where she is a student in the Film and Television Department. Yolac also works as an assistant director on television commercials. She hopes to become a film director. Age 22.

## United States

### *Producers of film profile of environmental champion Douglas Stoup, from the United States.*

**PHOEBE BROWN** – Georgia State University graduate student Phoebe Brown says filmmaking has always been her lifelong dream and she wants to make media that matters. In 2007, Brown created “99 to 1: Ovarian Cancer and Me,” a documentary based on her own diagnosis of ovarian cancer in 2005. The documentary was screened throughout the United States, at venues such as the 2008 Atlanta Film Festival and the 2008 Reel Women Film Festival in Los Angeles. Brown also taught refugee teenagers the basics of video production and documentary concepts, which resulted in the creation of two documentaries about their lives. Atlanta screenings of the films raised \$200 in donations for the International Refugee Center After-School program. Brown grew up in Wellfleet, Massachusetts, and graduated summa cum laude in 2004 from Georgia State University, with a degree in film and video studies. She also received the 2008 Chandler Graduate Scholarship Award from the Georgia State University Ernest G. Welch School of Art. Age 30.

**SHANNA GILDERSLEEVE** – Georgia State University master’s degree candidate Shanna Gildersleeve aspires to become a film producer or editor. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Gildersleeve graduated from Florida State University with a bachelor’s degree in mass media studies and a focus on broadcast journalism. She was a semifinalist in the Student Key Art Awards in 2007 and is a recipient of the Women in Film scholarship. Gildersleeve also co-produced and edited the documentary, “Circle of Hope,” which screened at the 2007 American Psychological Association conference in San Francisco. She has also gained experience as a television reporter, radio announcer, film producer and videographer. Age 25.

**MICAH STANSELL** – Micah Stansell, a student at Georgia State University, has directed several award-winning films, music videos and live music performances. At Campus Movie Fest, the world’s largest student film festival, Stansell won numerous awards, including two National Finalist titles. He was the National Finalist for the Student Academy Awards and placed in the Top 10 at the Paste Rock ‘N’ Roll Film Festival in 2006. Stansell, who is originally from College Park, Georgia, also won second place in the audience voting category for short films at the 2008 Atlanta Film Festival. Age 29.

## **Project Faculty Advisor – “Environmental Champions” Documentary**

**NIKLAS SVEN VOLLMER** – Interdisciplinary artist Dr. Niklas Sven Vollmer teaches film and video production at Georgia State University and serves on the board for the University Film and Video Association. He received the award for Best Sports Documentary and Original Vision at the International Documentary Challenge, as well as Best Short from the United States Super 8 Film and Digital Video Festival. Vollmer also has been nominated for a Rockefeller Multimedia/Film/Video Fellowship. His work has screened in the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia, in venues such as the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art and the California Museum of Photography. Vollmer was honored for submitting the winning documentary at the Southern Fried Film Festival and the second place documentary at the Savannah International Film Festival. Originally from Yarmouth, Maine, Vollmer received an MFA in Visual Art from the University of California at San Diego and has worked as an editor for San Diego’s primary public television station. Age 42.

###