

From page to screen: Lopez HS senior filming winning script project, pushing teen agenda



LIZA LONGORIA/The Brownsville Herald

Caroline Boon, a Lopez High School student, listens to audio during the filming of her script "Me Myself and I" at the Brownsville Country Club Monday March 5, 2007. A film crew is in town filming Boon's script into a movie.

By [Henry A. Gutierrez](#)

March 6, 2007 - 12:03AM

If there's a bug that bites creative types, Lopez High School's Caroline Boon shows all the marks of being stung.

The senior student is working to bring her work from page to screen as the winner of this year's Scenarios USA regional competition.

Scenarios USA is a nonprofit dedicated to inspiring teens to express themselves through film. Aspiring filmmakers ages 12 to 22 have the opportunity to compete in the "What's the REAL DEAL?" writing contest. Contestants from Laredo to Brownsville competed with Boon for the chance to partner with professional filmmakers and crews to develop their project.

"Our films focus on HIV/AIDS, teen pregnancy, sexuality, fatherhood, (and) a lot of issues," said Brenda Nieborsky, associate director and producer for Scenarios USA. "(They're) all issues that are relevant to teens because they're written by teens."

Boon isn't new to the Scenarios USA family. During a recent competition she was the first runner up, and worked on the winning project.

"I was in my freshman year, I took a theater class, and my teacher told me about Scenarios USA," she said of how she was introduced to the contest. "At first, it was just an assignment I did, but my teacher was like 'Turn it in, turn it in,' and I did," she said. "And on the very last day, I was the last person in the post office, and I did it, and I got first runner up."

The reluctant class assignment turned into a life-changing experience and the start of a career in the arts.

"I want to direct. But I want to direct theater," Boon said. She's got nothing against film, she said, but has long been in love with the stage.

Boon wrote this year's winning script as a junior. Together with cast, crew and director Eva Vives (Raising Victor Vargas) have been filming throughout the city.

“Making Raising Victor Vargas for two years, I got to live in the world of New York City teenagers,” Vives said in a prepared statement. “Five years later, working with teens in South Texas makes me realize that these issues are ones that all teens face, no matter where they live and what their backgrounds are like.”

Boon’s film, “Me, Myself and I,” will feature scenes from the Brownsville Events Center and Lopez High School.

The lead roles are played by actors from McAllen, Alamo and Brownsville. Lopez students and teachers were cast as extras. Boon and a younger brother make cameo appearances.

This year’s Scenarios assignment asked writers to compose a script about romance and relationships.

“Me, Myself and I” is a “coming of age story” set in the Rio Grande Valley.

“This film is about a teenage girl who has a boyfriend and is making decisions that she isn’t necessarily comfortable with or she’s not necessarily sure that she’s ready to make,” Nieborsky said.

“And at the end of the film she’s kinda revolved where she knows she’s making unhealthy decisions for herself, and wants to change that.”

Boon said the film is based on what she has observed among her peers, issues that “I don’t like and think should be addressed,” she said.

“And I was thinking,” she added, “about how many girls are getting pregnant, people starting younger and younger, and also treating sex like it’s nothing, doing things just because, or just because everyone else is doing it.”

The film will debut later this year and will also be distributed to high schools and community groups nationwide, streamed on the Internet and on television, according to information from Scenarios USA. As a Scenarios USA spokeswoman, Boon will continue working to create awareness on issues that affect young people.