
Posted on Sun, Jan. 21, 2007

Student script draws pro film crew to school

BY DAVID SMILEY
dsmiley@MiamiHerald.com

The halls of MAST Academy became backdrops and its students extras last week when a professional film crew shot scenes for a short film written by senior Whitney Peters.

Peters, 18, won a contest by nonprofit Scenarios USA, which teaches teens about issues such as sex, pregnancy and AIDS through filmmaking.

The 15-minute production, based on Peters script *Inevitable*, focuses on race, class and homosexuality as two high school girls -- one black, one white -- become attracted to each other. The film will debut with three others in New York in May, and will be shown in high schools around the country and on Showtime, said Maura Minsky, co-founder of Scenarios.

Peters wrote the script for her Television Production Class midterm. Teacher Meghan Hauptli had her students submit entries into Scenarios USA's film contest.

Peters, who will travel to the premiere and, along with director Jesse Peretz, hold a Q&A session with the audience, said she's relishing the opportunity.

"I think it's really exciting. I can't wait," Peters said.

The stars and extras in the film are played by Miami-Dade Schools students, Minsky said.

The two main characters, Haley and Veronica, are played by Tashelle Whyte from North Miami Beach Senior High and Rebecca Borbe from Miami Killian Senior High.