



## **Saint Viator Senior Selected for Filmmaking Competition**

February 24, 2011



Torey Lenart, stage manager and light designer for Saint Viator's annual musical, is calling the cues at the recent show, "Fiddler on the Roof."

Around the theater department at Saint Viator High School, students take their cues from senior Torey Lenart of Inverness as the production manager for the school's fine arts performances.

Earlier this month, Lenart brought her know how to a bigger platform: the Sprite Refreshing Films contest, where a bid for a spot in the Los Angeles Film Festival in June is at stake.

"It was huge," Lenart said. "Everything we did was on a much grander scale than anything I've done before."

Lenart was one of 10 teens chosen for a week of filming in Chicago where they had six days to cast, shoot and edit a short film. On April 1, their documentary will face off against a film made by New York teens, with the winner decided by a public vote

cast by text messaging and the recommendation of a panel of industry professionals.

Their 10-minute film, "Swift Justice," features recording artist Alexis Jordan as a comic book writer who dreams of becoming a super hero. Consequently, the film flashes back between her real life and the one she creates in the comic book.

Beginning April 1, a trailer from Lenart's film and its New York counterpart will be shown in 22,000 movie theaters nationwide.

The competition is sponsored by the Chicago-based Dreaming Tree Films, whose mission is to immerse teens in real-life filmmaking experiences that provide them with career insight to help them grow as artists and individuals.

Lenart's documentary was filmed the same week as five other shorts produced by teen film crews in New York, Atlanta, Miami, Dallas and Los Angeles. The winner as determined by public voting will earn a spot at the Los Angeles Film Festival in June.

"That's the goal," Lenart adds, "to walk the red carpet."

Lenart uses a sophisticated Canon GL 2 camcorder; she started with a much easier point and shoot, she says. What's more, she dates her interest in filmmaking to watching the feature film, "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest."

The DVD version includes a special feature that gave young filmmakers an inside look at filming the sequel, from writing the script and casting, to filming and going through post-production.

"That was it, I was hooked," Lenart says. "I knew I wanted to make filmmaking my career."

At Saint Viator, she says she tried to absorb all the production aspects of live stage performances, including running the lighting and sound boards.

"I wanted to gain as much insight as I could," Lenart says.

Saint Viator Principal Eileen Manno agreed to let Lenart miss a week of school for the filmmaking competition believing that the on-location experience of making a film on deadline will involve many educational benefits outside the classroom.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity,” Manno says, “that she has earned through all of her hard work.”

Lenart hopes to follow up her February filmmaking experience in college. She has been accepted to the film school at the University of Central Florida.