

# NBC Universal's Comedy Short Cuts Diversity Film Festival

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Burbank, CA – NBC Universal's first annual Comedy Short Cuts Diversity Film Festival announced its winning filmmakers at the Los Angeles finalist screening Wednesday, September 20 with the \$25,000 grand prize to produce a pilot presentation for NBC Universal Digital Media and pitch meeting with creative executives Rogue Pictures, Focus Features, and Universal Pictures awarded to the filmmakers of *Equal Opportunity*.

Comedy Short Cuts Film Festival is just one of many live events that NBC's Talent Diversity Initiative produces to encourage diversity both in front of and behind the camera. This festival was also a celebration of the recent launch of [www.diversecitynbc.com](http://www.diversecitynbc.com), the online community that serves as a hub for diversity across all aspects of the entertainment industry spearheaded by **Damona Resnick**, Director Talent Diversity Initiatives for NBC Universal. Comedy Short Cuts and the DiverseCity launch events were produced in association Kevin Seldon and Keldof Productions. Keldof ([www.keldof.com](http://www.keldof.com)) is a specialty-branding firm that creates and executes a wide array of marketing initiatives and partnerships for its clientele. Comedy Short Cuts was created by New York Comedian Wil Sylvince (comedian, *Comic View*, *Def Comedy Jam*, and a writer for **Damon Wayans'** *The Underground* for Showtime).

"Comedy Short Cuts was a particularly exciting endeavor for us as it integrated the many facets of our diversity efforts by seeking out projects with diverse production team, casts, or theme. We have brought our diversity initiatives to the next level with this event," said Resnick.

*Equal Opportunity* was presented with the "Best Film" award by **D.L. Hughley**, star of NBC's new show *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip*. The team behind the film, **Camille Mana** (producer), **Sameer Asad Gardezi** (writer), and **Howard Duy Vu** (director) were awarded a \$25,000 grant to produce a pilot presentation for NBC Universal Digital Media and pitch meetings with Universal Pictures, Focus Features, and Rogue Pictures.

In addition to the Best Film category, which was decided by a panel of top NBC development executives, honors were awarded for Most Creative and Best Character by a panel of judges comprised of **Eddie Steeples** *My Name is Earl*, **Leslie David Baker** *The Office*, **Jon Hurwitz**, co-writer *Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle* and **Stephanie Allain**, producer *Hustle & Flow* and *Focus Features'* *Something New*. Both categories were awarded to the video titled *Virus* by filmmaker **Laura Hayes**. A complete list of prizes and additional information on the festival is available on