



High School Student from Rye Makes Film to Raise Mental Health Awareness

Francesca Murdoch, 16, won ‘Young Filmmaker Competition’ for her movie ‘Intervention’

by Ariana Lubelli

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She may only be in high school, but one teen is already making her mark as a filmmaker.

The film starts at the historic Milton Cemetery in Rye. The main character stands over the grave of her young boyfriend who committed suicide.

Francesca Murdoch, just 12-years-old at the time, was the writer and director of the short film “Intervention”

“I think we wanted to put emphasis on what happens when there is no intervention, when no one sees what’s going on and when no one steps

in to help,” Francesca says, who wanted to raise awareness about teen mental illness and suicide.

“It’s about the relationship between a young girl and a boy who’s dealing with domestic violence and with isolation and depression. Sort of follows the relationship from it’s beginning to its ending. At the end of the film, James takes his own life,” Francesca says.

Fast forward to last year, at the age of 16, Murdoch won the “Young Filmmaker Competition” at New York City’s Mental Health Film Festival. She wants her story of young success to inspire other teens to apply.

“I think it’s really important for young filmmakers to submit there because I know it’s easy when you’re younger to feel like you don’t have

a voice or to feel like you’re too young to make a difference,” Francesca says

The nonprofit, Community Access, is accepting films submissions for their ‘Changing Minds Young Filmmaker Competition.’ The winner’s film will be screened in Manhattan at the NYC Mental Health Film Festival like Francesca’s was.

