



The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

NGC Shooting Stars Secondary Schools Film Competition

July 3rd, 2019

Sponsor's Remarks by Myles Lewis | Head, Corporate Social Responsibility

SALUTATIONS

Dr. Bruce Paddington - Founder, TTFF

Ms. Melvina Hazard - Project Coordinator, NGC Shooting Stars

Mentors and teachers representing the participating schools: Holy Faith Convent Penal, San Juan North Secondary, Couva East Secondary and Signal Hill Tobago

Students

Members of the media

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning.

I thank you for the opportunity to share some words on behalf of NGC at this prize giving ceremony for the NGC Shooting Stars Secondary Schools Film competition.

Film has been a staple of entertainment in Trinidad and Tobago and around the world since the early twentieth century.

Going to the movies was and still is, the outing of choice for many people in their free time because there is no escape from daily routine quite like the immersion in stories on the big screen. It is precisely this universal appeal that makes film such an effective medium for communication and education and gives filmmakers power and influence.

Filmmakers can potentially reach more captive audiences than other storytellers. The stories they tell, the messages they convey, often travel

further. For this reason, that is the comparative advantage that films have over other communication media. It is almost a *responsibility* of filmmakers to use their movies to share ideas and messages that need to be heard.

Today, issues such as substance use and abuse, self-harm, school violence, bullying and discrimination and mental health, need more ventilation in media because these are challenges that urge attention and action, especially among the youth of the nation. This is one of the reasons why NGC was happy to support the ttff's 'Shooting Stars' competition.

Over the past few months, students were not only mentored in the art of film-scripting, production and editing, but they were exposed to the various social issues facing the youth of our nation, issues that needed to be ventilated and translated to the screen. I for one am so excited to see how our young film students have interpreted them. I am optimistic that their fresh perspectives will give impetus to discussions around the respective issues and move them past talk to action.

Equally important for us at NGC, is the role that this competition has played in shaping the future of the local film industry through the active involvement of our young people in every stage of the process of *local film production*. This will have undoubtedly sparked greater interest in the industry and impassioned our youth to give voice to their stories - stories that are ours at the end of the day.

Supporting this competition has allowed NGC to fulfil many of our CSR objectives, including youth empowerment; youth education and training; and support of culture and the arts. Our focus on youth not only helps channel their youthful energy to positive purpose, but also exposes them to alternative employment opportunities.

As we announce the results today, I wish to congratulate all the participants in the 'Shooting Stars' competition, students and teachers alike. Your hard work is evidenced by the quality of each film. You ALL performed exceptionally and are indeed STARS. Take from this experience everything you can. Even if your career in filmmaking stops here, the ability to tell a

story effectively is a valuable skill in any profession that demands communication.

I also thank the ttff for its continued work in service of the arts and culture of Trinidad and Tobago. The local industry is growing thanks in great measure to your efforts and NGC continues to stand in support of your initiatives.

As I conclude, allow me to leave our young filmmakers with this exhortation from a man named Robert Bresson. Use your films to make visible what, without you, might perhaps never have been seen.

Thank you all.