

# The Dark Green Books Short Film and Video Competition 2012 *Results*

## Winners

**Winner – First Place:** *Passive Tense* by **Erin Gaddi** from the US  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6aKXddSQVI&feature=plcp>

Erin Gaddi writes, "I am a junior business management major at Canisius College located in Buffalo, NY. I was born and raised here in Buffalo. I began filmmaking in my senior year of high school and followed my dream through college. What drew me into filmmaking was my senior year film class. It changed the way I saw films. Movies like *Chinatown*, *Casablanca*, *In Bruges*, and *Apocalypse Now* sparked a fire inside. From the composition to lighting to pace to all of the million little things that create the mood of a scene, I wanted to do it."

The judges saw this work as a beautiful visualization of Luke Andreski's poem *Passive Tense*, effectively dramatizing the themes dealing with the mysteries of love. They felt that the ultra-widescreen image was attractive, with a good use of music to enhance the words of the poetry and the images on the screen.

A fine piece of film making well deserving of its winning position.

**Winner – Second Place:** *Orphan* by **Carolina Villarreal** from Mexico  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QsM298fMhs>

Carolina Villarreal writes, "The concept behind my *Orphan* video is the result of the combination of three ideas from the poem by Luke Andreski. To start at the beginning, at Luke Andreski's website, where I tried to find the "ideal" passage that I could use for the film. With all honesty I can say that "Orphan" was not the poem that I wanted to use for my work because it didn't grab my attention at the beginning and I believed that it was going to be complicated to use.

"After reading all the poems I was not able to choose an alternative and for that reason I looked back at the *Orphan* poem – and that was the moment when I became captivated – trying to analyze all the poem line by line, looking for an emotion or an image that I could use to reflect the words. I even tried to visualize who was narrating the story: a child? an adult? what was the biggest wish of a happy family? After that the ideas started to appear in my mind and I became excited by

the possibilities that this poem had. And because of this I made a list based on the emotions that the poem transmitted, and the "hidden" meaning in each line.

“My conclusion was that the wish of the orphan was to have a happy family, to live with his parents, because we all in the end have that desire with our own families. After that what I needed to do was to summaries all the ideas and images in my mind to transmit the message. Because of all the possibilities it became almost impossible to work properly. My solution to that problem was to take a break.

“The next day when I was on my way to College I was very calm and listening to music without thinking about the meaning of the song. And in that moment the idea came to me: Why not try to show a man remembering the best moments of his life? Why not use photos to show all his life? All that I needed to do was to show all his life and show how he got his "perfect" life... but at the end all those images are shattered by another image of a lonely boy with a completely shallow album, with no "real" memory.

“To summarize, it was a very beautiful personal experience to try to make a connection between the people that were going to watch the video and the ‘being’ in the video.”

The judges felt that this was a powerful, insightful dramatization of the themes of Luke Andreski’s poem *Orphan*, especially notable for using the visuals with only music and sound effects but no narration or on-screen titles with the words of the poem. The first-person imagery was seen as especially effective. They liked the rough cutting feel and handheld effects.

An excellent selection for second place in the 2012 competition.

**Winner – Third Place (Tie):** *Passive Tense* by **CityVarsity** from Cape Town, SA  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyGpKKO4m5o&feature=plcp>



Cape Town’s CityVarsity write, “Our 1st Year animation students (diploma class of 2012) combined as a group to create a mixed media cut out sequence for The Dark Green Books Short Film and Video Competition 2012. The students were split into six groups and each group was tasked to interpret and then animate a passage from

Luke Andreski's poem "Passive Tense". We felt with such a powerful poem containing such a variety of emotions and potential visual tones that an organic form of motion graphics would work well. The process of cut out animation is a traditional one which truly allows the student to have a very connected feel with the text. We are very grateful to Dark Green Books for this competition and for the encouragement and support of the author." (See Author's Choice, below.)

The judges considered the cut-out animation of the poem's words and various appropriate shapes to be well made and clever, getting ever better as the film progressed. One judge said he loved the fish hook and the heart-shaped sweet towards the end of the film.

A resonant combination of images and words – well deserving of third place against strong competition.

**Winner – Third Place (Tie):** Orphan by **Andrew Siecienski** from the US  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aA006X1tdyc>

Andrew Siecienski writes, "I first became interested in film production while attending a digital video editing class in my freshman year of high school several years ago. I began producing videos for clients a few years back and have only recently begun to participate in competitions. I am in college now for Communications and Multimedia and I plan to continue my pursuits not only in film but in music production as well."

The judges viewed Andrew Siecienski's film as a touching visualization of the sad poem *Orphan*. They found the imagery lovely, with an effective switch from black-and-white to colour, and the use of music intensifying the emotion of the words and images. Luke Andreski also says, 'I would like to mention an utterly stunning shot in the graveyard scene halfway through Andrew Siecienski's film, beautifully framed by autumnal-coloured trees'.

A very beautiful, evocative and deserving winner.

**Author's Choice:** Passive Tense by CityVarsity  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyGpKKO4m5o&feature=plcp>

Luke Andreski writes, 'When I first saw CityVarsity's Passive Tense I was knocked out by the thought of these brilliant students pooling their talents to create this video!'

**Special Mention:** Touch Me by Gregory Metcalfe from Bristol, UK  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D69vnSWE4ds&feature=plcp>

The judges viewed Gregory Metcalfe's film as compact, original and well made. They describe it as a well-paced and crafted video which matched the words and sound effectively. They liked the device of the constant human figure and face at the centre of the video and felt that the end graphics were excellent.

## The Prizes

**Passive Tense** by **Erin Gaddi** won \$700 plus seven free downloads from [www.lukeandreski.com](http://www.lukeandreski.com)

**Orphan** by **Carolina Villarreal** won \$200 (US) plus three free downloads from [www.lukeandreski.com](http://www.lukeandreski.com)

**Orphan** by **Andrew Siecienski** won \$100 (US) plus two free downloads from [www.lukeandreski.com](http://www.lukeandreski.com)

**Passive Tense** by **CityVarsity** won \$100 (US) plus two free downloads from [www.lukeandreski.com](http://www.lukeandreski.com)

## The Judges

### Christopher P. Jacobs

Christopher Jacobs is a film instructor and filmmaker based in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Since 1995 he has taught one or more sections of *Intro to Film* at the University of North Dakota, and occasional other film-related courses such as *Creative Movie Production* and the *UND Summer Movie Camp*. He is also the Movies Editor for the **High Plains Reader**. Christopher Jacobs has been a film buff and collector since his junior high school days, with a particular interest in the silent cinema. The lure of film history eventually took precedence over an equal interest in filmmaking, although he has made several short films on 8mm and 16mm, and several feature-length movies on video (both analog and digital). He earned a Master's Degree in Film and Dramatic Production Criticism from the University of North Dakota. He has taught a Creative Writing class focusing on screenwriting and currently teaches an Art of Moviemaking course covering screenwriting and production techniques.

### Timothy Eastop

Tim Eastop, formerly Acting Director of Visual Arts for Arts Council England, specialises in artists' research, commissions, and organisational development. His most recent clients include Calvert 22 Foundation, Institute of Contemporary Art, Cultural Leadership Programme, National Trust, Royal Society of the Arts, University of Arts London and the University for the Creative Arts. He is also co-Director for two initiatives: Difference Exchange, a partnership of associates working across disciplines placing critical artistic practice in disruptive contexts; and The Collective, a scheme providing professional advice on how to build art collections in groups.

Tim has worked with national and international institutes: Ashmolean; Arts Council of Wales; A Foundation; British Council; British Antarctic Survey; Contemporary Arts Society; Courtauld; King's College; Rijksakademie; Pistoletto Foundation; Tate; Triangle Trust; and Visiting Arts.

## Source Material

The poems on which these films are based can be found in Luke Andreski's collection **Being Left Behind**, available from [www.lukeandreski.com](http://www.lukeandreski.com) or Amazon.

## Short Film and Video Competition 2013

If you have students, colleagues, family or friends with a talent for film production, please tell them about the Dark Green Books Short Film and Video Competition 2013!

The competition is easy to access, open to submissions from anywhere in the world and free to enter.

Submissions from schools, colleges and universities are welcome, as are multiple submissions.

To view last year's winning entries take a look at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6aKXddSQVI&feature=plcp> (from the US)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QsM298fMhs> (from Mexico)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyGpKKO4m5o&feature=plcp> (from Cape Town, SA)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aA006X1tdyc> (from the US)

The calibre we are seeking speaks for itself.

For the 2013 competition rules visit: <http://wp.me/p2pCeG-S>.

The First Prize is \$700 / Second Prize \$200 / Third Prize \$100.

If you have any queries please email [info@darkgreenbooks.co.uk](mailto:info@darkgreenbooks.co.uk).

## Short Film and Video Competition 2014

The 2014 competition will be similar to the two earlier competitions but will use the work of multiple authors to form the basis of the submitted short films and videos. If you or an author you represent would like to participate in this competition please email [videocomp@darkgreenbooks.co.uk](mailto:videocomp@darkgreenbooks.co.uk). Participants will contribute to the prize.