

Samsung Fresh Films Filmmaker Bio
2006 NYC Team: James Duarte



It might be hard to understand how a teen boy would consider himself to be his own greatest inspiration, but for James Duarte however, it would only seem right. Growing up in the Bronx, James was presented with harsh dilemmas every day of his life. But it was Samsung Fresh Films that allowed him to find his own personal strength and thus alter his life in a positive way.

James began to create visual stories that depicted the lives of young adolescents and it was then that he knew he was destined to become a filmmaker.

“Growing up in this society was definitely a challenge for me. I was often faced with dilemmas such as choosing who I would live with and so on. Unlike a lot of people who would crack under the pressures of their peers, I removed myself from the situation and asked myself if this was the life I wanted to continue living,” said James. “I determined that in order to make it in life, I had to make a change before it was too late.” James proved to himself that he had the ability to make a difference and to become the great filmmaker he aspired to be.

James applied to the 2006 Samsung Fresh Films program and was selected to be part of the New York City Team. Many filmmakers have role models who they admire. In the interest of filmmaking, James acknowledges his parents, film teachers and one filmmaker in particular who has been his greatest inspiration, Steven Spielberg.

“My all-time favorite director is Steven Spielberg. Why? Well I'll be here for a pretty long time explaining why, but the main reason is because of his collection of great films,” said James.

James believes that his life is still a work in progress. At his age, being a self-inspiring person and knowing your destiny sets you apart from the rest. “By becoming a filmmaker, I'm able to tell my stories visually, which is by far been my greatest success. Being a filmmaker is what I'm meant to be.”