

Media contact:
Elaine Khosrova
Asst. Director FilmColumbia
518.821.9904
ekhosrova@gmail.com
info@filmcolumbia.com

For immediate release:

Students Film Reaction to Local Movie Making

CHATHAM—Following on the heels of the nationwide release of “*Taking Woodstock*,” a major motion picture shot on location in Columbia County last year, a group of students from various local high schools are creating a short documentary about the behind-the-scenes experience for county residents who helped in the making of the film. *Taking Woodstock*, directed by Academy Award-winner Ang Lee and written by James Seamus, tells the true story of a Catskill family involved in organizing the infamous three-day concert of 1969.

The participating students, sponsored by the Chatham Film Club and mentored by Richard Patterson, a sound recordist who spent 35 years working in the film industry, have spent the summer interviewing local chefs, innkeepers, government officials, and other business people as well as many teenagers who appeared as extras and “hippies” in the movie. According to Patterson, the students “chose to explore the relationship between townspeople and the film production company and to show how the community was impacted.” In the process, they learned how to operate movie cameras, sound recording equipment, and editing software. The young filmmakers also discovered the challenge of conducting in-depth interviews. “They were encouraged to really listen,” says Patterson, “rather than just ask the next question. The goal was to have a real dialogue with the person they were interviewing.”

Now in the process of editing those filmed interviews, the students (Emma Hanlon, Jamaica Gilmore, Evan Rugen, Devin McConnell, Geneva Furlano, Kimberly Wilcox, and Noa Naftali) will debut their documentary at the upcoming 10th annual FilmColumbia festival, to be held at multiple Chatham venues from October 22-25. FilmColumbia is a four-day

celebration of cinematic experiences, ranging from the homegrown high school film project to numerous international award-winning films and documentaries. For more information and to reserve tickets for the festival, which sell out each year, visit www.filmcolumbia.com

[Photo caption:] Filmmaking mentor, Richard Patterson (second from right) with some of the participating high school students: (from left) Eva Chaitman, Kimberly Wilcox, Jamaica Gilmore, Geneva Furlano, Evan Rugen, and Devin McConnell.