

December 16, 2014



## **Perpich media arts seniors win national recognition in photography and cinema**

Satya Varghese Mac, Max Hart and Michael Hansen, all seniors in media arts, have received top awards in the National YoungArts 2015 Competition. Max and Michael were named photography finalists and invited to the National YoungArts Week in January for final determination of awards (Level 3, \$1000; Level 2, \$1500; Level 1, \$3000; Silver, \$5000; Gold, \$10,000). Only 10 students are finalists in the photography discipline. Satya received a Merit Award for cinema. Only 21 students received merit in the cinema discipline. These three were among more than 11,000 student applicants. Only 786 YoungArts winners were named in the visual, literary, design and performing arts. These young artists represent some of the nation's very best in cinematic arts, dance, design arts, jazz, music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice and writing. Perpich Arts High School receives an engraved plaque with the names of every winner from the school. Congrats, guys!

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## **Perpich educator will present at workshop on National Core Arts Standards**

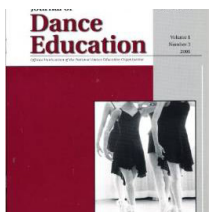
A workshop on the new National Core arts standards sponsored by Perpich's regional center in Elk River on Jan. 8 will feature Perpich Outreach visual/media education coordinator Jeremy Holien, who will offer an overview of the standards, which he helped to develop. The workshop is at Elk River High School, 900 School St., Elk River and is free. To RSVP email the regional center director, Rana Nestrud at [rana.nestrud@isd728.org](mailto:rana.nestrud@isd728.org).



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## **Perpich dance educators present at national conference**

Mary Harding, Perpich Arts High School dance instructor and Diane Aldis, Perpich Outreach dance education coordinator, presented at the National Dance Education Organization's annual conference in Chicago in November. As a writing team member of the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards, Harding was part of the team's roll-out session for the new national standards in dance. Aldis presented two sessions and co-chaired the annual meeting of the National Special Interest Group for Teaching Artists and Arts Organizations.



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## **Perpich dance educator published in national journal**

Outreach dance education coordinator Diane Aldis' article on creative leadership and educational equity in K-12 dance was published in the October issue of the national "Journal of Dance Education." The article came out of a series of retreats for Minnesota dance educators looking at the evolving best practices in dance pedagogy including how race, identity and gender impact the dance classroom. The workshops were presented through a partnership between Perpich, Minneapolis Public Schools and West Metro Education Program.




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### **Music instructor Janika Vandervelde premiere's new collaboration**

Working with choreographer Deborah Jinza Thayer, music instructor and composer Janika Vandervelde premiered "Diana" at the Cowles Center in November. Vandervelde describes the music for the piece as an "electric soundscape" that she began working on in 2010. Part of it incorporates guitar played by another Perpich music instructor, James Allen. Other sounds arise from the choreographer's movements when she dances with a 25-foot-long piece of fabric. The work was funded by two grants from Live Music for Dance Minnesota.

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### **Visual arts instructor featured in "Expose Art Magazine"**

Pat Benincasa's work was selected for inclusion in the December 2014 special edition of "Expose Art Magazine-International Juried Publication." Her work is featured on pages 26 and 27. "Expose Art Magazine" is created by artists for artists. The first publication will be a special edition geared toward the biggest art market event in the world, Art Basel. The publication will be distributed at no cost to select collectors and galleries participating in the 2014 event. Great news, Pat!

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### **Reel Youth honors Perpich media alumni**

"Lesbie," a film by 2013 media grads Adam Jacobs and Lukas Sorenson, and "Hank," a film by Jacobs, Sorenson and fellow media grads Ziaoye Jiang and Alyssa Reynolds, won first and second place, respectively, in the 2013-14 Reed Youth Film Festival. Each year Reel Youth receives student film submissions from around the world. They take the best and show them at the Vancouver International Film Festival. The movies then are packaged with other local student films across North America (mostly Canada). After the tour of 40 festivals, they tabulate the votes from each local festival. To have the top two films accepted out of all the entries is a real honor. Congrats to all our alumni involved in these productions!

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### **Ongoing Perpich Outreach projects breaking new ground in media arts education**

Perpich visual/media arts education coordinator Jeremy Holien is working with Columbia Heights elementary schools to develop the first-ever elementary media arts program in the state. They are currently doing curriculum mapping, infrastructure development and recommendations for equipment purchases and room remodeling for their first model/pilot program next year. After the first school runs its pilot media arts program, the district's other two elementary schools will move into the funding stream for their own media arts programs.

Holien also is working at Minnesota State University-Moorhead (MSUM) with a team of educators to develop a media arts certificate program for current teachers of the arts and a five-year BFA program where visual arts education majors will gain media arts expertise within required professional fifth-year courses. Holien hopes to thread that development into student teacher capacity that could develop at the arts high school and Crosswinds School, developing Perpich Center's current schools into model sites for pre-service teacher development. MSUM hopes to use the findings of the collaboration to inform a multi-million dollar renovation of its Center for the Arts to better facilitate the cross-arts learning models. Holien will be MSUM's featured speaker at a professional development and student art show Jan. 23.



### Field trips enrich Perpich classes

A sampling of excursions during the past month or so: The painting methods and materials class visited the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA) to “step into the timeless, magnificent, other-worldly realm of Painting,” according to instructor Pat Benincasa. Media students also visited the MIA to meet with David Little, curator and head of the photography and new media department. Architecture class students visited the Walker Art Center courtesy of architect Eric Hansen—thanks, Eric! Art history students were at the MIA looking at the show, “Italian Style: Fashion since 1945,” an exhibit that instructor Craig Farmer called a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Farmer says in more than 25 years he does not recall an extensive fashion exhibit at any Twin Cities museum. Another group of students traveled to the Minnesota History Center to see that museum’s toy exhibit.



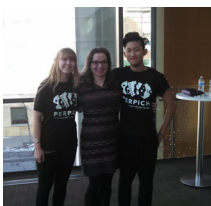
### Architects lead special museum architecture unit in art history class

Two local architects led an eight-day museum architecture class in Craig Farmer’s art history class. Bob Russeck, an architect with 44 years of experience and more than 200 buildings to his credit, belongs to the Society of Architectural Historians and Institute for Classical Art and Architecture. Ashley Peterson works as lead designer at CO/A Studio, designing both commercial and residential spaces. The class is offered collaboratively through the American Institute of Architects. The students designed paper models of museum exhibitions for the artist or art work of their choice.

### Student government representatives for 2014-15

The student government representatives were announced just shortly after this newsletter went to press last month. They are:

**Helena Smith**, design (formerly arts/science)  
**Sjournee Cornelius-Quaidoo** and **Libby Herrmann**, dance  
**Marie Thoraldson** and **Helena Balczak**, literary  
**Avery Ellis** and **Sophia Deutsch**, media  
**Tori Jones** and **Max Finch-Raymond**, music  
**Bex Staneslow** and **Regan Dockery**, theater  
**Sten Kielblock** and **Faith Rawson**, visual



### Dance students serve as education volunteers at Orchestra Hall

Perpich dancers volunteered their time Dec. 6 to lead dance activities at the pre-show educational event for “Amahl and the Night Visitors” at Orchestra Hall. The Perpich dancers were part of a multi-station event, leading concertgoers in several movement activities based on the opera. They also had Perpich student recruitment material available. Thank you, dancers!




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### Media alumna wins recognition

Yoko Okumura (media, '06) was named best Asian American Filmmaker in the West Region by the Directors Guild of America (DGA) for her work, "Kim Kabuki." This award is part of DGA's 2014 DGA Student Film Awards for African American, Asian American, Latino and Women Directors in the West Region. Okumura is an MFA student at the American Film Institute in Hollywood. A film she was associate producer of, "Fed Up," showed at the Sundance Festival in January. Congratulations, Yoko!

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### Dance graduate is landing roles in major commercials

Vinny Balbo ('13, dance) has landed roles in two commercials getting international play, one for [Mercedes Benz](#) in Japan (he is the green guy) and another for [XL energy drink](#) (he appears a few seconds into the commercial and has the final screen shot) Way to go, Vinny!

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### Perpich grad Har Mar Superstar is featured in his hometown paper

Sean Tillman ('95, theater), better known as Har Mar Superstar and star of sold-out First Avenue shows, was featured in the Owatonna "[People's Press](#)" recently where you can read about his formative experiences before Perpich. Har Mar also was featured recently in the "National Inquirer," which has led to many funny comments on his [Twitter feed](#).

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### Music graduate featured in her college newspaper

Haley Richter ('12, music) was interviewed about her music, life at Knox College and song writing. Read it [here](#). Thanks for the props, Haley!

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### Have any empty two-liter plastic bottles?

The design students would love to have them. They are on a quest for two-liter plastic pop bottles for an indoor micro-garden experiment they are developing. If you have any two-liter plastic pop bottles, or will be drinking from any two-liter plastic pop bottles overwinter break, please bring them to the design program space for reuse.

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### Music and media send the high school off to winter break in style

The opening of the advanced media arts exhibition and video screening will be this evening beginning at 5:30 p.m. The exhibition will be in the Basta Gallery with the screening following in the Performance Hall.

Music students will present their December concerts this Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Performance Hall and in the same location on Friday at 2 p.m. The school and the dorm will close at 6 p.m. Friday for two weeks. Have a terrific break, everyone!

**Calendar**

## Dates

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Dec 16	Media Arts Exhibition and Screening
Dec 18–19	Music Concert
Dec 22–Jan 2	Winter Break
Jan 9	Alumni Day
Jan 10	Information Session
Jan 19	No Classes
Jan 22	Visual Art Exhibition
Jan 28	Contemporary Theater Performance

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Perpich Arts High School	6125 Olson Memorial Highway	Sue Mackert
Perpich Arts Outreach	Golden Valley, Minnesota 55422	Executive Director
Perpich Arts Library	<a href="http://perpich.mn.gov">perpich.mn.gov</a>	763-279-4160

If you have news or events, please email: [Communications](#). Follow us on: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Pinterest](#)