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"ROCK PAPER SCISSORS"

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Alexa and Missy's stop-animation film "Rock Paper Scissors" recently took home a second place award in the [Berkshire International Film Festival's](#) (BIFF) Third Annual Berkshire Student Film Festival. Theirs and other student-produced winning entries will be shown during the festival, which will be held May 14-17 in nearby Great Barrington ([See the film](#)).

"We almost didn't submit it, because I was submitting another film, 'Slingshot Sally,' but my father convinced me to send it in," recalled Alexa, who has collaborated with MHS classmates while directing about a half-dozen short films.

"Rock Paper Scissors," explained Missy, developed from her initial idea for a film showing a piece of paper folding into a bird. That idea ultimately evolved into a film displaying their own take on the traditional children's hand game. "Alexa did the camera work, and I did the set up for each shot," Missy said. It took more than two hours to film the project and another two hours to edit.

"Choosing the music took a while," continued Missy. "We watched it first without music, and it had a feel like the old silent movies." "One of our friends has an extensive music library, and we chose a short Chopin piece (Prelude 16, op. 28) that worked," added Alexa, who plans to study film next year in college and envisions an eventual career with a production company.

The pair's film was one of nearly 20 received from students at six Berkshire-area schools, according to BIFF organizers. The finalist films in the Student Film Festival will be shown on Sunday, May 17, with an award ceremony held after the screening at the Triplex Cinema in Great Barrington.

Additionally, Alexa took home an honorable mention for "Slingshot Sally," another collaboration with Missy, as well as MHS student Charlotte Crane '09 and alumna Eliza Chase '08, and Caroline Barry '09. That film chronicles the travels of Slingshot Sally (Charlotte) as she confronts—with her slingshot—those who might otherwise do environmental harm. It won a first place award at last year's Berkshire Blossom Film Festival in Pittsfield.

Congratulations, girls!