



The new Tarantinos?

... and Paul Watsons and Nick Parks. The winners of the RTS Student Video Awards talk about their work and consider their future

Non-factual winner

Primary burns

From Mark Hamilton – Bournemouth University

"I always take down notes when I see things that interest me. Four years ago a friend read me a piece from a French newspaper about a boy who threatened to set himself alight because of bullying. I knew then that I had the ending, if I just could make up the bits at the beginning

and the middle," says Mark Hamilton.

The twenty minute video that resulted trod the line between children's film and adult drama. "In a way it was aimed more at grown ups," says Hamilton, "it showed underlying parental bullying as well as children hurting each other."



Top, above: A scene from Primary Burns
 Top, right: The film crew in action
 Bottom: Mark Hamilton

Hamilton found the children who played the main roles at a nightclass. They had no ambition to be actors but he felt that they did the job remarkably well. Hamilton created the storyline and fellow student Chris McGrath wrote the script.

At the end of this film, Hamilton's main character doesn't set fire to himself: the leader of the bullying gang makes his peace with the boy and the ending is left open. "We didn't have the budget for special effects anyway," says Hamilton, "and setting alight to a real boy seemed rather cruel."

Now Mark Hamilton is a freelance cameraman and has worked on travel series for Discovery and on BBC dramas. He'd like to move into cinematography next and perhaps go to the National Film School.

At the moment he is producing a personal work, a documentary about a station porter who was a recluse for ten years and now wants to be the next Barrymore.

Other Nominations

The Living, The Dead and The Hungry
Rachel Jaynes and Alexander McAllister
Cumbria College of Art and Design

The Waiting Room
Asif Kapadia, Tom Wales, Victoria Connell, Tania Hoser, Andy Shelley and Hugo Lawrence
Royal College of Art