

Made on a Mac



2014



# Happy Holidays 2014!

Morgana is 15, in grade 10 at the Visual Arts program at Canterbury. In addition to a heavy school workload, Morgana's evenings & weekends are focused on filmmaking.

We have been thrilled with the reception of her latest short film, GIFTS. To date, GIFTS has screened at over 20 festivals internationally, and won 8 awards. In April we attended the National Film Festival for Talented Youth (NFFTY) in Seattle – it is the “Sundance of Youth Film Festivals”. As a filmmaker it's an honour just to have your film screened there. GIFTS was in the “Edge of Your Seat” category, alongside films by university-level filmmakers. It was a real thrill, and we were happy just to be there! Imagine our surprise, when Morgana not only won “Best Emerging Female Filmmaker”, but also won a scholarship worth \$2000 US to attend a filmmaker “Prodigy Camp” in Seattle! We pulled her out of July French Camp for a week, and put her on a plane (by herself - Nanny still hasn't gotten over it) to Seattle! It was an incredible experience for her.

Morgana has been working on two films since March. She applied for and won a grant from SAW Video (local arts organization), which gave her \$1700 in equipment rental and mentorship. Twenty filmmakers applied for the six grants available, and she was the only youth recipient. Both films were an insane amount of work and commitment. The first film, a music video with a dark twist on classic fairy tales, will be finished by end of December. The second film, a dark thriller set in winter, will complete shooting over the holidays, and post-production by the end of January.

Somehow with all of this going on, we managed to squeeze in a week-long cruise to the Caribbean in August, celebrating our 20th wedding anniversary!

To stay in touch, you can subscribe to Morgana's blog at [morganamckenzie.com](http://morganamckenzie.com), and follow me on Facebook – I'm Charlene McKenzie.

Merry Christmas from  
Charlene, Gavin and Morgana!

