



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: **Alice Kawoya +44 (0) 20 7766 9206**
Email: **VisionAwards@rcsint.org**

**“EDUCATION” THEME FOR ‘PRESTIGIOUS’
COMMONWEALTH FILM AWARD**

The prestigious Commonwealth Vision Awards entered its fourth year, with the launch of the 2004 competition on the theme: “Education - creating opportunity, realising potential”.

Announcing the details of the 2004 Commonwealth Vision Awards at Marlborough House in London, the Director of the Commonwealth Foundation, Mr Colin Ball said that: “the theme highlights the relevance of education in reducing poverty, improving health, overcoming barriers and creating active citizenship”, adding that; “the awards have successfully proved to be an invaluable tool for helping develop the skills and talents of budding film-makers across the Commonwealth. The films themselves are also a welcome promotional and education resource for the association, whether for teachers or the general public”.

The Commonwealth Vision Awards, jointly organised by the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association, recognise excellence in the making of a short film on a Commonwealth theme. Broadcasters and independent filmmakers across the five regions of the Commonwealth are invited to submit initial entries by providing a written scenario based on the chosen theme for 2004.

Thereafter, up to fifteen applicants will be short-listed by an independent selection panel and awarded £1,000 each to assist in the production of the finished film, which is to be between 30-90 seconds in length.

Judging of the short-listed films will take place in October and the awards announced and presented at a Gala Awards Ceremony at the Commonwealth Club, London in November. The winner will receive £2,500 and a trophy, and other awards will be made. The winning entries, from January 2005, will be broadcast Commonwealth-wide, particularly on Commonwealth Day (where



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the theme will be identical, namely "Education – creating opportunity, realising potential").

The initiative is supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Foundation, the British Council, the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the BBC World Service.

An application form and brochure may be received by sending an email to VisionAwards@rcsint.org, or by fax +44 (0) 20 7930 9705 or by writing to: The Commonwealth Vision Awards, c/o The Royal Commonwealth Society, 18 Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BJ, United Kingdom. Applications may also be made online at www.rcsint.org/vision

2001, 2002 and 2003 short-listed entries may be viewed on www.rcsint.org/vision

The closing date for applications is: Friday 30 July 2004

Note to editors:

Prize Winners

Commonwealth Vision Awards 2003

Joint First Prize Winners

James Bhagwan (Fiji Islands)

The Tree of Freedom

David Storr (UK)

Signs of Freedom

Highly Commended

Ansurie Singh (South Africa)

Building a commonwealth of freedom

Special Award for Innovation

Tim Clague & Kim Rogers (UK)

The Weight of a Wall