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## **Hess, Palmer, Bowman Recruited for “Voices Seen” Animated Film by Salt Lake Film Society’s MAST**

*Napoleon Dynamite*’s Jared and Jerusha Hess to produce and direct.  
*Mastermind*’s Hubbel Palmer and Chris Bowman to write.



**SALT LAKE CITY (Jan. 25, 2019)** — Jared and Jerusha Hess today join the advisory board of Salt Lake Film Society’s media accelerator studio MAST, and will produce and direct MAST’s upcoming animated short film *Voices Seen*. The short will consist of eight to ten scenes, each animated by a winner of MAST’s *Voices Seen* animation contest, and funded by MAST. The contest is currently open for submissions.



Jared and Jerusha Hess are the writer-director team behind films including *Napoleon Dynamite* (Fox), *Nacho Libre* (Paramount), and *Gentlemen Broncos* (Fox). For *Masterminds* (Relativity), they were joined by writers Hubbel Palmer and Chris Bowman. Palmer and Bowman were named to Variety's list of "10 Screenwriters to Watch" in 2014.

The group is excited about MAST's mission to build artists into artist entrepreneurs, and nurture a community and infrastructure in Utah for animators, filmmakers, and game designers. "I am thrilled to be a part of showcasing the incredible talent we have here in Utah," says Jerusha Hess. The *Voices Seen* film will be produced in Utah with much of its talent being local, and the film will have multiple screenings in Utah. "As a young filmmaker I would have loved to participate in something like this," says Jared Hess.

Hubbel Palmer feels similarly. "I'm so happy to be a part of something that supports regional filmmaking," he says. "I wish opportunities like this had been around when I was growing up in Salt Lake."

MAST's *Voices Seen* project will give animators production funding, and an opportunity to work with prominent writers, directors, and producers they otherwise would have no access to. The finished film will offer a unique diversity of artistic voices with each animator bringing a distinctive style, approach, and subtext. "I can't wait for the finished film," says MAST Head/Founder Miles Romney, whose own animation studio pioneered computer-generated "clay" animation nearly twenty years ago. "The submissions we're seeing to the *Voices Seen* contest are gorgeous. With these artists working under Jared's and Jerusha's direction, with a screenplay by Hubbel and Chris, each one with a unique perspective and background, it will be a tour de force. And it will be a great introduction to everything MAST can offer local artists."

*Voices Seen* is one of three MAST contests currently open for submissions. The others are *Micro-docs*, a short documentary contest, and *People of Earth*, a writing contest, each with a \$2,000 cash award. Some of MAST's 2019 fellows will be selected from among the contest winners, and will receive further funding, mentoring, and training on projects of their choosing. Submissions are being taken at [www.MastStudio.org](http://www.MastStudio.org).

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#### About Salt Lake Film Society

Salt Lake Film Society (SLFS), Utah's home of independent cinema, is a nonprofit (501 C-3) founded in 2001 with a mission to educate, advocate and inform about, and through, cinema. As the premier film establishment in Salt Lake County, SLFS presents a diversity of film exhibition and related cultural events 365 days a year at their two art cinemas; Broadway Centre Cinemas (300 S. 111 E., SLC), and Historic Tower Theatre (900 S. 876 E., SLC). SLFS fosters local film talent and strengthens film appreciation and participation under two initiatives. SLFS programs and venues ensure that potent ideas and voices in film are accessible to everyone in our community. SLFS is a Salt Lake County Zoo Arts & Parks funded organization. For more information about how you can be a part of Salt Lake Film Society, its programming and events please visit [www.slfs.org](http://www.slfs.org).



