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PRESS RELEASE

Filmmaker Nathan Collett wins prestigious New Leaders Group Award

Award-winning filmmaker Nathan Collett, (MFA, Cinema-Television, University of Southern California, 2006, BA with highest distinction, African History, Stanford University, 2000, and Fulbright scholar in Kenya 2006-2007), has been awarded the Institute of International Education's 2008 New Leaders Group Award for Mutual Understanding.



The intent of the IIE's New Leaders Group Award is to recognize the best and the brightest young professionals and to encourage them to contribute and further promote their innovative ideas and dedication to the cause of mutual understanding.

Nathan received the award for the *Call and Response* program, which is a global first – an ongoing video exchange between the youth of the urban slums of Nairobi and youth in the USA. *Call and Response* was described by IIE as a project that "strongly supports the mission and goals of the New Leaders Group and holds much promise for the future of US-Kenya relations." IIE further noted, "With dedication and leadership like yours, IIE is able to continue 'Opening Minds to the World' through international exchange."



Speaking about the award, Nathan said "This is a great honor for me and for Kibera. The IIE's New Leaders Group award confirms the importance of building links of mutual understanding between the youth in Africa and America."

Commenting on the post-election crisis in Kenya, where the project is based, Nathan said "The current crisis presents an opportunity to look beyond the headlines and at root causes for the disturbances in Kenya, in particular, the disaffected youth in the slums. The youth lack economic opportunities and feel isolated, disconnected and without hope. Through our work in the urban slums, we have the opportunity to create meaningful connections and new possibilities."

Nathan's organization Hot Sun Foundation works with community groups in Kibera, Africa's largest slum, to train and make films, including the short fictional film KIBERA KID (www.kiberakid.com). The short film has won seven awards and been shown at over forty film festivals worldwide with international media coverage from BBC, Reuters, and many others. For the last two years, Nathan has been working with in youth of Kibera to develop a feature length version of KIBERA KID. For more information visit www.kiberakid.com.

- For more on the Call and Response program, visit kiberaexchange.blogspot.com
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