

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jeffrey D. Klein

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Award: HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Year: 2013

Since the age of 10, Sofie Somoroff has been captivated by film and its ability to reach out to a large number of people, which almost immediately resulted in her passion for film directing. Currently a junior at the Bronx High School of Science, Ms. Somoroff is also the director of theatre and film.

First and foremost, she hopes that through her art, she will be able to spread ideas of utmost importance. At just 17 years of age, Ms. Somoroff has studied at the New York Film Academy and New York University Tisch School, and is currently working with the Media Department at the New School in studying cinematic depiction of adolescent depression. Her work in film ranges from writing and directing short films to assisting on productions of feature films around the City. Still, all this work has primarily lead to her pursuit of a greater cause: anti-bullying efforts.

Ms. Somoroff 's positive impact resonates through her films and the many lives she touches. In October 2012, she wrote, directed and animated, by hand, a short film called "Me." This film was the Grand Prize Winner of the OnBuzz Reach for the Stars film competition as a part of the New York Film Festival at Lincoln Center. Her hope was that this film would inspire her fellow teens to take action against bullying, something that can be simply done with the click of a button.

Bullying is an issue very close to Ms. Somoroff and she is honored that her efforts have been recognized by New York. She hopes to continue to use her work as a

mechanism for spreading ideas and gain support to stand up to important issues everywhere. Her passion and dedication are an inspiration to us all.