

Contact: Dee McVicker
Grassroots Communications
Gilbert, Arizona
480.545.7363
deemcv@grassrootsco.com

EXCEPTIONAL MINDS

For Immediate Release

Exceptional Minds Receives Generous Grant from Hollywood Foreign Press Association

Last night's HFPA Grants Banquet is number three for Exceptional Minds, which prepares young adults with autism for careers in visual effects and animation.

Sherman Oaks, California – August 3, 2017 – Exceptional Minds was among the nonprofits to receive a generous grant during the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's (HFPA) annual Grants Banquet held at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, California, last night.

The HFPA, which annually hosts the Golden Globe Awards, presented more than \$2.8 million to nonprofit entertainment-related organizations such as Exceptional Minds, the industry's only school and working studio for young adults with autism pursuing careers in visual effects and related fields.

"We are grateful to an industry that has not only embraced what's unique about our artists, but has supported us in every way to make sure they're successful," said Lupe Ramos-Silva, Development Director for Exceptional Minds, located in Sherman Oaks, Calif.

The \$25,000 HFPA grant will assist in the upgrade of a new database and phone system, making the growing vocational school and working studio more efficient. This is the third year that the HFPA has provided funds to Exceptional Minds, which prepares young adults on the autism spectrum for careers in the visual effects and animation industries. Graduate artists have worked on well-known movies such as "War for the Planet of the Apes," "Spider-Man: Homecoming," and "Doctor Strange," to name a few.

More than 500,000 U.S. children impacted by autism will enter adulthood during this decade, with one in 68 children to follow.

For more than 25 years, the HFPA has committed nearly \$30 million in grants, provided more than 1,500 scholarships and helped restore over 90 titles. The mission of the HFPA's Charitable Trust is to foster education, diversity and creative expression in art and film through a variety of programs and special grants. Through the annual Grants Banquet, the HFPA will continue to provide funds and resources to

institutions and people that need it most. This year's Grants Banquet was hosted by Chelsea Handler and was attended by Matt Bomer, Katherine Langford and Chrissy Metz among other notables.

Exceptional Minds is the only vocational school and working studio to prepare and successfully place young men and women with autism in careers in the fields of animation and visual effects.

About Exceptional Minds (<http://www.exceptionalmindsstudio.org>): Exceptional Minds is a non-profit vocational center and working production studio for young adults on the autism spectrum. It was chartered in 2011 to provide the training necessary for creatively gifted individuals with autism who may not otherwise be able to make the transition from high school to careers. Exceptional Minds offers technical proficiency and work readiness training that prepares students for careers in graphic arts, animation, web design, visual effects and rotoscoping. Located in Sherman Oaks, California, Exceptional Minds is both an instructional learning facility and a working studio with hands-on student involvement in production projects, many for the film industry.

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