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City Tech COMD Documentary Wins Six Industry Awards, Airs on Television

Brooklyn, NY–August 15, 2019– The Communication Design (COMD) department at New York City College of Technology (City Tech) recently earned six industry video and film awards for a documentary directed by COMD Assistant Professor Josh A. Kapusinski and produced by Department Chair and Associate Professor, Douglas Davis. The film, entitled *Imported From Brooklyn*, documents one of City Tech and CUNY’s most distinguished alumni, world-renowned typography and graphic design master Tony DiSpigna. It took home two Telly Awards, three Communicator Awards and one Aurora Award.

All three competitions are regarded as the premier awards honoring video and television across all screens. This year’s other winners included NBC, CBS, Disney, Fox Sports, HBO and Viacom. “These are international honors and competitions that easily get more than 10,000 entries per year from across the world. To be recognized at the top of that is a great achievement and speaks to the level of expertise we have to offer our students in COMD,” Kapusinski said.

Imported From Brooklyn was also broadcast on the award-winning TV channel and digital network BRIC TV, as well as CUNY TV, an educational television station that is part of City University of New York’s broadcast system, reaching 7.3 million households in the New York metropolitan area. Seven students helped in the production of the documentary, including Alvaro Nunez, Melanie Martinez, Gabriela Martinez, Sohee Cho, Nicole Moya and Eddie White. “Having a project that I worked on in school be broadcast on TV really makes me proud of being part of the COMD department at City Tech. The experience was amazing because it built my confidence when it comes to working in a team, as well as working with video,” COMD student Melanie Martinez said.

Douglas Davis, a former student of DiSpigna’s, spoke of the department’s heritage as an incubator of New York’s creative class: “*Imported from Brooklyn* begins with Tony’s story as an Italian immigrant in the sixties, but it’s the exact same story our current Asian, Middle Eastern, South American, Eastern European or Caribbean American students have today. More than half a century later, we are proud to be the public path to a creative career. We remove the barriers.”

Davis also won a Communicator and Aurora Award for his short film entitled *Slay: A Visual Essay About Successfully Managing Fear*, a cinematic visual portrait from Chapter 14 of his book *Creative Strategy and the Business of Design*. COMD graduate Clifford Harry shot and edited the piece. COMD has earned 11 industry awards this year alone.

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About City Tech's Department of Communication Design (COMD) Founded in 1946, City Tech's department of Communication Design has prepared students for creative careers in advertising, graphic design and communications media for nearly 70 years. The department is committed to increasing diversity in professions utilizing creativity, technology and design by providing students of all backgrounds with a public path to careers with traditionally high barriers of entry. Its curriculum integrates fundamental theory and concepts with applied technology, while building a culture that encourages creativity, collaboration and conceptual thinking.

About City Tech (New York City College of Technology) City Tech, of The City University of New York, is the largest four-year public college of technology in the Northeast and a national model for technological education. City Tech has an enrollment of more than 17,000 students in 29 baccalaureate and 27 associate degree programs and was recently ranked ninth among more than 2,000 U.S. institutions in overall economic mobility for its students (www.equality-of-opportunity.org). For more information, visit www.citytech.cuny.edu.

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