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Super Shorts: The Elephant Garden

By Elisabeth Donnelly

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Sasie Sealy's beautiful short, which won the Student Visionary Award at the 2008 Tribeca Film Festival, gets into the head of a lovely young girl who's dealing with the awkwardness of sisterhood and blossoming sexuality.



Sasie Sealy's short **The Elephant Garden** won a Student Visionary Award at the **Tribeca Film Festival in 2008**. In fact, it was Sealy's second win of a Student Visionary Award, **one she also took in 2005** with her short **Dance Mania Fantastic** (about an out-of-work guy who spends his days playing Dance Dance Revolution; it looks wonderful).

The Elephant Garden is gorgeously shot (**Sealy's biography** mentions work with photographer **Gregory Crewdson**; you can see that influence here) in a color-soaked North Carolina, and it follows an eleven-year-old girl, Chloe (**Kelley Mack**), whose world of childhood slowly fractures as her beloved older sister Elisabeth (**Elise Couture**) gets a boyfriend (the spooky-eyed **Billy Magnussen**) and shuts her out of their universe. Sealy captures the hazy feel of childhood, and how it conflicts with the burgeoning mysteries of the world; you feel, greatly, for Chloe's newfound loneliness, and you get in her head.

Sealy's upcoming projects include her first feature, **SarahN_12**. Her screenplay is based on a story by **Mark Heyman**, who is currently gaining some notoriety for also penning the **Natalie Portman**-and-**Mila Kunis**-do-ballet (and, um, each other) feature, **Darren Aronofsky's** next work, **Black Swan**.

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