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Dominican hosts free screening of "Romeo Is Bleeding"

As part of the year-long community engagement theme focused on “Democracy and Equity,” Dominican University of California screened "Romeo is Bleeding," a documentary about youth in Richmond, California, which has won audience awards at film festivals in San Francisco, Aspen, Milwaukee, St. Louis, and Seattle.

The screening was September 21 in Angelico Concert Hall. Donté Clark, lead protagonist in the film, and community activist, poet, and Creative Coordinator at the [RYSE](#) Center in Richmond, led a discussion. The event was free and open to the public.

Produced by Michael Klein and directed by Jason Zeldes, *Romeo is Bleeding* focuses on youth in Richmond using their voices and creativity to share their stories, raise awareness, and work for change in their community.

The film is set in North and Central Richmond, two primarily African American Bay Area neighborhoods. The film features the work of [RAW Talent](#), the performing arts program at the [RYSE Center](#) in Richmond. The Center’s mission is to create safe places for young people and helping transform their lives and the community.

Donté Clark transcends the violence in his hometown by writing poetry about his experiences. Using his voice to inspire those around him, he and the like-minded youth of the city mount an urban adaptation of Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*, with the hope of starting a real dialogue about violence in the city.

“The film has many dimensions that are relevant for a wide range of interests and disciplines including: documentary film making, community, public and mental health, environmental and economic justice, education, literature, the justice system, the transformative power of the arts, and the policies and history behind the many structural challenges the Richmond community faces,” said Julia van der Ryn, director of [Dominican’s Service-Learning Program](#) who initiated the event.

Dominican students are spending the academic year immersed in a thought-provoking and collaborative lineup of courses and activities focused on a central theme of “[Democracy and Equity.](#)” Programming both in and out of the classroom will engage students in some of the most critical issues facing the U.S.

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