

The Perfect Life  
A documentary by Sam Lee

Director's Statement:

Arriving in Harlem, I was unprepared for the kids I would meet or the emotional response I would have to them. Learning about their stresses and watching their struggle to survive had a profound affect on me. Their ability to smile when so much was going wrong at home never ceased to amaze me. I wrote poetry to give voice to my experiences until the need to capture the kids' personalities lead me to pick up a film camera. I made two short films on the kids and after five years, I left teaching to pursue a career in film. Having developed my skills as an editor, I feel compelled to tell this story. The kids inspired me to go into film in the first place; now "The Perfect Life" brings me full circle and enables me to give a voice to the kids who changed my life.