

Mackenly Abraham



*Born in Haiti—Moved to Florida in 2004
High School Credit Program Graduate 2009
Brewster Technical Center
Career Goal: Movie Director*

Mackenly Abraham has an electric smile and the positive attitude to go with it! He is only 19 years old, but he knows where he wants to go and what he wants to do with his life. At one year of age, his mother moved to America to prepare a better life for him and his sisters. His father moved to America later, but Mackenly stayed in Haiti with his aunt until he was 14 years old. In 2004, he too moved to Tampa. He currently shares a home with his mother and two sisters, both of whom attend public schools in Tampa. Mackenly says that in Haiti, “my grades were good, although math was always difficult for me. I was in high school when I left Haiti, and I started in the 10th grade when I got here.” He attended several different high schools in Tampa, but the moving around along with the language difficulty proved to be an obstacle for him. “I was very close to graduating, but when I finished at my last school, I didn’t have the right credits. My counselor told me about Brewster, but I didn’t want to go to a technical school. I wanted to graduate from a regular high school.” But he also wanted to graduate as soon as he could, and although Mackenly missed the summer session at Brewster that year, he started in the fall of 2008 and graduated in June 2009.

“When I first got to Brewster I really didn’t feel good [about the school], there were certain people that were looking at me like I didn’t want to do work and it wasn’t like that and it could have been because the way I was dressing. Then as I started going to class, the teachers started to like me then more people started liking me because I would help them with projects and things like that.” Mackenly goes on to add, “I passed the classes - I came to school keeping my head straight and everything and kept myself together. I ended up with 28 or 29 credits.”

Mackenly’s goal is to become a movie director. As he says, “I got into the movie thing when I was 14 in Haiti. When I came to America I started looking at TV and I started liking it. And then I went to my dad’s house I would get his camera and started going to church filming events and stuff like that wake up early in the morning and at night time and people would think I was crazy but I really, really want to do that. And then I would go to my dad’s house, I would get his camera and I started going to church and filming events.....at first I wanted to be a cameraman but as I got older, I want to be a director, but to be a director you have to be a cameraman first.” Eventually, Mackenly would like to attend Georgia State University in Atlanta and he wants to earn a Bachelor and Master’s degree. Right now, though, he is busy filming a movie right here on location in Tampa that he hopes to submit to the BET Film Festival. With Mackenly’s amazing confidence and enthusiasm, don’t be surprised to see his movie on TV!

