



Avery Winwood

By Neita Cecil  
Columbia Gorge News

Avery Winwood has liked telling stories her whole life, mostly through theater, which she has been involved with since she was just 8 years old.

But then Winwood, a 2021 The Dalles High School graduate, took a video production class last fall, and discovered she liked this new way of telling stories.

# TDHS grad headed to film school

In fact, she used one of her videos in her successful application to famed film school Ithaca College in New York, where she's headed in the fall. Her first semester as a freshman, she'll be able to use the film equipment there, something other programs don't allow until junior year.

She describes her attraction to telling stories: "I think it's a very human thing to want to tell stories and create things. And at least for me, creating stories is a way to express myself and my emotions, and I used acting as the way to explore emotions that I maybe hadn't felt before."

"Film is just something I want to explore and learn more about and hopefully by the time I graduate from college I'll have the skills to make stories and share them with the world."

She said, "I think cinematography is really interesting and if I'm watching a movie, I'm really analyzing the cinematography in the film. I make little short videos

all the time. I'll get inspired by like maybe a song. And I just like to make little short things like in a day or two."

She just uses her iPhone 8 for her creations. "Nothing fancy," she said. She did buy a film editing app though. The short film she sent to Ithaca was a black and white silent film titled "Insani-Tea." It took the concept that insanity is doing the same thing every day and expecting a different outcome.

She was also in the film. It was about the daily routine of someone who gets up at the same time, goes downstairs, boils water for tea. "The hidden thing that is kind of hard to tell in the video, there's a shot of the person drinking the tea, and there's a pill in there too."

The film ends with the person spilling their tea all over the table.

He friends regularly end up in her short films. "My camera roll is filled with just little clips of things we do, like if we go out on little adventures." She enjoys creating those memories.

It can take a surprisingly long amount of time to do a one-minute video. "One time I made a video and it took nine hours to edit. It was insane, I kind of wanted to cry afterwards. I got inspired and I just didn't feel like I could do anything else until I got this video made, so that was funny."

Most of the time it takes her 2-3 hours to do a one-minute video.

She likes cinematography, which includes factors such as how to lay out a shot, what angle it's coming from, how the camera moves, and how close the subject is to the camera.

Her career aspirations right now are leaning toward music videos. "I often get inspired by music."

But she can't use other people's music because it's copyrighted. So she's turned to a YouTube channel that's full of non-copyrighted music. It often doesn't have lyrics, she said, "But it works."

Usually what sparks her creativity is hearing the rhythm of the beat in a song, "because I can imagine how

a transition would look between shots. That's one of the big things for me, I get excited by transitions between scenes." Especially if that transition happens "exactly on the beat drop." Her ultimate dream would be to make a movie. She writes sometimes, "so maybe I could write my own."

She started a screenplay "but it didn't get very far." Her tastes run toward drama. "I don't feel I'm very good at comedy."

For a long time, Winwood, who has taken a variety of Advanced Placement, college-level courses in high school, didn't know what she wanted to study in college. Her favorite subject was history. "I love learning about the past."

Unsurprisingly, the pandemic made school harder. "I didn't think it would be that bad, but winter came and I just felt really stuck. I didn't feel motivated at all. And the added stress of having to complete college and scholarship applications."

Full story at columbiagorge.com.



Gisell Carabantes



Karla Baraja

# HRVHS grads earn Ford Scholar awards

By Trisha Walker  
Columbia Gorge News

Hood River Valley High School's class of 2021 has two Ford Scholar Program award recipients: Gisell Carabantes of Dee and Karla Barajas of Hood River. This fall, Carabantes will head to the University of Portland to study sociology with a criminology focus,

and Barajas to the University of Oregon, where she will double major in Japanese and biology and minor in Spanish.

## Gisell Carabantes

Carabantes found out she had received the Ford scholarship on her way to a tennis match in May. "I cried," she said. "I couldn't

hold back the tears when I told my parents. We were all very happy and excited that my hard work paid off. This scholarship will allow me to continue my education without the fear of draining my parents. No words can describe how grateful I am for this opportunity."

She has been in the AVID program — Advancement Via Individual Determination — since middle school and said it has helped prepare her for the road ahead. "Throughout high school, the AVID class and teacher, Mr. (Doug) Beardsley (HRVHS AVID coordinator), have been very supportive and helpful," she said. "I felt very comfortable and confident when talking to teachers and mentors about college because I recognized the immense support the school provides."

She chose University of Portland because of the school's strong sociology and psychology programs and study abroad opportunities. "As of this moment, I want to pursue the career of a detective and hopefully an FBI agent. I do not have a set long-term goal, but getting my bachelor's degree is one goal that I will definitely achieve."

Carabantes has been involved in the HRV LEOs club since her

freshman year; her volunteer work with the club has included the FISH Food Bank and Laundry Love, as well as the monthly bottle and can drives. During the summer, she has worked picking cherries, which she feels has helped shape her into the person she is.

"... The hard work taught me determination and perseverance," she said. "It wasn't until recently that I began to work at Kobe Sushi and Bar restaurant to gain more experience in the work field."

She also played tennis for HRV and enjoys going out with friends or spending time with her family. "All the work I have done has been dedicated to my parents, who came to the U.S. with a dream for a better future for their children," Carabantes said. "With nothing, they always made sure I had everything I needed. I am extremely thankful for them."

## Karla Barajas

Barajas is interested in optometry, with a long-term goal of setting up an organization that aids the unhoused community and those suffering from poverty. Receiving the Ford scholarship will help her achieve that goal. Upon learning

she'd been awarded the scholarship, she said she felt happy and proud, and "also very relieved knowing that all my undergrad was going to be paid for — including study abroad programs, which I am excited about! This scholarship will allow me to spend all my time studying and interning at different eye clinics instead of having to take on multiple part time jobs."

Barajas has played basketball, lacrosse and soccer throughout middle school and high school. She also founded the HRV anime club and has been involved other clubs such as PERIOD, GirlUp, and HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America). At 14, she began working in cherry packing houses; last year, she also worked in the orchards. She is currently employed at a restaurant.

In her free time, she enjoys collecting manga, weightlifting, hanging out with her friends and drawing. "I'd like to give a big shout out to Mr. (Eric) Keller (social studies) for being the best teacher ever," she said. "Keller has always given me advice, helped me with assignments, and always listened to me complain about hardships I've faced. I wouldn't be where I am today without him."

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