

## Doing the Right Thing

**Jan Manon '97C HAS FOUND HER PASSION.**

Manon, who left Emory with a degree in liberal arts and ecology, works in publications and web design for the Entomology Research Lab at the University of Vermont-Maine. But recently, she has discovered she is an artist and a filmmaker at heart.

In 2003, Manon traveled to Barrandov, Czech Republic through New York University's Tisch School of the Arts semester abroad program. There she made her first 35-mm film, *Ava*, a seven-minute short about a woman and her two children trying to survive in a World War II-ravaged village until they are found by Allied soldiers.

The experience had a profound impact on Manon. "Prague is a city of heart," she wrote in an e-mail during the filming. "I must admit that making a movie feels like the right thing for the first time; it just brings all the elements together, people, colors, images, sounds, places, heart, woven together by words and music, and it is incredible. I don't want it to end."

*Ava* was screened in the short film section of the Vermont

International Film Festival in 2004 and at the First Run Festival in April 2005, as well as showing in Germany and France in 2004. In addition, Manon's first original screenplay, *Tulips Grow in Arnhem*, won a Notable Mention from the American Screenwriting Association in 2003.

"I love directing, and I have found in film a place where I can truly be myself and grow in numerous ways," Manon says. "Being in film is like being a child again, it's similar to living everything anew, and to falling in love. I forget the time and whether it is light or dark and to eat—the experience of being on a set . . . is incredible."

A woman of wide-ranging interests, Manon is now working on a new project, a stage play based on the Herman Hesse book *Narcissus and Goldmund*, as well as a children's book, a novel, and another short film.

"In terms of education, I know that Emory is where I learned the most, in every way, in really how to live," Manon says. "I read somewhere the 'university is where you go to find your place in the universe.' Emory definitely helped me there."

*Ava* can be viewed at [www.janmanon.com](http://www.janmanon.com).—P.P.P.