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THE DOCYARD ANNOUNCES FALL 2017 SEASON AT THE BRATTLE THEATRE

The Fall Season begins on September 11 with the all-archival doc **THE REAGAN SHOW** and the SXSW Grand Jury Prize Winner **THE WORK** on September 25, with filmmakers in attendance for Q&A

CAMBRIDGE, MA — The DocYard, Boston's award-winning documentary film series, has announced its newest season of films and visiting filmmakers for Fall 2017.

THE REAGAN SHOW, co-directed by **Sierra Pettengill** (CUTIE AND THE BOXER, TOWN HALL) & **Pacho Velez** (MANAKAMANA) kicks off the fall season. Constructed entirely from thousands of hours of archival television footage produced by White House TV, a part of President Ronald Reagan's public relations arm, the film explores Reagan's "made-for-TV" approach to crafting his public persona in Cold War politics. Picked up by CNNFilms, The Reagan Show has been called "phenomenal" by Hyperallergic, and was just announced as an official selection of the 2017 Locarno Film Festival, after having World Premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival earlier this year. **Co-director and producer Sierra Pettengill will attend in person for Q&A after this 7pm screening on Monday, September 11.**

On **Monday, September 25**, The DocYard presents **Jairus McLeary** and **Gethin Aldous'** **THE WORK**, winner of this year's **Documentary Grand Jury Prize at the SXSW Film Festival and the Audience Award at the 2017 Sheffield Doc/Fest**. Delving into the intimate conversations that take place over a four-day therapy retreat for convicts at Folsom State Prison in California, the film attempts to reach beyond the tropes of contemporary prison documentaries to reveal fresh and enlightening new perspectives on masculinity and personhood. **The 7pm screening on September 25 will be followed by a Q&A with co-director Jairus McLeary in person.**

The DocYard will wrap its Fall Season on **December 4** with **THE DEPARTURE**, the newest feature from **Lana Wilson** (AFTER TILLER). The film tackles the subject of suicide prevention in Japan, following Ittetsu Nemoto, a former punk-turned-Buddhist-priest, who has developed a unique approach to convincing suicidal people to live. However, when Nemoto's work threatens his own financial and emotional stability, Wilson films her subject at a critical point in his own life, when he must question and affirm what it means to truly live. **THE DEPARTURE** had its world premiere at the **Tribeca Film Festival** earlier this year, and went on to screen at HotDocs and Sheffield Doc/Fest, among many other festivals around the world. This will be the film's area premiere in Boston, and **Director Lana Wilson will attend in person for Q&A.**

Other season highlights include experimental filmmaker **Abigail Child's ACTS & INTERMISSIONS**, a hybrid-archival film on the life of anarchist Emma Goldman; **Yance Ford's** Sundance award-winning personal documentary **STRONG ISLAND**, which mourns and reflects on the police killing of the filmmaker's brother; **Ramona Diaz's MOTHERLAND**, an observational film on the largest maternity ward in the Philippines; Berlin-based **Salomé Jashi's THE DAZZLING LIGHT OF SUNSET**, about a rural news team in the post-Soviet nation of Georgia; and **Jon Olsheski's QUEST**, a longitudinal documentary film made over the course of a decade, following the dreams and disappointments of the Rainey family living in North Philadelphia, from the election of Obama in 2008 through the inauguration of Trump in 2017.

The fall season runs on **Mondays from September 11 through December 4**. All screenings take place at The DocYard's official home, the **Brattle Theatre**, Boston's oldest art-house cinema. All screenings start at 7pm, with the exception of one 8pm screening time on October 2.

Season passes are on sale now at an earlybird rate of \$65 through Labor Day Monday, September 4, at which point the price will go up to \$75 for adults. The student rate for DocYard season passes will remain at \$65 throughout the fall. Passes can be purchased online now at thedocyard.com. Individual tickets for each film at the Brattle Theatre are \$12 (\$10 for students and seniors) and can be purchased online at brattlefilm.org or on the night of each event at the Brattle Theatre box office.

For more information on the DocYard and its 2017 Fall Season, please visit thedocyard.com.

THE DOCYARD FALL 2017 SEASON

***THE REAGAN SHOW* (Sierra Pettengill & Pacho Velez, USA, 2017, 75 min, DCP)**

Monday, September 11 at 7pm at the Brattle Theatre

In-person Q&A with Co-Director Sierra Pettengill

The Reagan Show is an all-archival documentary about the original performer-president's role of a lifetime. Teasing apart the spectacle at the heart of finger-on-the-button global diplomacy, the film follows Ronald Reagan's rivalry with charismatic Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, tracing how the Communicator-in-Chief uses his public relations chops to overcome Soviet mistrust, the objections of a skeptical press corps and the looming threat of WWII. Chock full of wit and political irony, and told solely through 1980s network news and videotapes created by the Reagan administration itself, the film explores Reagan's made-for-TV approach to politics as he faced down the United States' greatest rival.

***THE WORK* (Jairus McLeary and Gethin Aldous, USA, 2017, 87 min, HD)**

Monday, September 25 at 7pm at the Brattle Theatre

In person Q&A with Co-Director Jairus McLeary

Set inside a single room in Folsom Prison, "The Work" follows three men from outside as they participate in a four-day group therapy retreat with level-four convicts. Over the four days, each man in the room takes his turn at delving deep into his past. The raw and revealing process that the incarcerated men undertake exceeds the expectations of the free men, ripping them out of their comfort zones and forcing them to see themselves and the prisoners in unexpected ways. "The Work" offers a powerful and rare look past the cinder block walls, steel doors and the dehumanizing tropes in our culture to reveal a movement of change and redemption that transcends what we think of as rehabilitation.

***MOTHERLAND* (Ramona Diaz, USA/Philippines, 2017, 94 min, DCP)**

Monday, October 2 at 8pm at the Brattle Theatre

Skype Q&A with Director Ramona Diaz

Motherland takes us into the heart of the planet's busiest maternity hospital in one of the world's poorest and most populous countries: the Philippines. The film's viewer, like an unseen outsider dropped unobtrusively into the hospital's stream of activity, passes through hallways, enters rooms and listens in on conversations. At first, the surrounding people are strangers. But as the film continues, it's absorbingly intimate, rendering the women at the heart of the story increasingly familiar. Three women—Lea, Aira and Lerma—emerge to share their stories with other mothers, their families, doctors and social workers. While each of them faces daunting odds at home, their optimism, honesty and humor suggest a strength that they will certainly have to summon in the years ahead.

***STRONG ISLAND* (Yance Ford, USA/Denmark, 2016, 107 min, DCP)**

Monday, October 16 at 7pm at the Brattle Theatre

In-person Q&A with Director Yance Ford

Strong Island chronicles the arc of a family across history, geography and tragedy - from the racial segregation of the Jim Crow South to the promise of New York City; from the presumed safety of middle class suburbs, to the maelstrom of an unexpected, violent death. It is the story

of the Ford family: Barbara Dunmore, William Ford and their three children and how their lives were shaped by the enduring shadow of race in America. A deeply intimate and meditative film, *Strong Island* asks what one can do when the grief of loss is entwined with historical injustice, and how one grapples with the complicity of silence, which can bind a family in an imitation of life, and a nation with a false sense of justice.

***THE DAZZLING LIGHT OF SUNSET* (Salomé Jashi, Georgia/Germany, 2016, 74 min, HD)**

Monday, October 23 at 7pm at the Brattle Theatre

Skype Q&A with Director Salomé Jashi

Beautifully shot and strangely comic, Salomé Jashi's documentary follows Dariko and Khaka, an ultra-low-budget local news team in rural Georgia. Whether it's elections, death announcements, a rare owl, or an oddly stressful fashion show for prepubescent and teenage girls, the pair approach each story without ego and with absolute professionalism, managing every aspect of reporting and production themselves. Through subtle editing choices, Jashi suggests that nothing truly changes in this former Soviet satellite—but allows her subjects to have one last acerbic word on the matter of representation. - *Art of the Real / Film Society of Lincoln Center*

***QUEST* (Jon Olshefski, USA, 2008-2017, 106 min, DCP)**

Monday November 6 at 7pm at the Brattle Theatre

In-person Filmmaker Q&A

Filmed with *vérité* intimacy for over a decade, *QUEST* is the moving portrait of a family in North Philadelphia. Christopher "Quest" Rainey, along with his wife Christine'a, aka "Ma Quest," open the door to their home music studio, which serves as a creative sanctuary from the strife that grips their neighborhood. Over the years, the family evolves as everyday life brings a mix of joy and unexpected crisis. Set against the backdrop of a country now in turmoil, *QUEST* is a tender depiction of an American family whose journey is a profound testament to love, healing and hope.

***ACTS AND INTERMISSIONS* (Abigail Child, USA, 2017, 57 min, digital projection)**

Monday, November 20 at 7pm at the Brattle Theatre

In-person Q&A with Director Abigail Child

"An hour-long collage essay, charging the discussion with her enlightened aesthetic of poetry, the archive, and experimental montage. As the Most Dangerous Woman Alive, Goldman's life is seen as an ongoing negotiation of revolutionary purity and personal freedom, a complexity that Child mirrors in her own formal strategies. She layers multiple fragments of Emma's liberatory legacy—from archive, from reenactment and from observational cinema—her speculative play with the revolutionary ideas extending to the present moment of feminist revolt!" - Craig Baldwin

***THE DEPARTURE* (Lana Wilson, USA, 2017, 87 min, DCP)**

Monday, December 4 at 7pm at the Brattle Theatre

In-person Q&A with Director Lana Wilson

Ittetsu Nemoto, a former punk-turned-Buddhist-priest in Japan, has made a career out of helping suicidal people find reasons to live. But this work has come increasingly at the cost of his own family and health, as he refuses to draw lines between his patients and himself. *The Departure* captures Nemoto at a crossroads, when his growing self-destructive tendencies lead him to confront the same question his patients ask him: what makes life worth living?

THE DOCYARD

Created in 2010 by Sara Archambault, Sean Flynn and Ben Fowlie, the DocYard has quickly become one of Boston's most respected cinematic events, screening a combination of new works from emerging filmmakers and classics from some of the region's most distinguished filmmakers like Frederick Wiseman and Ross McElwee. The series was recently recognized with a special commendation from the Boston Society of Film Critics for "presenting a vibrant forum for the Boston documentary community to see important new non-fiction works and to have meaningful discussions with the filmmakers." In 2014, The DocYard won a BostInno 50 on

Fire Media Award, for “establishing itself as a destination film festival for the genre” in Boston.

The DocYard is a program of the LEF Foundation. Founding sponsors include the Camden International Film Festival, Principle Pictures, and the LEF Foundation. Series sponsors include the Irving House at Harvard and the Tyler Family Foundation.

For more information on the DocYard, visit thedocyard.com.

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