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THE DOCYARD ANNOUNCES SPRING 2015 FILM PROGRAM

The Award Winning Series Continues at the Brattle January 26!

CAMBRIDGE, MA — The DocYard, Boston's award winning showcase for documentary film, has announced its 2015 spring program. The series will once again celebrate what is innovative and inspiring in documentary by screening award winning films from some of the most respected filmmakers working today. The spring season will run from Monday, January 26 through Monday, April 20. All of the screenings will take place at The DocYard's official home, the Brattle Theatre, Boston's oldest art-house cinema. "We are so excited about the films for this winter's schedule," says Sara Archambault, co-founder and programmer for The DocYard. "We have a fantastic collection of Boston premieres in store for the local community, with award-winning filmmakers coming from around the world, sure to get people talking!"

The series will open with **HAPPY VALLEY**, filmmaker Amir Bar-Lev's unflinching look at the iconic American institution in the wake of the Jerry Sandusky scandal. The film premiered at the **2014 Sundance Film Festival** and later went on to win the **Jury Award for Best Documentary Feature** at the **Sarasota Film Festival**. Filmed over the course of the year after Sandusky's arrest as key players agreed to share their experiences, HAPPY VALLEY deconstructs the story we think we know to uncover a much more complicated and tragic tale. Director Amir Bar-Lev and producer Ken Dornstein (of WGBH's FRONTLINE) will be in attendance.

This spring's DocYard season also features filmmaker Robert Greene's critically acclaimed film **ACTRESS** about the struggle of actress Brandy Burre (*THE WIRE*) between her suburban domestic existence as a mom, and her desire to return to the stage. Projects this season come from artists working across the world, including the US, Australia, Sweden, and the Netherlands. This season will include a number of recent award winning films and festival favorites like Sabine Lubbe Bakker & Niels Van Koevorden's **NE ME QUITTE PAS**, a Belgian film about two close friends struggling with alcoholism, and Australian filmmaker Kitty Green's **UKRAINE IS NOT A BROTHEL**, an intimate glimpse inside FEMEN – a provocative women's rights group from post-Soviet Ukraine waging a naked war against patriarchy while coming to terms with the contradictory forces that powered their movement's rise to international fame.

The series will close with the local story **DIVIDE IN CONCORD**, by filmmakers Kris Kaczor and David Regos, who follow a fierce new battle over the proposed ban of bottled water in Concord,

Massachusetts. The year was 1775 in Concord when colonists fired the infamous 'shot heard round the world' that began the American Revolution. One hundred years later, the work of local resident Henry David Thoreau began the environmental movement. And now, the spirit of revolution has returned to town when Jean Hill, a fiery eighty-four year-old resident, launches a three-year effort to rid Concord of bottled water. However, not all are in agreement with the ban, and Jean faces opposition from local merchants and the bottled water industry. Just as the town is abuzz with Patriot's Day celebrations, April's Town Meeting provides the stage for Concord's latest battle.

The DocYard will also continue to screen work with a connection to the documentary legacy of New England. On March 9, the series will present a special screening of the controversial 1976 documentary **UNDERGROUND** followed by a Q&A with Maine-based film legend Mary Lampson. Laura Poitras has called it "One of the most courageous films I know." In 1975, Lampson along with co-directors Emile de Antonio and Haskell Wexler gained access to five key members of the Weathermen, a violent activist group that was a part of the Students for a Democratic Society, and which went underground with plans to overthrow the U.S. government. Later, the FBI would attempt to confiscate the film footage in order to track down the group's members. "The film was the CITIZENFOUR of its time," says Ben Fowlie, co-founder and programmer for The DocYard. "Now is the perfect moment to revisit this provocative and important film."

All screenings begin at 7pm (except where otherwise noted), and are followed by a Q&A moderated by local filmmakers. Season passes are \$60 (\$50 if purchased before December 25) and can be purchased online now at www.thedocyard.com. Individual tickets for each film are \$10 and can be purchased online at www.brattlefilm.org or prior to show time at the Brattle Theatre box office.

For more information on the DocYard and its 2015 Spring Season, visit www.thedocyard.com.

THE DOCYARD 2015 SPRING PROGRAM

Monday, January 26 at 7PM

HAPPY VALLEY (2014, USA, 98 min)

In-person Q&A with Producer Ken Dornstein and Director Amir Bar-Lev

Amir Bar-Lev's documentary HAPPY VALLEY takes an unflinching look at an iconic American institution in the wake of unthinkable scandal. For over 40 years, Joe Paterno was the celebrated head coach of Penn State's storied football team. Then in November 2011 everything changed when longtime assistant coach Jerry Sandusky was charged with 40 counts of child sex abuse, setting off a firestorm of accusations about who failed to protect the children of Happy Valley. Director Bar-Lev creates an indelible portrait of a wounded community and an engrossing investigation into the role big time college football played in both the crimes and their aftermath.

Monday, February 9 at 7PM

***ACTRESS* (2014, USA, 88 min)**

In-person Q&A with director Robert Greene

Brandy Burre had a recurring role on HBO's *The Wire* when she gave up her career to start a family. When she decides to reclaim her life as an actor, the domestic world she's carefully created crumbles around her. Using elements of melodrama and cinema verité, *ACTRESS* is both a present tense portrait of a dying relationship and an exploration of a complicated woman, performing the role of herself, in a complex-yet-familiar story.

Monday, February 23 at 7PM

***NE ME QUITTE PAS* (2013, Netherlands/Belgium, 107 min)**

Skype Q&A with Directors Sabine Lubbe Bakker and Niels Van Koevorden

Ne Me Quitte Pas is a tragicomic ode to failure. Set in a village on the edge of Belgium, Bob (Flemish) and Marcel (Walloon) share their solitude, sense of humor and craving for alcohol. They have agreed that suicide is the best way out if worse comes to worst. In that case, they have chosen the perfect spot to do so: under Bob's tree of life. *Ne Me Quitte Pas* is a Belgian drama about life on the brink of society in all its beauty, modesty and irony.

Monday, March 9 at 7PM

***UNDERGROUND* (1976, USA, 87 min)**

In-person Q&A with Co-director Mary Lampson

"For three days, a trio of filmmakers were given an audience with high-ranking members of the Weathermen—a militant faction of the Students for a Democratic Society that, after moving underground, committed itself to the violent overthrow of the U.S. government. At the time of filming, all five subjects were wanted by the FBI. We never see their faces, but their testimonies, set to a collage of clips from the era's radical documentaries, provide a fascinating look at the mood, texture, and aftereffects of a volatile moment in the history of the US Left." (Film Society Lincoln Center)

Monday, March 23 at 7PM

***UKRAINE IS NOT A BROTHEL* (2013, Australia/Ukraine, 80 min)**

Skype Q&A with Director Kitty Green

Ukraine's topless feminist sensation FEMEN have stirred up a press frenzy across Europe. Outraged by the world's image of Ukrainian women as either brides for sale or commodities of sex tourism, Femen bare their breasts in protest to disrupt this perception and agitate against these brutal patriarchal forces. Now, for the first time, *UKRAINE IS NOT A BROTHEL* offers an intimate glimpse inside the world's most provocative feminist organization.

Monday, April 6 at 7PM

***FOREST OF THE DANCING SPIRITS* (2013, Sweden/Congo/Canada, 104 min)**

In-person Q&A with Co-producer Mila Aung-Thwin and with Director Linda Västrik via Skype

Akaya, Kengole, Dibota and their friends and family are hunters-gatherers (and also great story-tellers) who guide us through their world. They explain their origins, myths, and the very spiritual meaning of

life. The film follows their unique community life as it unfolds over many years. We experience the practice of their spirituality in the most difficult situations. Their religion is playful and highly creative in dealing with deeply serious matters of life and death, and may be the oldest human religion practiced on earth today.

Monday, April 20 at 7PM

***DIVIDE IN CONCORD* (2014, USA, 82 min)**

In-person Q&A with Director Kris Kaczor and Producer David Regos

Divide in Concord is a feature-length documentary that follows the entertaining tale of banning bottled water in small town America. In 1775, Concord patriots fired the infamous 'shot heard round the world' that began a Revolution and defined a nation. Now a local eighty-four year-old woman has waged another seemingly unwinnable battle. For three years Jean Hill has been trying to rid the town of single-serve plastic bottles of water. Complete with strong opposition from local merchants and the bottled water industry, Jean is once again leading the controversial crusade. Just as the town is abuzz with Patriot's Day celebrations, April's Town Meeting provides the stage for Concord's latest battle.

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. Now in its fifth edition, 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 and is supported by the Brattle Theatre, Cambridge Arts Council/Massachusetts Cultural Council, Irving House at Harvard and Rule / Boston Camera.

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

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