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THE DOCYARD PRESENTS **MONA NICOARA'S** *OUR SCHOOL* AT THE BRATTLE THEATRE, FEBRUARY 6

**Romanian Human Rights Activist's Tender Portrait of Roma Children Won Sterling Award for Best US Feature at 2011 Silverdocs Documentary Film Festival**

CAMBRIDGE, MA — The DocYard, Boston's premiere showcase for documentary film, is proud to present *Our School*, a film by producer and director Mona Nicoara. Shot over four years in rural Transylvania, *Our School* follows three Roma children who are among the pioneer participants in an initiative to integrate the ethnically segregated Romanian schools. This award-winning work will screen February 6 at 8pm at the historic Brattle Theatre followed by an exclusive, in-person Q&A with Nicoara.

The film's poignant and intimate portrait of rural village life and its rhythms not only introduces viewers to the stark reality of the children's situation but also inspires a deep admiration for their indomitable spirit, punctuated by shocking instances of prejudice and ignorance. Their story touches on issues such as institutionalized racism, public education, and the intractability of poverty, culminating in an outrageous finale that cements the Roma children's struggle in the annals of egregious human rights violations. *Our School* is an absorbing, infuriating, and ultimately bittersweet story of tradition and progress.

"Exercising admirable restraint in its exposé of ingrained racism in the Romanian educational system, absorbing docu *Our School* follows the sad yet resilient journey of three Roma children over four years as they grapple with prejudice and stereotyping. Unveiled at Tribeca before SilverDocs, where it won the Sterling Award for top nonfiction feature, even-keeled pic carries echoes of Michael Apter's groundbreaking *Up* series...Credit helmer Mona Nicoara with having the wisdom and fortitude to let the depth of the problem reveal itself naturally, correctly anticipating viewer outrage as the children are marginalized over time."

-- Eddie Cockrell, **Variety**

In Romanian with English subtitles. 94 min. Watch the teaser trailer at <http://ourschoolfilm.blogspot.com/p/about-film.html>.

The DocYard's 2012 Winter season screens at the Brattle Theatre every other Monday from January 23 to April 16. The series continues to offer an incredible array of nonfiction and documentary works, with stories about fights against bureaucracy, racism and personal demons. All screenings begin at 8pm, followed by a Q&A moderated by Boston-based filmmaker Chico Colvard, and an after-party at the Crimson Lounge in Harvard Square.

Season passes are \$50 and can be purchased online through Kickstarter until January 31st at <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1738989608/the-docyard-season-4>. Individual tickets for each film are \$10 and can be purchased online at [www.brattletheatre.org](http://www.brattletheatre.org) or prior to show time at the Brattle Theatre box office. For more information on the DocYard and its 2012 Winter Season, visit [www.thedocyard.com](http://www.thedocyard.com).

## **UPCOMING SCREENINGS AT THE DOCYARD'S 2012 WINTER PROGRAM**

**February 20**

***CAMPAIGN* (2007)**

**Q&A with director Kazuhiro Soda**

*CAMPAIGN* provides a startling insider's view of Japanese electoral politics in this portrait of Yama-san, a man plucked from obscurity by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to run for a critical seat on a suburban city council.

**March 5**

***BOMBAY BEACH* (2011)**

**Q&A with director Alma Har'el**

**Winner, Best Documentary, Tribeca Film Festival**

**Winner, Emerging Cinematic Vision, Camden International Film Festival**

*BOMBAY BEACH* is a dreamlike poem that sets the personal stories of distinctive yet familiar characters to a stylized amalgam of observational documentary and choreographed dance. The film's setting, the Salton Sea, is a barren Californian landscape often seen as a symbol of the failure of the American Dream.

**March 19**

***BATTLE FOR BROOKLYN* (2010)**

**Q&A with director Michael Galinsky and Suki Hawley**

*BATTLE FOR BROOKLYN* follows the story of reluctant activist Daniel Goldstein as he struggles to save his home and community from being demolished to make way for a professional basketball arena and the densest real estate development in U.S. history.

**April 2**

***SCENES OF A CRIME* (2011)**

**Q&A with director Grover Babcock**

*SCENES OF A CRIME* explores a nearly 10-hour interrogation that culminates in a disputed confession and an intense, high-profile murder trial in New York state in which detectives, prosecutors, witnesses, jurors and the suspect himself offer conflicting accounts of exactly what happened in this mysterious and disturbing true-crime documentary.

**Closing Night Film – April 16**

***MARATHON BOY* (2010)**

**Skype Q&A with director Gemma Atwal**

*MARATHON BOY* is the story of a four-year-old boy who is plucked from the slums of India by his coach and trained to become India's greatest runner, but what starts in hope turns into the stuff of film noir: a tale of greed, envy and broken dreams.

## **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."

The DocYard is presented by the LEF Foundation and the Camden International Film Festival with generous support from the Center for Independent Documentary, Irving House at Harvard, Modulus Studios, Nesson Media Boston, Rule / Boston Camera, Tommy Doyle's Crimson Lounge and the Cambridge Arts Council/Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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