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**THE DOCYARD PRESENTS KAZUHIRO SODA'S CAMPAIGN AT THE BRATTLE THEATRE, FEBRUARY 20**

**Peabody Award-winning Documentary Takes a Fly-on-the-wall Look at Japanese Politics  
During a Local City Council Election Campaign**

CAMBRIDGE, MA — The DocYard, Boston's premiere showcase for documentary film, is proud to present ***Campaign (2007)***, the first feature documentary by New York-based filmmaker Kazuhiro Soda. This *cinéma vérité*-styled film provides a startling insider's view of Japanese electoral politics in this portrait of a man plucked from obscurity by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to run for a critical seat on a suburban city council. The film will screen February 20 at 8pm at the historic Brattle Theatre followed by an exclusive, in-person Q&A with Kazuhiro Soda.

With no experience in politics, no supporters, and no charisma, Kazuhiko "Yama-san" Yamauchi was a 40-year-old self-employed man pushed into the political spotlight by the leaders of the ruling LDP party to secure a crucial seat on the Kawasaki City Council. Bolstered by a strong campaign team of LDP veterans and handlers, Yama-san allows his life to turn upside-down as he pursues the rituals of Japanese electioneering -- with both tragic and comic results. ***Campaign*** is a prime example of what Soda calls an "observational film", one in which the viewer is invited, or even expected, to discover and interpret the onscreen realities as directly as the filmmaker did while he was shooting the footage.

"Mr. Soda uses tried-and-true fly-on-the-wall techniques to create a real-life satire. ***Campaign*** may invite a certain skepticism about democracy, but it will surely restore your faith in *cinéma vérité*."

- **A.O. Scott, The New York Times**

"***Campaign (Senkyo)*** allows us to look deep into the inner life of Japanese politics."

- **Christoph Terhechte, Director of Forum, Berlin Film Festival**

"***Campaign (Senkyo)*** is a behind the scenes look at a political campaign that is uniquely Japanese, but also, somehow, UNIVERSAL. It's SMART, FUNNY and SUSPENSEFUL-- part ***Lost in Translation*** and part ***The War Room***."

- **Marshall Curry, Oscar Nominated Director of *Street Fight***

In Japanese with English subtitles. 120 min. Watch the trailer at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=djwd3QKQOfc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=djwd3QKQOfc).

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.

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**

**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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