



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: thedocyard.info@gmail.com

April 4, 2012

**THE DOCYARD, RECIPIENT OF A 2012 CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL GRANT,
CONCLUDES WINTER PROGRAM WITH **MARATHON BOY** AT
THE BRATTLE THEATRE ON MARATHON DAY, APRIL 16**

Gemma Atwal's Dynamic Epic of A Boy and His Trainer Reflects Upon Celebrity, Society and Family

CAMBRIDGE, MA — The DocYard, Boston's premiere showcase for documentary film and brand-new recipient of a 2012 Cambridge Arts Council grant, concludes its successful 2012 Winter Season with ***Marathon Boy (2010)***, Gemma Atwal's debut feature-length documentary film about a four-year-old boy plucked from the slums of India by his coach to train as a marathon runner, and the dark, Dickensian journey which follows their initial celebrity. This award-winning film will screen April 16 – Boston Marathon Day – at 8pm at the historic Brattle Theatre followed by an exclusive Q&A with director Gemma Atwal on Skype.

Four-year-old Budhia was rescued from poverty by Biranchi Das, a larger-than-life judo coach and orphanage operator in the eastern Indian state of Orissa. Budhia's talent for long-distance running catapulted both child and coach into the spotlight, casting Budhia as a folk hero for the impoverished masses. However, they were quickly swept up in a storm of controversy after Budhia broke down during a world-record run. What follows is not only a riveting tale of corruption and political intrigue or the shocking story of opportunism and exploitation, but also a touching portrait of an authentic bond between a parent and child.

The 2012 Summer Season of the DocYard will start Monday, June 4 and programming information will be available in early May.

"When we began the 2012 Winter Season with the rare screening of ***Space Coast***, we had a chance to appreciate the early work of documentary pioneers Ross McElwee and Michel Negroponte," said Sara Archambault, co-founder and programmer for the DocYard. "With Gemma Atwal's debut documentary feature, ***Marathon Boy***, we hope to connect our audiences to the next generation of nonfiction filmmakers around the globe and continue to celebrate the rich, continuing legacy of documentary filmmaking."

"It is such an honor to receive a 2012 Cambridge Arts Council grant for the DocYard," says DocYard co-founder Ben Fowlie. "Thanks to our generous supporters and our successful Kickstarter campaign, we've enjoyed a very successful season and hope to continue our mission to create a space for audiences to enjoy and discuss innovative, relevant and provocative nonfiction films."

98 min. Watch the trailer at <http://www.marathonboymovie.com/trailer/>.

WINNER – CINE Golden Eagle Award, 2011

WINNER – Grand Jury Award for Best New Director, Abu Dhabi Film Festival, 2011

WINNER – Grand Jury Prize, EIDF KOREA, EBS International Documentary Festival, 2011

WINNER – Top 3 Feature Documentary Finalist, IDFA 2010

WINNER – Special Mention, Sheffield Docfest, 2010

“An unforgettable documentary. Rivals any dramatic thriller.” – **The Hollywood Reporter**

“Epic, artistic and even archetypal.” – **Variety**

“Fascinating, dark and gripping. A beautifully shot, terse film.” – **The Telegraph**

“Gripping and sad and durably ambivalent about its subject.” – **The Independent**

“A hero’s journey so ripe for the making of myth that Joseph Campbell would be proud, and culminates in tragedy so Shakespearean it’s hard to believe he didn’t write it.” – **DFG, Documentary Filmmakers**

Group

The DocYard’s 2012 Summer season screens at the Brattle Theatre every other Monday starting June 4. The series continues to offer an incredible array of nonfiction and documentary works, and program information will be available in early May. All screenings begin at 8pm, followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers and an after-party at Casablanca Restaurant right below the Theatre.

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 upcoming 2012 Summer Season, visit www.thedocyard.com.

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 and the Cambridge Arts Council/Massachusetts Cultural Council.

For more information on the DocYard and its upcoming 2012 Summer Season, visit www.thedocyard.com.

###