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THE DOCYARD PRESENTS *DEAR MANDELA* AT THE BRATTLE THEATRE, AUGUST 13

**Documentary Follows South African Shack Dwellers' Struggle
Against Government-Sanctioned Evictions**

CAMBRIDGE, MA — The DocYard, Boston's premiere showcase for documentary film, is proud to present *Dear Mandela*, a documentary film by Dara Kell and Christopher Nizza. **Winner of Best South African Documentary at Durban International Film Festival**, *Dear Mandela* follows the story of the largest movement of the poor in post-apartheid South Africa. The film will **screen August 13 at 8pm** at the historic Brattle Theatre, followed by an exclusive, in-person Q&A with Dara Kell and Christopher Nizza.

When the South African government promises to 'eradicate the slums' and begins evicting shack dwellers from their homes, three friends who live in Durban's vast shantytowns refuse to be moved. *Dear Mandela* follows their journey from their shacks to the highest court in the land as they invoke Nelson Mandela's example and become leaders in an inspiring social movement.

Mazwi, an enlightened schoolboy; Zama, an AIDS orphan and Mnikelo, a mischievous shopkeeper are part of a new generation who feel betrayed by the broken promises of Mandela's own political party, the African National Congress. Determined to stop the evictions, they meet with their communities by candlelight and discover that the new innocuous-sounding 'Slums Act' legalized the evictions and violated the rights enshrined in the country's landmark Constitution. With the help of pro bono lawyers, they challenge the Slums Act all the way to the hallowed Constitutional Court.

The extraordinary achievements of the shack dwellers don't come without a price. As the beloved Mandela's portrait beams down from schoolroom chalkboards and shack walls, Mazwi, Zama and Mnikelo learn of the sacrifices that come with leadership. Shack demolitions, assassination attempts and government repression test their resolve to continue.

By turns devastating, inspiring and funny, DEAR MANDELA offers a new perspective on the role that young people can play in political change and is a fascinating portrait of South Africa coming of age.

90 min, South Africa, 2011. Watch the trailer at <http://vimeo.com/26538549>.

Best South African Documentary, Durban International Film Festival 2011
Grand Jury Prize, Brooklyn Film Festival
Golden Butterfly Award, Movies That Matter Film Festival

"GRIPPING...a call to action as much as it is an indictment of a government that has lost its way"
– **Charl Blignaut, City Press**

"Leaves us with questions that few have dared to ask about the new South Africa".

- Marie Huchzermeyer, Author of Cities with 'Slums'

"Mnikelo, Mazwi and Zama offer a kind of uncensored honesty that comes with youth. Enthralling...one of those films that will never leave you."

- Mahala Magazine

The DocYard's 2012 Summer Season returns to the Brattle Theatre every other Monday from June 4 to August 27. The series continues to offer an incredible array of nonfiction and documentary works, with stories about human rights, spiritual explorations, and personal journeys via music and fly-fishing.

This summer, the DocYard will screen a documentary short film before each feature-length work, selected from Alex Jablonski's *Sparrow Songs* series.

All screenings begin at 8pm, followed by a Q&A moderated by journalist, writer and producer Erin Trahan, and an after-party at Casablanca restaurant.

Season passes are \$50 and can be purchased online through Paypal at www.thedocyard.com by clicking on the "Buy Now" button on the right sidebar. Individual tickets for each film are \$10 and can be purchased online at www.brattletheatre.org or prior to show time at the Brattle Theatre box office.

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

THE DOCYARD 2012 SUMMER PROGRAM

Closing Night Film – August 27

GIVE UP TOMORROW (2011)

In-person Q&A with director Michael Collins and producer Marty Syjuco

Set amidst old world vestiges of colonialism, classism and backdoor politics in the Philippines, *GIVE UP TOMORROW* rivetingly exposes a Kafkaesque contemporary world of corruption and injustice during a murder case.

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."

The DocYard is presented by the LEF Foundation and the Camden International Film Festival with generous support from the Brattle Theatre, Cambridge Arts Council/Massachusetts Cultural Council, Center for Independent Documentary, Irving House at Harvard, Modulus Studios, Nesson Media Boston, Open Documentary Lab @ MIT and Rule / Boston Camera.

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