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THE DOCYARD ANNOUNCES SPRING 2020 SEASON AT THE BRATTLE THEATRE

The Spring Season begins February 10 with Erick Stoll and Chase Whiteside's *América* and concludes May 18 with Marnie Ellen Hertzler's *Crestone*.

CAMBRIDGE, MA – The DocYard, Boston's home for artful nonfiction cinema, is proud to announce its Spring 2020 program of documentary films and visiting filmmakers. The program runs from **February 10 through May 18** with all screenings taking place on **Mondays at 7 PM** at the **Brattle Theatre**, the DocYard's long-time partner venue in the heart of Harvard Square. Most screenings are Boston-area premieres, and each will be followed by a filmmaker discussion.

The season starts on Monday, **February 10** with ***América***, co-directed by Erick Stoll and Chase Whiteside. A deeply immersive and warm observational film, *América* follows three brothers in Mexico as they reunite to take care of their grandmother, América, and fight to release their father from jail for elder negligence.

The series continues to highlight nonfiction filmmaking that challenges traditional notions of the form. ***My First Film***, Zia Anger's critically-lauded live performance, will be performed in Boston for the first time (**February 24**). *My First Film* upends tenets about the gatekeeping apparatuses of independent film and the possibilities of failure, brilliantly merging the personal and the political.

Additionally, two of this season's films have yet to make their world premieres and will be traveling to the DocYard as fresh offerings off the US festival circuit. ***Some Kind of Heaven***, a meticulously-constructed portrait of four residents of the world's largest retirement community, is showing at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival in the innovative NEXT section and marks the first feature from recent Harvard College graduate, Lance Oppenheim (**March 2**). Marnie Ellen Hertzler's infectious creativity abounds in her debut feature ***Crestone***, a doc-fiction hybrid tracing one summer with a group of idealistic SoundCloud rappers. *Crestone* will begin its festival run in February 2020 and closes the Spring DocYard season on Monday, **May 18**.

The DocYard will also be presenting new work by a filmmaker who has previously screened at The DocYard, continuing our dialogue with alumni of the series as they advance their visions. Alexander Nanau follows his earlier film *Toto and His Sisters* (Fall '15) with ***Collective***, a tour de force investigation into medical fraud in his birth country of Romania after the Colectiv nightclub fire. Nanau will travel to Boston via Berlin to accompany *Collective*, which is already being touted as a masterpiece (**April 6**).

The distinctive voices of two emerging filmmakers based outside of the US complete the lineup of new nonfiction films. Now living and working in the Philippines, Miko Revereza will present a cinema of resistance via his train journey across the US in ***No Data Plan***, screening as part of the film's US theatrical tour by indie Dorchester-based distributor Sentient.Art.Film (**March 23**). Filmmaker Archana Atul Phadke will Skype in from India for a post-screening discussion following ***About Love***, an uproariously humorous first-person account of her own family recorded over three years (**April 13**).

The Spring 2020 New England Legacy screenings will be a double feature of ***My Father, The Genius (2002)*** and ***One Cut, One Life (2014)*** in an evening surveying Lucia Small's body of work (**May 4**). *My Father, The Genius*, a fiercely personal reconsideration of biographical and family documentaries, took home the Grand Jury Prize at Slamdance. *One Cut, One Life* features

Small and pioneering documentarian Ed Pincus in their final collaboration facing mortality and grief. A post-screening discussion after *One Cut, One Life* will focus on Small's long engagement with Boston-area independent documentary as a boundary-pushing director, producer, and editor.

The DocYard's Spring 2020 season is programmed by Guest Curator Abby Sun. The DocYard is a program of the LEF Foundation in partnership with the Brattle Theatre. Other series sponsors include the Irving House at Harvard and the Tyler Family Foundation.

Season passes are on sale now at an early bird rate of \$75 through Sunday, February 2. Regular season passes at \$85 for adults will be on sale beginning Monday, February 3. The student rate for DocYard season passes will remain at \$65 throughout the season. Passes can be purchased online now at thedocyard.com. Individual tickets for each film at the Brattle Theatre are \$12 (\$10 for students and seniors) and can be purchased online at brattlefilm.org or on the night of each event at the Brattle Theatre box office.

The DocYard Spring 2020 Program

All screenings take place at the Brattle Theatre

***América* (Directed by Erick Stoll and Chase Whiteside, 2018, 76 minutes)**

Monday, February 10 at 7pm

Filmmakers Erick Stoll and Chase Whiteside attending in person for Q&A

Diego and his brothers reunite to take care of their aging grandmother, América, in a film that breathes new life into the observational genre.

***My First Film* (Directed by Zia Anger, 2018, 75 minutes)**

Monday, February 24 at 7pm

Filmmaker Zia Anger attending in person for Q&A

Zia Anger's brilliant live cinema performance upends tenets of desktop documentaries, the first-person perspective, and the business of independent filmmaking.

***Some Kind of Heaven* (Directed by Lance Oppenheim, 2020, 83 minutes)**

Monday, March 2 at 7pm

Filmmaker Lance Oppenheim attending in person for Q&A

Four residents of "The Villages," the world's largest retirement community, seek love and health amidst the shifting sands of South Florida.

***No Data Plan* (Directed by Miko Revereza, 2019, 70 minutes)**

Monday, March 23 at 7pm

Filmmaker Miko Revereza attending via Skype for Q&A

The American road movie is renewed in this essential essay film about documentation, precarity, family, and freedom of movement.

***Collective* (Directed by Alexander Nanau, 2019, 107 minutes)**

Monday, April 6 at 7pm

Filmmaker Alexander Nanau attending in person for Q&A

This masterpiece features an explosive, uncompromising investigation into a medical fraud scandal following the Colectiv nightclub fire in Bucharest.

***About Love* (Directed by Archana Atul Phadke, 2019, 90 minutes)**

Monday, April 13 at 7pm

Filmmaker Archana Atul Phadke attending via Skype for Q&A

A tender, humorous personal documentary about three generations of the filmmaker's family living in one compound in Mumbai.

Monday, May 4, starting at 5pm

A New England Legacy Screening and DOUBLE FEATURE

Filmmaker Lucia Small attending in person for Q&A following *One Cut, One Life*

5pm: *My Father, The Genius* (Directed by Lucia Small, 2002, 82 minutes)

An anti-hagiographic and bravely personal look at a visionary architect fading into obscurity, helmed by his filmmaker daughter.

7pm: *One Cut, One Life* (Directed by Lucia Small and Ed Pincus, 2014, 105 minutes.)

Personal documentarians Lucia Small and Ed Pincus' final collaboration traces Pincus' terminal illness and the value of an artistic life.

***Crestone* (Directed by Marnie Ellen Hertzler, 2020, 76 minutes)**

Monday, May 18 at 7pm

Filmmaker Marnie Ellen Hertzler attending in person for Q&A

A ragtag group of idealistic SoundCloud rappers attempt to create a sanctuary for free expression in the Colorado Desert, set to an Animal Collective soundtrack.

For full program notes and the entire list of films featured in the Spring 2020 program, visit 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. The series was 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 nonfiction works and to have meaningful discussions with the filmmakers" and 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. Founding sponsors include the Camden International Film Festival, Principle Pictures, and the LEF Foundation. Series sponsors include the Irving House at Harvard and the Tyler Family Foundation. For more information on the DocYard, visit thedocyard.com.

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