October-ing The Wells Point

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thewellspoint

October in Rhode Island seemed like a month that couldn't decide what kind of weather it would be. The month opened with summer refusing to end. Providence climbed into the 80s. Then a cold front swept through, and as the month wore on and the sun moved lower on the horizon, I spent many mornings chasing the angled, slanting light that October brings. With autumn here and cold weather to follow, I am thinking about spring, which means Sicily. Photos from my previous trips to this beautiful island are interspersed throughout this newsletter.



October was also a big month for two of my films:

Quahoggers: Rhode Island's Iconic Shellfishermen, aired on GBH television on October 1 and is now available on GBH's YouTube page! It is part of the GBH Local Lens series that spotlights films made in New England. Enjoy a great

preview of the film that the folks at GBH created.

My other film in the spotlight, Unbowed, is a moving, intimate portrait of exiled Gambian journalist Dr. Omar Bah, whose life takes a remarkable turn when he is resettled in Rhode Island as a refugee. This life-altering experience sets Omar on a new path as a local and national activist, advocate, and leader for refugee communities.



On October 6, newportFILM screened Unbowed at Hope High School in Providence. It was a very special evening. After the screening, moderator Jess Brown led an extended Q&A with Omar, my co-director Mae Gammino, civil rights attorney Amy R. Romero of the Lawyers' Committee for Rhode Island, and me. The conversation dug into something I care about deeply: what each of us can practically do to support our refugee and immigrant neighbors.



Earlier this year, the film was named Best Political Documentary Short at the Block Island Film Festival. It has been an official selection at the Freedom Festival International, the Africa International Human Rights Film Festival, the iRepresent International Documentary Film Festival, the Nordic Star Festival, and the Torino Underground Cinefest.



There was some great press about the screening of Unbowed, including:

Edward Fitzpatrick's Ocean State Q&A in the Boston Globe, with excerpts from the post-screening discussion

A conversation with Mae, Omar, and me on Bill Bartholomew's Bartholomewtown podcast, recorded ahead of that Hope High School screening.



If you missed the screening, Unbowed is now available on Kinema.

If you or any organization you know might be interested in screening the film, don't hesitate to get in touch with me.



WORKSHOP NEWS:

Picture Sicily in early spring, when almond and orange blossom perfume the air, wildflowers carpet the fields, and the light is at its richest. At the heart of Open Sky Expeditions' upcoming 12-day photography journey (March 21 - April 1, 2027) are the centuries-old Holy Week processions in the hilltop town of Enna. This off-the-beaten-path learning opportunity is for a group of photographers under my expert guidance. Photograph a community undertaking an ancient ritual, with people thrilled to be photographed. The rest of the itinerary is paced for photographers and built around the best light: Palermo's markets and port at their liveliest, the mosaics of Monreale, the Greek temple at Segesta, and the Marsala salt flats of Trapani at golden hour. The trip ends among the lanes of Ortigia in Siracusa.

I hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter and my updates! I welcome your feedback. If you know anyone interested in getting these updates, please encourage them to sign up for this newsletter!

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