



**June 10-13, 2004**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FESTIVAL INFO**

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## **Poignant photographs by Calcutta children displayed during Waterfront Film Festival**

SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN – Amazing photographs taken by children in Calcutta, India, will be displayed and also available for purchase before and during the Waterfront Film Festival this June.

Through special arrangement with the filmmakers of *Born Into Brothels*, an award-winning documentary about the lives of Calcutta prostitutes and their children, the Waterfront Film Festival is honored to host the gallery of images that accompany the documentary screening at Waterfront.

Spending years with the children of prostitutes in Calcutta's Red Light District, New York-based photographer Zana Briski taught them to document their own lives on film and use art as an empowering force.

The resulting photographs will be displayed at Uncommon Grounds, 127 Hoffman Street in Saugatuck, starting Monday, June 7, through Sunday, June 13. (The festival will run June 10-13.) There is no cost to view the photos. The photos also may be purchased, and the proceeds of these beautiful images will be applied to the education of the child who took the photograph.

Briski first began to document the lives of Calcutta prostitutes and their children in 1995. She spent months trying to get to know the women and their children, and even lived with them. "It was the children who accepted me immediately," Briski said. "They didn't quite understand what I was doing there, but they were mesmerized by me and my camera."

Briski showed the children how to operate the camera and take pictures. On her next trip to India, she brought with her 10 point-and-shoot cameras and selected a group of children who were the most eager to learn. "The results were amazing. I gave up my own photography and began to work with the kids full time," Briski said.

It was then that she started documenting this experience on film. "I bought a video camera and began to film the kids in the brothels, in the streets, and on photo class trips. I had never even picked up a video camera before."

Next, she invited New York photojournalist Ross Kauffman to collaborate with her, and the result was the documentary *Born Into Brothels*, which has gone on to win numerous awards, including the 2004 Sundance Film Festival Audience Award Winner.

Additional information is at [www.kids-with-cameras.org](http://www.kids-with-cameras.org) or [www.bornintobrothels.org](http://www.bornintobrothels.org).

Entertainment professionals from Los Angeles, New York, and Michigan created the Waterfront Film Festival in 1999 to provide a "middle coast" venue for independent filmmakers eager to show their work to sophisticated audiences. Call 269-857-8351 for festival information or visit [www.waterfrontfilm.org](http://www.waterfrontfilm.org).

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