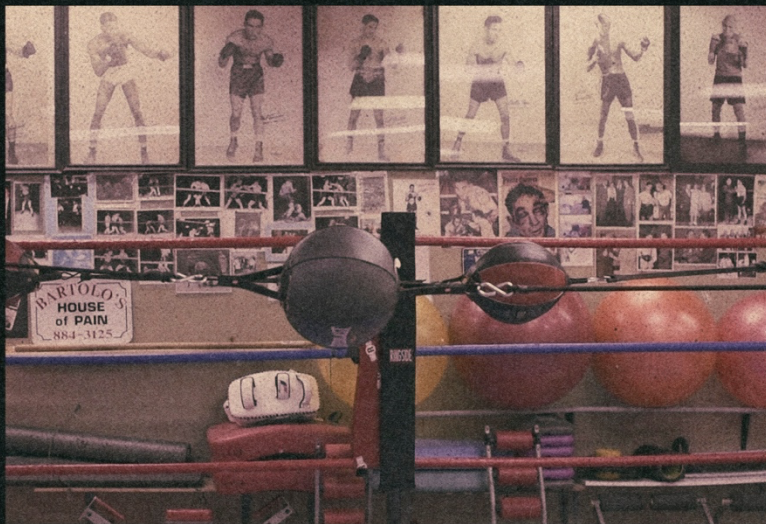


KODAK PORTRA 400



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KODAK PORTRA



A FILM BY
NAOMI YANG

Never Be A Punching Bag

FOR NOBODY



NEVER BE A PUNCHING BAG FOR NOBODY

Written, directed and photographed by Naomi Yang

Original soundtrack by Naomi Yang

Sound design by Ian Coss

An affecting portrait of an East Boston boxing gym and the forgotten history of its surrounding neighborhood, alongside an exploration of indie rock musician Naomi Yang's own fraught family history.

[Click here](#) for the 90-sec trailer

[Official website](#)

SYNOPSIS

A neighborhood Boston boxing gym out by Logan Airport is the last place you'd expect to find musician Naomi Yang ([Galaxie 500](#), [Damon & Naomi](#)), but that's where she's been spending her time, learning boxing and making a feature-length documentary, *Never Be A Punching Bag for Nobody*.

The film weaves together three stories: colorful boxing coach and ex-drill sergeant Sal Bartolo Jr., son of a renowned 1940s East Boston boxing champ; Yang herself, learning boxing from trainer Bartolo and reexamining some of her own family's disturbing history; and schoolteacher Mary Ellen Welch, who in the 1960s mobilized a group of neighborhood women against



encroachment from Logan airport, fighting back against an indifferent city government. None of these protagonists are destined to win the Big Fight, but all offer inspiration to anyone determined to stand up for themselves and hold their ground. Yang's keen eye for portraiture, landscape, and forgotten local history creates an affecting and revelatory picture of a small patch of urban landscape most have only ever flown over.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

"There is a boxing gym near Logan Airport in Boston. I hoped to use it for a fashion video, but the owner, Sal, said no. So I took up boxing at the gym to prove I was serious. I convinced Sal, I also discovered that boxing unearthed issues from my past—and the neighborhood's past—in unexpected ways."

NAOMI YANG BIO:

Naomi Yang is a director, photographer, and graphic designer. She is also a musician, formerly of [Galaxie 500](#), currently of [Damon & Naomi](#).

She has directed music videos for artists including Sharon Van Etten, Steve Gunn, Lee Ranaldo, Waxahatchie, Mary Lattimore, and Julie Holter, and for independent record labels such as Merge, Drag City, Matador, Mute, and Rough Trade. Her abiding interest in fashion and design has led her to direct a series of videos for noted New York womenswear designer



Gary Graham, as well as Los Angeles menswear label and retailer Virgil Normal.

Naomi was a member of the critically lauded 80s indie band Galaxie 500. The band's recordings have continued to grow in influence since their original release. Her musical career continues to the present day as she records, performs and tours worldwide as a member of Damon & Naomi.

She is a graphic designer of books, music and other media including the publications of her (co-owned) small press [Exact Change](#), and all Galaxie 500 and Damon & Naomi records. She was born in New York City and lives in Cambridge, MA.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Instagram [@naomivision](#)

Facebook [/Naomivision](#)

Website www.naomivision.com





IAN COSS BIO:

Ian Coss is an audio producer whose work spans music, podcasting and sound art. His original series [“Forever is a Long Time”](#) was named one of the best podcasts of 2021 by The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Atlantic, and Apple Podcasts. A founding member of PRX Productions, Ian produced and scored “Ways of Hearing,” “The Great God of Depression,” “Over the Road,” and “Blind Guy Travels” for Radiotopia, and launched the Antiques Roadshow podcast, “Detours.” His work has appeared on Snap Judgment, Studio 360 and 99 Percent Invisible; been featured at the Tribeca Film Festival; and received multiple Edward R. Murrow Awards, as well as a nomination for Podcast Academy’s Podcast of the Year.