

Teens explore youth violence with Hub documentary project

By Jessica Van Sack | Thursday, May 29, 2008 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | [Local Coverage](#)

Nancy Cardona, 16, says she can't shake the memory of a hood repeatedly plunging a knife into her 20-year-old friend, a scene she stumbled upon while walking on Warren Street in Roxbury with her younger brother last year.

"It really traumatized me," said Cardona, a local high school freshman. "I'm really scared of going back to Roxbury."

But with a dramatic new documentary about the violence besetting Hub streets, Cardona has turned her anguish into art. She and 14 fellow teens are making their movie debut today as the film, "Looking for Peace One Block at A Time," is scheduled to premiere tonight at a Northeastern University screening.

The teens developed the film as a project for an internship program run by the nonprofit Hyde Square Task Force.

The half-hour-long feature, which they are shopping to public TV stations, includes interviews with several families of well-known Boston homicide victims, including the grandmother of Germaine Goffigan, who witnessed her grandson's murder on Halloween in 1994.



Photo by Nancy Lane

The kids also interview each other about the lingering effects of being witness to the shootings, stabbings and gang warfare that has besieged Hub youth.

The production's technical operation got a significant boost from Mystic Mirada Productions, a civically minded Hub film company led by Brandeis University professor Alex Gomez, 34.

The movie premieres at the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute at Northeastern University, 40 Leon St., tonight at 6 p.m.

"We want other youth to know that there is violence all around us, but there is also hope," Cardona said. "We also know that there are youth doing positive things and it's important to put them in the spotlight."

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