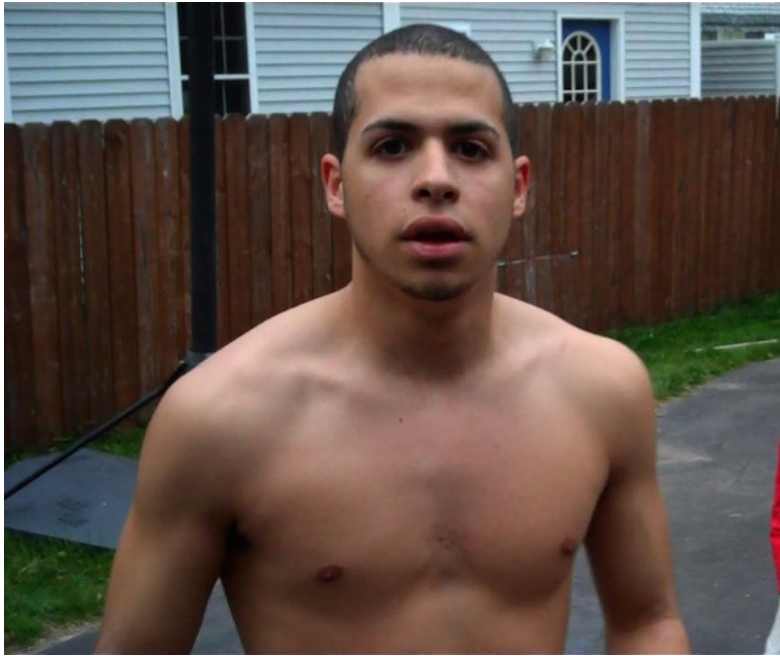


Film Review: The Newburyport Documentary Film Festival — Cozy and Smart

SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

The Newburyport Documentary Film Festival is leisurely and unpretentious — and addictive



A scene from the moving documentary “Angelo Unwritten.”

By Gerald Peary

It’s leisurely and unpretentious, and it takes place over one long weekend each September. But I’ve become addicted to the cozy, smartly curated [Newburyport Documentary Film Festival](#), this year Sept-15-17. Probably a dozen Boston-area non-fiction filmmakers also made the hour trip to spend a Saturday and a Sunday hanging out in lovely Newburyport and watching excellent documentaries.

The journey was well worth it just for Alice Stone’s deep, heart wrenching *Angelo Unwritten*. The filmmaker has devoted years to filming the up-and-down travails of a Puerto Rican foster child taken in by a WASPy, outdoorsy New Hampshire couple. Angelo, now past his teens, is intelligent, clever, a fine athlete, a talented rapper, a charmer, also angry, undisciplined, self-destructive, and seemingly wounded forever by his orphaned childhood. It’s perhaps a mismatch with his Caucasian family, but they do love him, they do try to set him on a righteous path. Terrific documentaries have great everyday heroes. In *Angelo Unwritten*, check out Brick, a rapper with the heart of an angel who becomes Angelo’s mentor and kind of substitute dad.