



BACKPACK moving full speed ahead!



Above (from left to right): BACKPACK Producer, Vera Aronow, early childhood education professor and mother of Matt Damon, Dr. Nancy Carlsson-Paige, actor and BACKPACK Narrator, Matt Damon, and BACKPACK Director, Sarah Mondale take a celebratory photo backstage before our exciting Boston premiere. Photo by [Cheryl Clegg](#).

BACKPACK in the spotlight, igniting conversations worldwide!

Have you heard? “Backpack Full of Cash” is moving full steam ahead--thanks in great part to your support! Recently, we attended a wonderful screening in Albany, NY, and a big event in Boston with Matt Damon, the film’s narrator, and his mother Dr. Nancy Carlsson-Paige, which drew a crowd estimated at 650. There have been multi-city screenings in New Zealand and an encore event in Canada this fall. Two recent screenings in Denver were sold out, and [many others are planned](#) in the months ahead. The film is also continuing its festival run, showing at the [Heartland Film Festival](#) in Indianapolis and the [Ellensburg Film Festival](#) in Washington state.

There’s been a lot of [positive press](#), although as you can imagine, there's push back from advocates of school privatization. Just yesterday, [The Hollywood Reporter](#) published an interview with [Jeanne Allen](#), founder of the Center for Education Reform who formerly worked for the Reagan administration and the Heritage Foundation, and who was interviewed for the film. Although she has yet to see “Backpack Full of Cash”, Allen attacks it, Matt Damon, and us, personally. She also attacked our film today in [The Boston Globe](#).

We stand by our reporting and believe Ms. Allen's words are used in their proper context in BACKPACK. We regret that she doesn't like her portrayal in a film that she hasn't seen, but also appreciate that she's kept the conversation going on the national level about the health of our public school system. Given the policy directives of the Trump administration and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, we feel strongly that these discussions should be taking place in every school, library and community center across the country.

We spent five years making the film to generate deeper discourse on the state of public education -- especially the consequences of privatization on public schools and the most vulnerable students who rely on them -- and hope that future media attention will focus more on the issues.

Meanwhile, our grassroots screening campaign is catching fire. BACKPACK screenings are turning out to be a powerful tool for informing communities about what is happening in public education today. To find out more about how you can host a screening in your community, go to www.BackpackFullofCash.com and click on Host a Screening. Thanks for your ongoing support!

Sarah Mondale, Vera Aronow, and the BACKPACK team

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Above: An excited crowd patiently awaits entry to the Wheelock Family Theatre before our Boston premiere. Photo by [Cheryl Clegg](#).