

"Rucksack Pun Love!"

Yes, you read that right — it's Croatian for BACKPACK FULL OF CASH! We love it! And we loved showing *Backpack* at the ZagrebDox Film Festival this week to a sold-out crowd that included teachers and public school supporters.



The pre-show audience March 1st at Zagrebdox in Croatia. Image courtesy Ivana Cosic.

Over 600 at Tampa screening! People crowded into the beautiful Tampa Theater Feb. 26 to see *Backpack* and join in a lively community discussion. For several audience members, it wasn't their first time seeing the film — in fact, one said she'd seen *Backpack* 4 times!



#neveragain

Like most of you, we spent the week watching, reading and crying over the stunning interviews and testimonies about the Parkland, FL shooting. We are hoping against hope that the astonishing eloquence and determination of the student survivors will finally make a difference and result in sensible gun control. Note that these young people, like public school students across Florida, have benefitted from <u>mandatory civics education</u>.

"...[The students] have been the beneficiaries of the kind of 1950s-style public education that has all but vanished in America and that is being dismantled with great deliberation as funding for things like the arts, civics, and enrichment are zeroed out"

- Dahlia Lithwick, Slate.com

This is a critical time to galvanize people around the need to support public schools and educators. In February, 34 communities (averaging more than one per day) organized screenings of *Backpack Full* of *Cash* and discussions about the threat to public education posed by "choice" and privatization. And we have more coming! Check our <u>Upcoming Screenings</u> page for locations and dates. And, if you're in the neighborhood, stop by and meet the *Backpack* filmmakers who will be making March appearances in Grand Rapids, MI, West Orange, NJ and Albion, MI.



Good news for Spanish speakers! A Spanish version of *Backpack Full of Cash* is in the works. Amidst <u>an effort to bring charters to Puerto Rico</u>, teachers there are eager to show the film and we're pleased to report that a version with Spanish subtitles will be available later this year. The <u>Discussion</u> <u>Guide</u> and <u>Screening Handbook</u> will also be available in Spanish. In addition, this new version of the film will include options for subtitles in English and closed captioning. We are seeking grants to make the film available more broadly to international audiences. Are you ready to host a Spring screening of *Backpack Full of Cash* and a community discussion? We make it easy...



Your donation to Stone Lantern Films will help fuel our Community Engagement campaign, and is tax deductible.



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