

# MASS MoCA

## NEWS RELEASE

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## Deception: A Documentary Series

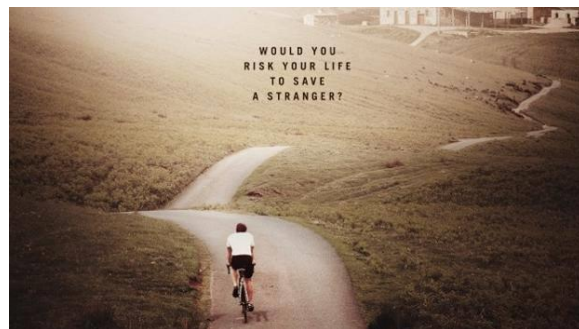
*Exploring the art of deception through film*

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*North Adams, Massachusetts* — An arms-smuggling international super-criminal posing as a florist; a champion cyclist as clandestine Nazi resister; a master art forger who anonymously donates his handiwork to world-class museums; a magician who reveals his tricks (or does he?) — trust no one, good or bad, to be what they seem in our documentary series *Deception*.

Past MASS MoCA documentary series have explored an interdisciplinary selection of topics through a vast array of films, including Oscar-winning features *Man on Wire* and *20 Feet from Stardom*. The curator of *Deception*, Rachel Chanoff, states that this year's series will be no exception: "Nuns wrestle with the ambiguity of deceit, master magicians entertain with their deceitful sleight of hand, arms dealers claim to be florists, and an art forger acts as a philanthropist — all of these scenarios lead us to question our moral tolerance as we cross the border from beguilement to cardinal sin."

*My Italian Secret* tells the story of sports idol Gino Bartali and other Italians who saved Jews and refugees fleeing the Nazis in WWII. Bartali, the Tour de France cycling champion, made hundreds of trips transporting fake documents in the frame of his bicycle for a secret underground

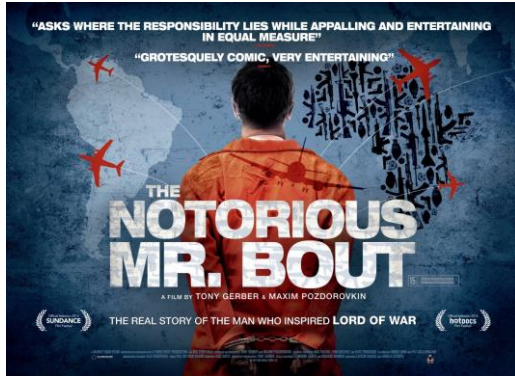


organized by the Cardinal and the Rabbi of Florence. The living characters in the film return to Italy to reveal the story and thank those who were willing to deceive at risk of their own life to save a stranger.

*My Italian Secret* screens Thursday, February 12, at 7:30 pm.

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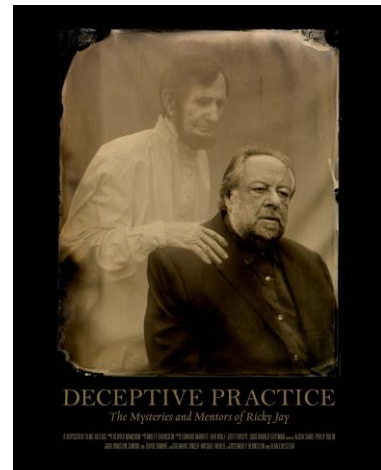


*The Notorious Mr. Bout* paints a portrait of one of the most enigmatic figures of our time, international arms smuggler Viktor Bout. When he was arrested in 2008 in Thailand as a result of a U.S. government sting operation, Bout's long and storied career came to a decisive end. Veiled by the obscurity of post-Soviet Russia, Bout had built an empire of aerial delivery so vast he was called "the merchant of death" and was

even the subject of a Hollywood film. In sharp contrast to the widely known, super-villain persona, however, was another Bout: a philosophical businessman who simply enjoyed travel, his work, his family, and filming it all with his video camera. Using years of footage from Bout's personal videos and his words from prison, directors Tony Gerber and Maxim Pozdorovkin explore the truths hidden behind Bout's efforts to deceive. *The Notorious Mr. Bout* screens Thursday, March 12 at 7:30 pm.

Ricky Jay is a world-renowned magician, author, historian, actor (often a mischievous presence in the films of David Mamet and Paul Thomas Anderson), and performer who regularly provokes astonishment from even the most jaded audiences. He is also the subject of the fourth and final installment of our documentary series: *Deceptive Practice* traces Jay's achievements and influences in the world of magic, from his apprenticeship at age 4 with his grandfather, to such now-forgotten legends as Al Flosso, Slydini, Cardini and his primary mentors, Dai Vernon and Charlie Miller.

Featuring rare footage from his 1970s TV appearances and narrated by Jay's inimitable voice, *Deceptive Practice* is an unprecedented look at the secretive world of deception called "magic." *Deceptive Practice* screens Thursday, April 9, at 7:30 pm.



The installments of **Deception**, a documentary film series, screen in MASS MoCA's Club B-10 February 12, March 12 and April 9 at 7:30 pm. Hot, buttery popcorn and ice-cold beer will be available for purchase before and during the film. Tickets are \$5 for students and members, \$9 for not-yet-members. Tickets for all events are available through the MASS MoCA box office located on Marshall Street in

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North Adams, open 11am - 5pm Wednesdays through Mondays; closed Tuesdays through spring 2015. Tickets can also be charged by phone by calling 413.662.2111 during box office hours or purchased on-line at [massmoca.org](http://massmoca.org). All events are held rain or shine.

### Images

High-resolution images of MASS MoCA's Winter/Spring 2015 events are available through this link: <http://bit.ly/1ByVwVx>

### About MASS MoCA

MASS MoCA is one of the world's liveliest (and largest!) centers for making and enjoying the best new art of our time, across all media: music, art, dance, theater, film, and video. Hundreds of works of visual and performing art have been created on its 19<sup>th</sup>-century factory campus during fabrication and rehearsal residencies in North Adams, making MASS MoCA among the most productive sites in the country for the creation and presentation of new art. More platform than box, MASS MoCA strives to bring to its audiences art and shared learning experiences that are fresh, engaging, and transformative.

MASS MoCA's galleries are open 11am to 5pm every day except Tuesdays. In July and August, MASS MoCA's galleries are open 10am to 6pm every day. Gallery hours are often extended on evenings featuring performing arts events. Gallery admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for students, \$5 for children 6 to 16, and free for children 5 and under. Members are admitted free year-round. For additional information, call 413.662.2111 x1 or visit [massmoca.org](http://massmoca.org).

### Additional

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