

Indian society calls them 'born criminals.' They call themselves 'born actors.'

"Powerful, Moving, Revelatory."

- Sonia Faleiro, author of *Beautiful Thing*

A documentary film by Shashwati Talukdar
& P. Kerim Friedman

**PLEASE
DON'T BEAT ME,
SIR!**



Over sixty million Indians belong to communities imprisoned by the British as "criminals by birth." The Chhara of Ahmedabad, in Western India, are one of 198 such "**Criminal Tribes.**"

Declaring that they are "**born actors,**" not "born criminals," a group of Chhara youth have turned to street theater in their fight against police brutality, corruption, and the stigma of criminality — a stigma internalized by their own grandparents.

Please Don't Beat Me, Sir! follows the lives of these young actors and their families as they take their struggle to the streets, hoping their plays will spark a revolution.

PLEASE DON'T BEAT ME, SIR!

March 17, 2012 @ 8:30am

City Hall Room, Sheraton Centre, 2nd fl.

To be followed by Q&A with directors.

'A thoughtful, moving and, above all, important exploration of the power of theatre to impact a generation and incite a revolution.'

— **Sonia Faleiro**, author *Beautiful Thing*

Please Don't Beat Me, Sir! has screened at the Busan International Film Festival and the Taiwan International Ethnographic Film Festival. It was given the Society for Visual anthropology's prestigious Jean Rouch Award for Collaborative Filmmaking. It also earned the Mahindra Creative Award for Social Change.

Please Don't Beat Me, Sir! is available for purchase at:

<http://dontbeatmesir.com>

Preview and review copies are also available. Contact via the website or by email at:

info@fournineandahalf.com