Al-Jazeera Exclusive (2003, 60 mins., video, UK) by Ben Anthony. This compelling and informative documentary, made for the BBC series Correspondent, takes a behind-the-scenes look at the controversial Qatar-based satellite television station Al-Jazeera in the days leading up to and during the Iraq War. The BBC "sent producer Ben Anthony to the station to record the processes that brought Al-Jazeera's coverage of the conflict to the screen. His film offers a unique and extremely valuable insight into the Arabic view of the Coalition's invasion of Iraq. Anthony's camera records a number of key moments: the day when Saddam's ministers tried to ban Al-Jazeera, the Al-Jazeera decision to screen images of American and British corpses, the 'accidental' bombing of the hotel in Baghdad where Al-Jazeera's reporters were based and the reaction of Al-Jazeera's staff to the death of its reporter in that blast. We see a professional (but underfunded) newsroom in operation and we witness them catching other broadcasters pirating their material. In short, Anthony's Al-Jazeera Exclusive does what all the best documentaries do: it shows you things that no one else is showing you." (Tony Rayns, Vancouver International Film Festival)

Screening at Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark St.
www.chicagofilmmakers.org

Admission: $7 general; $3 Chicago Filmmakers members

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