



## NEWS RELEASE

### **ROBERT GREENWALD RECEIVES CHUCK FRIES AFI PRODUCER OF YEAR AWARD**

LOS ANGELES, CA, November 14, 2002—The American Film Institute (AFI) last night presented Producer/Director Robert Greenwald with the 2002 Charles W. Fries Television Producer of the Year Award, in ceremonies at ArLight Hollywood. The annual presentation was a special event of AFI Film Fest 2002.

Industry and community leaders Tom Hayden, John Herzfeld, Philip Kleinbart and Susan Lyne will spoke on behalf of Greenwald at the event, where a retrospective of the producers' extensive work was shown. Ava and Chuck Fries presented the award, with AFI director and CEO Jean Picker Firstenberg hosting the evening.

After a distinguished career in the New York and Los Angeles theatre, Greenwald has been responsible for more than 45 films that have received major awards, including 25 Emmy nominations, as well as Cable Ace, Golden Globe nominations, Peabody Christopher and NAACP and other community awards. Among his films are "The Crooked Ed," based on the true story of the Enron collapse; "Blonde," a miniseries based on Joyce Carol Oates' fictional biography of Marilyn Monroe, and Peabody winner "Sharing the Secret," for CBS; "Our Guys" for ABC, and "The Natalie Cole Story," for NBC. He also directed the critically hailed "The Burning Bed" and the feature "Steal This Movie." He is currently in preparation on the James Ellroy book "My Dark Places" and the indie film "Permanent Exile," a story of a friendship between Marc Chagall and Bill Wyman, among other projects.

Created by the Ava and Chuck Fries Foundation, the Fries Award honors producers for innovative, creative and distinctive elements of a particular program, an extensive range of contribution to the profession, or to an individual whose strength and perseverance greatly deserve special

recognition. The Fries Foundation also created the Television Library at AFI. Charles W. Fries is a longtime member of the AFI Board of Trustees and Chair of the AFI Television Committee. Ava Fries is a founder and past president of the AFI Associates, a major AFI support group.

Past winners of the award are Dick Berg, Dorothea Petrie, David Gerber, Stan Margulies, Suzanne de Passe, Frank von Zerneck, Marian Rees, Roger Gimbel, Edgar Sherick, Dan Curtis and the team of Marcy Gross and Ann Weston.

## **About AFI**

AFI is the preeminent organization dedicated to advancing and preserving the art of film, television and other forms of the moving image. AFI trains the next generation of moving image artists, provides leadership in the nationwide film and television preservation effort and explores new technologies in the digital media arts. AFI also presents the best of film through the AFI International Film Festival, the AFI National Theater at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and the annual AFI Life Achievement Award, the highest honor given for a career in film. Opening in 2003, the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center will offer a year-round program of the best in American and international cinema, featuring an eclectic mix of festivals, premieres, retrospectives, special events, tributes, guest appearances and education program.

More information about AFI can be found by visiting its award-winning Web site, located at [www.AFI.com](http://www.AFI.com).

###

### **PRESS CONTACT:**

Liza deVilla  
American Film Institute  
323-856-7896

Linda Dozoretz  
Linda Dozoretz Communications  
323-656-4499  
[linda@ldcomm.com](mailto:linda@ldcomm.com)

