



SILVERDOCS
AFI/DISCOVERY CHANNEL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

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**FIRST ANNUAL
SILVERDOCS: AFI/DISCOVERY CHANNEL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES FESTIVAL WINNERS**

Sterling Award Feature Winner: MY ARCHITECT

THIS IS A GAME LADIES Captures Audience Award

Silver Spring, Maryland, June 23, 2003 —**SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival**, created and sponsored through a unique collaboration between AFI and the Discovery Channel, is proud to announce its distinguished inaugural year award winners. The films were picked from a competitive field of over 70 provocative films. The documentary films in the Festival were culled from over 1,000 entries submitted from 68 countries around the world.

The Sterling Award for a Feature Film was given to **MY ARCHITECT**, a film by Nathaniel Kahn. The film follows Kahn, the illegitimate son of famed architect Louis I. Kahn, as he travels the world looking for answers to his father's complex and mysterious life and discovers just how revolutionary his father was.

"To win an award given by two such prestigious organizations as AFI and Discovery Channel is a thrill and an honor," said upon receiving the award.

The Sterling Award Certificates of Merit for Shorts were given to: **WELCOME. A DOCUMENTARY JOURNEY OF IMPRESSIONS**, directed by Almudena Carracedo, **LIFE AS IT IS (PROSTO ZHIZN)**, directed by Marina Razbezhkina, and **HIDE YOUR WORDS (HARF HAYAT RA PENHAN KON)** directed by Behnam Behzadi.

The **SILVERDOCS** Audience Award for a short was given to **THIS IS A GAME LADIES**, directed by Peter Schnall. The film is about the Rutgers University women's hoops team, which beats the odds and reaches new heights with guidance and inspiration from its legendary coach (and teacher, mother, widow and African American), Vivian Stringer.

The **SILVERDOCS** Audience Award Winner for a Short was given to **BILLY**, directed by Kerri Yost.

"To win award given by the audience is very gratifying for a film maker," said Kerri Yost. In a festival that is all about creating dialogue about issues and content I am pleased that my film was part of the discussion" added Yost.

A special Jury Award was given to **COLLATERAL DAMAGES** by Etienne Sauret. The film provides an intimate look at the emotional and psychological impact of September 11 on New York City firefighters in the year after the attack on the World Trade Center.

"The goal of **SILVERDOCS** was to engage the unique Washington, D.C. audiences to celebrate the documentary form," says Nina Gilden Seavey, Festival Director. "The tremendous enthusiasm and sell-out crowds this festival has generated surpassed all of our expectations in our launch year. Congratulations to our award-winning filmmakers who have set the bar high for all future years."

Jean Picker Firstenberg, AFI's Director and CEO, added, "The films awarded at **SILVERDOCS** truly exemplify AFI's commitment to the art of the moving image as expressed through documentary film. **SILVERDOCS** staked its claim in the festival world by combining artistry in filmmaking, probing content, and a state of the art exhibition at AFI's new Silver Theatre Complex."

"Our greatest goal in joining with AFI to produce **SILVERDOCS** was to celebrate the creativity of independent filmmakers. With these awards, we are honoring those filmmakers whose vision and story-telling truly excelled," said Judith A. McHale, President and COO, Discovery Communications, Inc.

The **SILVERDOCS** award winners were chosen by an eminent Festival Jury. The Jury was chaired by Karen Cooper, who since 1972 has been the director of Film Forum in New York. The other jurors were Susan Hannah Hadary, Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker; Larry Kirkman, dean of the School of Communication at American University in Washington, DC; Ruby Lerner, president of Creative Capital; and Jonathan Stack, Emmy Award-winning documentarian.

Each year, **SILVERDOCS** will include selected program strands on noteworthy topics. For the inaugural Festival, the strands included: *World View*, a collection of the best new documentaries from the U.S. and abroad that cover a wide range of nonfiction genres and subjects; *Competition*, which showcases a diverse slate of short and feature length films representing the latest documentary trends from around the world, and *Inside Sports*, which features both new and classic international documentaries which emphasize the connection that sports, ambition, and spirit have in our everyday lives.

TO VIEW ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE FESTIVAL
PLEASE GO TO WWW.SILVERDOCS.COM

More About the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

Anchored by the rehabilitation of noted architect John Eberson's historic 1938 Silver Theatre, the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center is a 49,000 square foot complex with

three theatres—one historic, two new state-of-the-art stadium-style theatres—a café, a film-based retail outlet, office and meeting spaces, and reception and exhibition areas. It is the anchor of an unprecedented public/private redevelopment effort in downtown Silver Spring, Maryland. The AFI Silver is located in downtown Silver Spring, Maryland, at 8633 Colesville Road (between Georgia Avenue and Fenton Street). Conveniently located, the AFI Silver is two blocks from the Silver Spring Metro stop and easily accessible from the Capital Beltway (I-495), less than two miles from either the Georgia Avenue or Colesville Road exit. Phone: 301.495.6720. Web: <http://AFI.com/Silver>.

More 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 filmmakers at its world-renowned Conservatory, provides film preservation leadership and explores new digital technologies in moviemaking. AFI's New Media Ventures programs bring together the creative and digital communities, as the department seeks to develop a literacy program for the 21st century, helping young people learn to read and write screens of all sizes—cinema, television, computer and the Internet. With AFI ON SCREEN, the institute is the largest nonprofit exhibitor in the US, with programs at the AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival (AFI FEST); the AFI National Film Theater at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC; and the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland. A 49,000 square foot complex with three theatres—one historic, two new state-of-the-art stadium-style theatres—the AFI Silver exhibits film and video generally unavailable elsewhere in the region. AFI's annual almanac for the 21st century, **AFI AWARDS**, honors the most outstanding motion pictures and television programs of the year. **AFI's 100 Years . . . 100 Movies, 100 Stars, 100 Laughs, 100 Thrills, 100 Passions** and **100 Heroes & Villains** have ignited extraordinary public interest in classic American movies. During the past 31 years, AFI's Life Achievement Award has become the highest honor for a career in film. More information about AFI can be found by visiting its Web site, located at www.AFI.com.

More About Discovery Communications

Discovery Communications, Inc. is the leading global real-world media and entertainment company. DCI has grown from its core property, the Discovery Channel, first launched in the United States in 1985, to current global operations in more than 155 countries and territories with over 950 million cumulative subscribers. DCI's 33 networks of distinctive programming represent 14 entertainment brands including TLC, Animal Planet, Travel Channel, Discovery Health Channel, Discovery Kids, Discovery Times Channel, The Science Channel, Discovery Wings Channel, Discovery Home & Leisure and Discovery en Español. DCI's other properties consist of Discovery.com and more than 120 Discovery Channel retail stores. DCI also distributes BBC America in the United States. DCI's ownership consists of four shareholders: Liberty Media Corporation (NYSE: L), Cox Communications, Inc. (NYSE: COX), Advance/Newhouse Communications and John S. Hendricks, the Company's Founder, Chairman and CEO.

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