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June 18-22, 2003

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**SILVERDOCS FILM FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES ENTRY DEADLINE MARCH 1, 2003**

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JURY CHAIRED BY KAREN COOPER, DIRECTOR OF FILM FORUM

February 5, 2003 (Silver Spring, MD)—SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival is now accepting entries for its inaugural edition in the summer of 2003. Created and sponsored through a unique collaboration between the American Film Institute and Discovery Communications, Inc., **SILVERDOCS** will establish benchmarks for excellence in the international documentary field.

Completed films must be submitted for consideration no later than March 1, 2003.

Between June 18 - 22, 2003, **SILVERDOCS** will celebrate, honor and showcase approximately 60 films worldwide. The Festival will be held at the newly restored, state-of-the-art AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in downtown Silver Spring, MD.

Award-winning independent film programmer Karen Cooper, Director of Film Forum in New York, will serve as the chair of the **SILVERDOCS** Jury.

Renowned as a supporter of innovative world cinema, Cooper has been a jury member for more than 15 international festivals, including the Sundance Film Festival, the Napoli Film Festival and the Sarajevo International Film Festival. She has also worked extensively with the Soros Documentary Fund, HBO and the National Endowment for the Arts.

"**SILVERDOCS** is honored to have a person of Karen Cooper's experience and stature serve as Jury chair," noted Nina Seavey, Festival Director. "Her involvement is an indicator of the level of quality expected at this unique Festival. Her participation immediately distinguishes **SILVERDOCS** as a substantial and significant addition to the Festival calendar in its inaugural year."

At the awards ceremony on closing night, the **SILVERDOCS** jury will present Sterling Awards to the most exceptional documentaries in competition. An Audience Award will be given to the film that garners a strong popular vote among Festival attendees.

SILVERDOCS is unusual as a film festival because of its exclusive focus on documentaries, coupled with its proximity to Washington, DC. Because of its location, in the center of news, policy and communication, the Festival is in a unique position to engage filmmakers, international policymakers, journalists, issue experts, elected officials and activists to explore and challenge issues raised by selected documentary films.

Every year, **SILVERDOCS** will include several program strands covering a range of concerns. For **2003**, programming strands include:

World View

Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness

Inside Sports

For complete information regarding film eligibility, entry rules or an application form, go to www.SILVERDOCS.com or contact **SILVERDOCS** at 301.495.6776, info@silverdocs.com, or via mail at 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Submissions must be received by March 1, 2003.

SILVERDOCS is presented by the American Film Institute with the support of sponsoring partner, Discovery Channel.

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, coordinates nationwide film preservation efforts and explores new technologies in moviemaking. AFI also presents the best of film through the AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival (AFI FEST); 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. More information about AFI can be found by visiting its Web site, located at www.AFI.com.

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 830 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 Civilization, The Science Channel, Discovery Wings Channel, Discovery Home & Leisure and Discovery en Español. DCI's other properties consist of Discovery.com and 167 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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