



**SILVERDOCS**  
AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival

April 13, 2004

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**SILVERDOCS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL  
EXPANDS PROGRAMMING AND NAMES FESTIVAL JURY**

**Richard Peña Serves as Jury Chair**

**Silver Spring, Maryland, April 13, 2004**— SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival announces the expansion of its 2004 program to include six full days of documentary screenings, panel discussions, filmmaker workshops and festivities. SILVERDOCS 2004 will screen over 70 films drawn from more than 1,200 entries from 65 countries, selecting those that best exhibit personal cinematic vision and celebrate the spirit of independent filmmaking. The 2004 SILVERDOCS Festival will take place June 15 – 20 at the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland.

“We are proud that in its inaugural year, SILVERDOCS played a part in propelling Nathaniel Kahn’s MY ARCHITECT to an Oscar nomination, and launching to national acclaim films such as MY FLESH AND BLOOD, LOST BOYS OF SUDAN, TO BE AND TO HAVE and POWER TRIP,” said Festival Director Patricia Finneran. “Now, we are excited to extend the Festival and to expand the program to include more opportunities for the audience to engage with the filmmakers.”

Continuing to attract the best in the documentary field, SILVERDOCS 2004 is also pleased to announce that Richard Peña, Director of the New York Film Festival, will serve as jury chair. A long-time supporter of innovative world cinema, Peña has served as Program Director for the Film Society of Lincoln Center for 16 years and is an Associate Film Professor at Columbia University, specializing in film theory and international cinema.

“It’s an honor to be selected as the chair of the jury for this young, but already prestigious, Festival,” said Peña. “Knowing the high quality of last year’s work, the bar has been raised for both the Festival and this year’s jury.”

The feature jury will also include Gillian Caldwell, Executive Director of the human rights organization WITNESS and director of BOUGHT & SOLD; Todd Gold, Senior Editor,

People Magazine; Lisa Gay Hamilton, director, BEAH: A BLACK WOMAN SPEAKS and former series regular on ABC's THE PRACTICE; and Michael Renov, Professor of Documentary Film at the University of Southern California. The shorts jury includes filmmakers Jeff Krulik (HEAVY METAL PARKING LOT) and Alexandra Pelosi (JOURNEYS WITH GEORGE).

"SILVERDOCS celebrates the diversity of the documentary form; we are delighted that this distinguished group representing a wide variety of perspectives will serve as the 2004 Sterling Awards jury," added SILVERDOCS Director of Programming, Mary Kerr.

"The Washington, DC, area is home to the most concentrated base of international policymakers, diplomats, producing organizations, world journalists, issue experts and activists in the nation. This places SILVERDOCS in a unique position to bring together diverse audiences to explore the art and craft of the documentary form," said Donald A. Baer, Senior Executive Vice President, Strategy and Development, Discovery Communications. "There simply is no better place in the country for documentarians to showcase their work."

### **About SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival**

SILVERDOCS is a unique celebration of the documentary form. Capitalizing on its Washington, DC, area location, the Festival incorporates leaders in politics, media, arts and culture on the stages of the AFI Silver Theatre. The SILVERDOCS Festival will feature 70 films from a competitive field of more than 1,200 entries submitted from 65 countries during its six-day run of screenings and symposia.

In 2003, each evening featured a symposium that engaged audiences directly and generated dialogue about the films presented. The Festival closed with a special presentation of BERGA: SOLDIERS OF ANOTHER WAR, the final documentary from the late Academy Award-winning filmmaker Charles Guggenheim, whose legacy will be honored annually at the Festival's Charles Guggenheim Symposium. The first annual SILVERDOCS Sterling Award for a documentary feature went to Nathaniel Kahn's MY ARCHITECT, and the Audience Award went to THIS IS A GAME, LADIES, from Peter Schnall.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [WWW.SILVERDOCS.COM](http://WWW.SILVERDOCS.COM)

### **More About AFI and the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center**

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. 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 Silver Theatre and Cultural Center is a newly-restored 49,000 square-foot art deco 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 located in downtown Silver

Spring, Maryland. More information about AFI and the AFI Silver Theatre can be found by visiting [www.AFI.com](http://www.AFI.com) or [www.AFI.com/silver](http://www.AFI.com/silver).

### **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 Channel, Discovery en Español, HD Theater and The Health Network. DCI's other properties consist of Discovery.com and 138 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.