



SILVERDOCS

AFI/DISCOVERY CHANNEL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

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Contact:
Liza de Villa (ldevilla@AFI.com)
323.856.7896
Joan Kirby (jkirby@AFI.com)
301.495.6747

SILVERDOCS: AFI/DISCOVERY CHANNEL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL 2004 DATES ANNOUNCED NEW FESTIVAL DIRECTOR NAMED

2004 SILVERDOCS to Take Place June 16 – 20 at AFI Silver Theatre
Patricia Finneran Named Festival Director
Mary Kerr Continues as Programming Director
Nina Gilden Seavey Now Serves as Executive Producer

Silver Spring, Maryland, October 9, 2003 —The second annual **SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival**, a unique alliance between the American Film Institute and the Discovery Channel, will take place June 16 – 20, 2004, at the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center, in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Patricia Finneran has been named Festival Director of SILVERDOCS, succeeding Nina Gilden Seavey who continues with SILVERDOCS as Executive Producer. Finneran most recently served as Artistic Director of the IFF Market, the largest and longest-running US Market for independent filmmakers. She previously covered independent film for iCAST.com and was a development executive for producer Dale Pollock's Peak Productions. As a television producer, she created internationally distributed programs for the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and USIA (United States Information Agency). Finneran attended the AFI Conservatory and is a graduate of Barnard College, Columbia University.

"I am absolutely thrilled at the opportunity to lead SILVERDOCS, a world-class film festival that creates the kind of shared experience and public attention that documentaries so richly deserve," Finneran said. "SILVERDOCS provides documentaries with the best possible theatrical presentation and exposure to media, policy and international affairs audiences found only in the Washington, DC, area. Given today's documentary renaissance, the future of SILVERDOCS is limitless."

Donald Baer, Senior Executive Vice President, Strategy and Development, Discovery Communications, Inc. commented, "The inaugural SILVERDOCS was a huge success filled with great movies, thought-provoking discussions and entertaining events. As one of the largest producers and distributors of documentary film in the world, Discovery is delighted to partner with AFI on this cultural initiative as a way to raise the visibility of both documentary film and documentary filmmakers from all over the world."

Mary Kerr, SILVERDOCS Programming Director for 2003, will again head programming for the 2004 Festival. Kerr previously served as Director of Programming for the Gen Art Film Festival in New York City, and was a programmer for the Sundance Film Festival, the IFP Los Angeles Film Festival and IFP/New York. She also heads the Advisory Board of the Maryland Film Festival.

Kerr reiterated her goal for the coming year's Festival: "The focus of SILVERDOCS is on the importance of content—the ideas and stories explored in the broad range of nonfiction film. The Festival creates an environment that honors and supports the work of independent documentary filmmakers and in turn builds a showcase that is enlivening and illuminating for audiences."

Nina Gilden Seavey, who served as Festival Director in 2003, will stay on as the Festival's Executive Producer. Seavey, the Director of the Documentary Center at The George Washington University Documentary Center, is also an award-winning filmmaker. Her most recent film, *THE BALLAD OF BERING STRAIT*, was released theatrically in early 2003.

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 inaugural SILVERDOCS Festival featured 22 sold-out shows in its four-day run of screenings and symposia. The 74 films in the Festival were selected from a competitive field of more than 1,000 entries submitted from 68 countries.

In 2003, each evening featured a symposium that engaged audiences directly and generated dialogue about the films presented. The Festival opened with Richard Schickel's *CHARLIE: THE LIFE AND ART OF CHARLES CHAPLIN* and 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. Other highlights included an evening with NFL Films President Steve Sabol and a screening of *THE MAKING OF TONY HAWK'S BOOM BOOM HUCKJAM*, followed by a massive outdoor skateboarding demonstration attended by more than 20,000 in downtown Silver Spring.

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 Schnell.

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 exits. 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. In its national exhibition activities AFI concentrates on 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 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.