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SILVERDOCS

AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival

For Immediate Release
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“AN EPIC!” —Vincent Canby, *New York Times*

HEARTS AND MINDS

New 35mm Restoration of Oscar-Winning Vietnam War Documentary
at AFI Silver Theatre October 22 - November 4

Director Peter Davis In Person at SILVERDOCS Advance Screening Oct. 16

Silver Spring, Maryland, October 8, 2004—AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center will present **HEARTS AND MINDS** (1974), Peter Davis’s Oscar-winning exploration of the Vietnam War, for a two-week engagement from Friday, October 22 through Thursday, November 4.

SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival will host a special advance screening of **HEARTS AND MINDS** with a live appearance by director **Peter Davis**, on **Saturday, October 16, at 7:30 p.m.** Following the screening, Davis will be joined in an on-stage discussion of the film by **Bobby Muller**, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, who, as a wounded Vietnam War veteran, appeared in the 1974 film. An audience Q&A will follow.

“**The ultimate victory will depend on the hearts and minds of the people.**”—**Lyndon Baines Johnson**. Documentarian Peter Davis (**THE SELLING OF THE PENTAGON**) combined newsreel clips, TV reports, and striking color footage shot here and in a still war-torn Vietnam to let raw footage paint its own vivid portrait of the war—including pictures of both the South and North Vietnamese, the Americans engineering the war here and abroad and the war’s very prolific critics.

The images in Davis’s portrait include a quiet, peaceful village until a soldier wanders into the shot; a US POW returning to a flag-waving parade; US airmen visiting a Saigon brothel; presidents, pundits and advisors from Truman to Nixon to Ellsberg and Rostow commenting on the war; the

ex-French Foreign Minister explaining how the US offered his country two A-Bombs to solve the “Indochina problem;” a Vietnamese coffin maker explaining that the small ones are for children; and a distraught villager who lost his two young children in an air raid crying, “Nixon, murderer!” (a scene echoed in both CONTROL ROOM and FAHRENHEIT 9/11). **Two memorable quotes from the film: former US Commander General William Westmoreland opining, "The Oriental doesn't put the same high price on life as the Westerner;" and Daniel Ellsberg's conclusion: "It's is a tribute to the American people that their leaders perceived they had to be lied to."**

After the film was shelved by its original backing studio in 1974 as too “controversial” for release, it was released by another company to box office and critical acclaim, winning the 1974 Oscar for Best Documentary. Thirty years later, all prints of this award-winning documentary had faded. After a two-year effort by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Film Archive, its lush color photography by Richard Pearce (director of HEARTLAND and COUNTRY) has been painstakingly restored. Its release on the big screen for the first time in 30 years is a reminder of how stunning documentaries could look before the omnipresence of digital shooting.

In September 2004, San Francisco Chronicle critic Steve Winn described the restored HEARTS AND MINDS as "devastating. Its unnerving brilliance owes to the director's skill at assembling information and allowing it to speak for itself. Nothing is exploited for an easy effect. HEARTS AND MINDS builds a withering critique by never raising its voice." And director Michael Moore recently called it "Not only the best documentary I've ever seen—it may be the best movie ever... as relevant today as ever."

A RIALTO PICTURES RELEASE. Running time: 112 minutes.

**WHO: Peter Davis, Academy Award-Winning Director, HEARTS AND MINDS
Robert Muller, Vietnam War Veteran featured in HEARTS AND MINDS
Other panelists t/b/a: CHECK ON-LINE AT www.AFI.com/SILVER**

**WHAT: SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival
SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING OF HEARTS AND MINDS**

**WHERE: AFI SILVER THEATRE AND CULTURAL CENTER
8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, Maryland
General information: 301.495.6720**

WHEN: Saturday, October 16, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets screenings of HEARTS AND MINDS starting October 22, and for the SILVERDOCS October 16 Special Advance Screening may be purchased on-line at www.afi.com/SILVER or at the box office daily (box office opens a half hour before the first show of the day).

Members of the press wishing to attend the October 16 SILVERDOCS Special Advance Screening with Peter Davis should RSVP to the contacts above.

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