



SILVERDOCS
AFI/DISCOVERY CHANNEL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

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

Sterling Award Feature Co-Winners: DEATH IN GAZA and ORIGINAL CHILD BOMB

BORN INTO BROTHELS Captures Audience Award

Silver Spring, Maryland, June 20, 2004 – SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival today announced its distinguished Sterling Award winners, culminating the weeklong Festival activities. The winners were chosen from a competitive field of over 70 provocative films, selected from over 1,200 entries submitted from 65 countries around the world.

Created through an alliance between the American Film Institute and the Discovery Channel, **SILVERDOCS** ran from June 15-20, 2004, at the state-of-the-art AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in downtown Silver Spring, MD, just minutes from Washington, DC. More than 90% of the filmmakers whose films were screened were in attendance at this year's festival, with most of the films playing before sold-out audiences.

This year, two films shared the honor for the **SILVERDOCS** Sterling Award for a Feature Film. This year's honorees are **DEATH IN GAZA**, directed by James Miller and produced by Miller and Saira Shah, and **ORIGINAL CHILD BOMB**, directed by Carey Schonegevel. The 2003 Sterling Award winner **MY ARCHITECT** went on to receive an Academy Award® nomination.

DEATH IN GAZA tracks the lives of Palestinian children caught between the innocence of childhood and the lure of martyrdom. Emmy-Award winning Director and Cinematographer James Miller, was tragically killed while shooting **DEATH IN GAZA**, which was completed by Producer Saira Shah.

ORIGINAL CHILD BOMB creatively uses archival footage, photographs, animation and live action to revisit the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki from the point of view of those who were there.

The **SILVERDOCS** Sterling Award for a Short Film was given to **PORTER**, directed by Juan Alejandro Ramirez, which depicts a man's lyrical, haunting thoughts as he hauls belongings of wealthy strangers over mountains in Peru.

The **SILVERDOCS** Audience Award Winner for a Feature Film was given to **BORN INTO BROTHELS**, directed by Ross Kauffman and Zana Briski. The documentary follows the children of prostitutes in Calcutta's red light district. The children, with cameras in hand, embark on a transformational journey with photographer Zana Briski, who teaches them to see the beauty in their mostly dismal surroundings.

The **SILVERDOCS** Audience Award Winner for a Short was given to **LIFE TO LIVE**, directed by Maciej Adamek, a breathtaking portrait of children preparing for independent life at the Center for Blind People in Poland.

In addition to the award winners, three films were given Special Mentions by the jury, Jonathan Stack's feature **LIBERIA: AN UNCIVIL WAR**, Gina Levy and Eric Johnson's short **FOO FOO DUST** and Brent Huffman's short **WELCOME TO WARREN**.

Patricia Finneran, Festival Director, said, "At a time when documentaries are breaking through at the box office and receiving more media attention than ever before, **SILVERDOCS** celebrates the past, present and future – from the tradition of cinema verite, represented this year as we honored Barbara Kopple at our 2nd Annual Charles Guggenheim Symposium, to the Award winners, whose films address the most pressing issues of our time."

Mary Kerr, Programming Director, said, "We are thrilled with the high caliber of films in this year's program which consists of a diverse selection of documentaries from many genres including social issue, animation, music, personal, road trip, experimental, and more. **SILVERDOCS** is committed to creating a higher profile for the documentary form so that these amazingly powerful films can be seen by as wide an audience as possible."

"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 Silver Theatre."

"Our greatest goal in joining with AFI to produce **SILVERDOCS** was to celebrate and honor the creativity of independent filmmakers and the documentary art form. With these awards, we are honoring those filmmakers from around the world whose vision and story-telling truly excelled," said Don Baer, Senior Executive Vice President, Discovery Communications, Inc.

The **SILVERDOCS** award winners were chosen by an eminent Festival jury; Richard Peña, Director of the New York Film Festival, served as jury chair. The jury included Gillian Caldwell, Executive Director of the human rights organization WITNESS and director of **BOUGHT & SOLD**; Sandra Sobieraj, Washington Bureau Chief, People Magazine; LisaGay 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**), and Caroline Libresco, Sundace Film Festival programmer.

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. With AFI ON SCREEN, the institute is the largest nonprofit exhibitor in the US, with programs at AFI FEST, the Kennedy Center and the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center. The Silver is a newly-restored 49,000 square-foot art deco complex with three theatres—one historic, and two new state-of-the-art stadium-style theatres in downtown Silver Spring, Maryland. More information at www.AFI.com or 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 160 countries and territories with one billion cumulative subscribers. DCI's 60 networks of distinctive programming represent 19 entertainment brands including TLC, Animal Planet, Travel Channel, Discovery Health Channel, Discovery Kids, Discovery Times Channel, The Science Channel, Discovery Wings Channel, Discovery Home Channel, Discovery en Español, Discovery HD Theater and FitTV. DCI's other properties consist of Discovery.com and 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 and Chairman.

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