

## **SILVERDOCS ANNOUNCES FULL JURY CHAIR BY KAREN COOPER, DIRECTOR OF FILM FORUM**

**SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival** is proud to announce that 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."

Joining Karen Cooper will be noted filmmakers like Jonathan Stack of Gabriele Films (**THE FARM**), as well as Academy-Award winner Susan Hadary (**KING GIMP**). Rounding out the jury are Larry Kirkman of American University and Creative Capital's Ruby Lerner.

At the awards ceremony on Sunday, June 22, the **SILVERDOCS** jury will present Sterling Awards to the most exceptional documentaries in competition. An Audience Award will be given to the films that garner 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.