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Contact: Katie Stack
301.495.6739
kstack@AFI.com

Steven Cohen
202.452.9450
steven.cohen@ogilvypr.com

**FIRST ANNUAL
SILVERDOCS: AFI/DISCOVERY CHANNEL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES FESTIVAL SLATE**

**North American Premiere of
"CHARLIE: THE LIFE AND ART OF CHARLES CHAPLIN" To Open Festival**

Skateboarding Legend Tony Hawk To Perform Live Demo

Silver Spring, Maryland, May 20, 2003 —**SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival** announces its full slate of films, Symposia and current participants for its inaugural year. Housed at the newly restored, state-of-the-art AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in downtown Silver Spring, Maryland, **SILVERDOCS** will present more than 70 provocative documentary films culled from more than 1,000 entries submitted from 68 countries around the world.

Created and sponsored through a unique collaboration between AFI and the Discovery Channel, **SILVERDOCS** will establish benchmarks for excellence in the international documentary field.

SILVERDOCS is proud to announce its distinguished jury. In its inaugural year, the Festival Jury will be chaired by Karen Cooper, who since 1972 has been the director of Film Forum in New York. The other jurors are Susan Hannah Hadary, Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker; Larry Kirkman, dean of the School of Communication at American University in Washington, DC; Ruby Lerner, president of Creative Capital; and Jonathan Stack, Emmy Award-winning documentarian.

"What will make **SILVERDOCS** stand out in the international festival calendar will be our commitment to both the art and content of documentary films," says Nina Gilden Seavey, Festival Director. "The Festival's proximity to Washington, D.C., places **SILVERDOCS** in a unique position to engage policymakers, journalists, issue experts, elected officials and activists, to explore, challenge and honor documentaries and the ideas behind them."

Jean Picker Firstenberg, AFI's Director and CEO, comments, "The program lineup for **SILVERDOCS** truly exemplifies AFI's commitment to the art of the moving image as

expressed through documentary film. With the support of Discovery Communications, we have created a Festival that will make its mark in the festival world, combining artistry in filmmaking, probing content and state of the art exhibition at AFI's new Silver Theatre Complex."

"Over the years, Discovery's mission has been based on the belief that real-life stories well told can change the way we live our lives. We are proud to join with AFI to extend the impact of the documentary form yet again. Through this exciting new festival, we expect to make Silver Spring one of the principal destinations for audiences to gather and enjoy the very best documentary productions in the world," said John Hendricks, chairman and CEO of Discovery Communications.

During the Festival, **SILVERDOCS** will present four Symposia screenings that will be among the signature events that define the Festival. These Symposia will feature notable moderators and guest discussants that can offer a unique perspective on the issues raised in each film. Following are the showcase films and Symposia for each night of the Festival:

Wednesday, June 18

Film: Straight from its world premiere at Cannes, **SILVERDOCS** will present the **North American premiere** of **CHARLIE: THE LIFE AND ART OF CHARLES CHAPLIN**, a documentary by TIME magazine film critic and filmmaker Richard Schickel.

Thursday, June 19

Film: **ONLY IN AMERICA**, an in-depth look at the historic choice of Senator Joseph Lieberman as the first Jewish vice presidential nominee during the 2000 election.

Film: **WE WUZ ROBBED**, a 10-minute short by Spike Lee on the decision by Al Gore to first concede the presidential election to George W. Bush, and then recant that decision.

Symposium: Hosted by **ABC Political Director Mark Halperin**

Friday, June 20

Film: **TIGHT ON THE SPIRAL**, a film that reveals the art and craft of **NFL Films**.

Symposium: Filmmaker **Steve Sabol**, president of NFL Films, will be joined by Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington Post journalist **David Maraniss**, author of When Pride Still Mattered, the critically acclaimed biography of Vince Lombardi.

Saturday, June 21

For the last night of the Festival, **SILVERDOCS** will host the inaugural **Charles Guggenheim Symposium**.

Film: Exclusive Washington, D.C., theatrical premiere of four-time Academy Award winner Charles Guggenheim's last film, **BERGA: Soldiers of Another War**. The film reveals a previously untold story of World War II: imprisoned American GIs forced to work alongside slave laborers from Nazi concentration camps.

In December 1944, thousands of American soldiers, including soldiers in Guggenheim's 106th Infantry Division, were captured during the Battle of the Bulge and transported to Stalag 9B, a prisoner of war camp northwest of Frankfurt, Germany. A military order was issued that all Jewish soldiers identify themselves. After the Americans refused to comply, Nazi guards selected the GIs they thought "looked Jewish," had "Jewish-sounding" last names or who they classified as undesirables. Less than a third of the American soldiers selected were, in fact, Jewish. The American POWs became slave laborers and were subjected to harrowing Nazi atrocities.

Symposium: The centerpiece of **SILVERDOCS** will be the **Charles Guggenheim Symposium**. In its inaugural year, the Symposium will honor the prolific documentary filmmaker and the Symposium will celebrate the 50-year legacy of Guggenheim's lifework.

Participants include: the Guggenheim family, former Secretary of State, the **Honorable Madeleine Albright** (schedule permitting), author **Stuart Eizenstat**, several of the **Berga survivors**, **Roger Cohen**, Foreign Editor, *The New York Times*, and **Jack Valenti**, President, Motion Picture Association of America and a close friend of Charles Guggenheim.

Sunday, June 22

As the last day of the Festival, Sunday will be **SILVERDOCS'** Community Day, which will include a screening of the behind-the-scenes look at Tony Hawk's **Boom Boom HuckJam Tour**, and following the screening, the world-renowned skateboarder will perform a live demo on the streets of Silver Spring.

Each year, **SILVERDOCS** will include selected program strands on noteworthy topics. For the inaugural Festival, the strands include: *World View*, a collection of the best new documentaries from the U.S. and abroad that cover a wide range of nonfiction genres and subjects; *Competition*, which showcases a diverse slate of short and feature length films representing the latest documentary trends from around the world, and *Inside Sports*, which features both new and classic international documentaries which emphasize the connection that sports, ambition, and spirit have in our everyday lives.

PLEASE GO TO WWW.SILVERDOCS.COM TO VIEW COMPLETE FESTIVAL SLATE

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 exit. 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, coordinates nationwide film preservation efforts and explores new technologies in moviemaking. AFI also presents the best of film through 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; the AFI Silver Theatre and

Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland; and the AFI Life Achievement Award, the highest honor given for a career in film. AFI's annual almanac for the 21st century, **AFI AWARDS**, honors the most outstanding motion pictures and television programs of the year. In addition, **AFI's 100 Years . . . 100 Movies**, **100 Stars**, **100 Laughs**, **100 Thrills**, **100 Passions** and **100 Heroes & Villains** (airing June 3, 2003) have ignited extraordinary public interest in classic American movies. 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 and Discovery en Español. DCI's other properties consist of Discovery.com and more than 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, Chairman and CEO.

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