

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **SILVERDOCS: AFI/DISCOVERY CHANNEL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES SLATE**

**North American Premiere of**  
**MIDNIGHT MOVIES: FROM THE MARGINS TO THE MAINSTREAM**  
**Opens Festival June 14 – 19, 2005**

**Silver Spring, Maryland, May 18, 2005**—SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival announces its full slate of films and participants for the 2005 Festival. SILVERDOCS 2005 includes 89 provocative films seen by DC audiences for the first time representing 43 countries selected from a record-breaking 1,300 entries. With seven World, six North American, two U.S., and 13 East Coast Premieres—and a 3-day International Documentary Conference—SILVERDOCS provides DC area audiences an opportunity to view some of the hottest documentaries anywhere in the world.

Created through an alliance between the American Film Institute and Discovery Channel, SILVERDOCS runs from June 14-19, 2005, at the state-of-the-art AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center, just minutes from downtown Washington, DC. In 2004, the Festival screened sold out shows to more than 12,000 participants who viewed the best in documentary film and experienced free outdoor screenings, panel discussions, and many special events.

“SILVERDOCS embraces the diversity of the documentary form; from hard-hitting films that address big ideas—the nature of freedom, the state of democracy in the world—to films that celebrate creative expression with our salute to music and comedy,” said Festival Director Patricia Finneran. “The Festival is also a destination event for independent filmmakers and executives seeking to connect and develop the creative documentaries of the future,” she said.

“AFI’s commitment to the art of the moving image as expressed through documentary film is exemplified by SILVERDOCS, which again makes its mark in the festival world, by combining artistry in filmmaking and probing content,” said Jean Picker Firstenberg, Director and CEO, AFI.

Judith A. McHale, President and Chief Executive Officer of Discovery Communications noted, “For Discovery, honoring and showcasing the best of the documentary form supports our company’s mission to bring the best in real-world entertainment to audiences around the world. Our goal with SILVERDOCS, especially as it coincides with our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, is to go back to the roots of this art form and celebrate the vision and craft of documentary filmmakers.”

Outstanding filmmakers in attendance this year include the renowned Werner Herzog (GRIZZLY MAN); Stanley Nelson (SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK: RAISE YOUR VOICE); Kate Davis (PUCKER UP: THE FINE ART OF WHISTING) Stuart Samuels (MIDNIGHT MOVIES: FROM THE MARGINS TO THE MAINSTREAM); and Paul Provenza (THE ARISTOCRATS).

During the Festival, 10 films will compete for the Sterling Award, which includes \$25,000 combined cash and in-kind prizes. Ally Derks, Director of the International Documentary Festival of Amsterdam (IDFA) and the Jan Vrijman Fund, which supports international filmmakers from developing countries, will chair the Festival Jury. Penelope Spheeris (WAYNE'S WORLD, DECLINE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION, an upcoming bio-pic on Janis Joplin starring Pink and music video pioneer) will chair a special Best Music Doc jury.

## SILVERDOCS 2005 SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

- **OPENING NIGHT:** The North American premiere of **MIDNIGHT MOVIES: FROM THE MARGINS TO THE MAINSTREAM** by Stuart Samuels, explores the phenomenon of 1970s cult films like PINK FLAMINGOS, ERASERHEAD, THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW and NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD, which broke subject taboos and launched a new genre. After the screening, GOOD MORNING AMERICA film critic **Joel Siegel** talks with director Stuart Samuels about the lasting impact of cult films on pop culture. Special guests—including directors featured in MIDNIGHT MOVIES—are scheduled to attend. **Gala reception to follow at Discovery Communications World Headquarters at One Discovery Place, just across the street from the AFI Silver Theatre. Dance to reggae, drink Zombies, frolic with freaks and cavort with creatures from the dead!** *Open to invited guests, pass and ticket holders only.*

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

- **SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK: RAISE YOUR VOICE:** Stanley Nelson celebrates the extraordinary sound of Washington, DC-based, African-American female a cappella ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock and their unwavering message of social change and empowerment in this Washington, DC premiere. Join WAMU's **Kojo Nnamdi** post-screening for an inspiring and uplifting discussion as he interviews director Stanley Nelson. Members of Sweet Honey In The Rock—including founder **Bernice Johnson Reagon**—will also be in attendance. *Post-screening reception for pass holders and invited guests only.*

Thursday, June 16, 2005

- **OUR BRAND IS CRISIS** by Rachel Boynton looks at Washington, DC-based political consultants James Carville, Bob Shrum and Stan Greenberg who export US-style politics to South America as they advise a former Bolivian president on his reelection campaign. But as the Americans discover, the election is only the beginning. Following the film, consultants from The Greenberg Carville Shrum Group explore the role of American consultants abroad. *Post-screening reception for pass holders and invited guests only.*

Thursday, June 16, and Friday June 17, 2005

**FREE OUTDOOR MOVIES AND MUSIC** At the Silver Plaza behind the AFI SILVER Theatre

- **PUCKER UP: THE FINE ART OF WHISTLING** by Kate Davis and David Heilbroner. Watch swing band **Radio King Orchestra** as they warm up the crowd for the screening of PUCKER UP, playing in our Music Documentary Strand.
- **MAKE IT FUNKY!** by Michael Murphy. Friday night fun begins with New Orleans funk legends **Walter Washington** and **Big Sam's Funky Nation** performing live before the World Premiere of MAKE IT FUNKY!, another film in our fabulous—and FUNKY!—Music Documentary strand.

Friday, June 17, 2005

- **GRIZZLY MAN** by auteur **Werner Herzog**, who may have found his perfect subject in the story of naturalist Timothy Treadwell, who lived and died among the grizzly bears of the Alaskan wilderness. More than a nature documentary, GRIZZLY MAN is a love story gone spectacularly wrong. Very special guest **Werner Herzog will be in attendance.**

Saturday, June 18, 2005

- **"God Save The Dirty Joke" Panel Discussion:** Join master of ceremonies **Matt Cooper** *TIME Magazine*, comedians **Paul Provenza**, **Gilbert Gottfried**, **Judy Gold**, **Fred Willard** and others as they address comedy's unique role in commenting on social issues and challenging our notions of acceptable speech. The panel is between the screenings of Netflix's **THE COMEDIANS OF COMEDY** by Michael Blieden and **THE ARISTOCRATS** by Paul Provenza,. This material is for mature audiences. Parental discretion is advised. *Post-screening reception for pass holders and invited guests only.*
- **CLOSING NIGHT.** The East Coast Premiere of Michael J. Sheridan's **JAMES DEAN: FOREVER YOUNG** explores the power of film and one of its most spectacular stars, James Dean. Dean starred in just three feature films, yet his iconographic image as the beautiful young rebel resonates throughout the world 50 years after his death at the age of 24. Narrated by Martin Sheen, FOREVER YOUNG celebrates Dean's life and career and the power of his legacy. The film includes rarely seen clips from his early television appearances and exquisite still photographs by Phil Stern and Dennis Stock.

Sunday, June 20, 2004

- **OFF TO WAR** by Arkansas filmmakers Brent Renaud and Craig Renaud, follows their journey as embedded journalists with a small-town Arkansas National Guard unit as they are called to service in Iraq. A startling and intimate look into the reality of modern war—both on the ground in Iraq and at home. Post-screening discussion with the filmmakers led by a journalist from *The New York Times*.

The complete film slate follows this release or go to [www.SILVERDOCS.com](http://www.SILVERDOCS.com).

### **More About SILVERDOCS**

SILVERDOCS brings the best new documentaries to Washington, DC audiences, with six days of programming showcasing over 80 films, plus special screenings. Now in its third year of attracting some of the most sought-after films and filmmakers from around the world, SILVERDOCS is fast becoming the most talked about documentary festival in the United States. For more information, go to [www.silverdocs.com](http://www.silverdocs.com).

SILVERDOCS is proud to have COMCAST, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Microsoft as Official Sponsors.

### **More About AFI and the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center**

AFI is a national institute providing leadership in screen education and the recognition and celebration of excellence in the art of film, television and digital media. AFI trains the next generation of filmmakers at its world-renowned Conservatory, maintains America's film heritage through the *AFI Catalog of Feature Films* and explores new digital technologies in entertainment and education through AFI's New Media Ventures. As the largest nonprofit exhibitor in the US, AFI ON SCREEN encompasses the annual AFI FEST presented by Audi: AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival and SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival, while offering year-round programming at ArLight Hollywood and the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland. AFI AWARDS, the annual almanac for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, honors the most outstanding motion pictures and television programs of the year, while **AFI's 100 Years . . .** series has ignited extraordinary public interest in classic American movies. And, during the past 32 years, AFI'S LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD has become the highest honor for a career in film. The AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center is a newly-restored 49,000 square-foot art deco 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 located in downtown Silver Spring, Maryland. More information about AFI and the AFI Silver Theatre can be found by visiting [www.AFI.com](http://www.AFI.com) or [www.AFI.com/silver](http://www.AFI.com/silver).

### **More About Discovery Communications**

Discovery Communications is the leading global real-world media and entertainment company. Discovery has grown from its core property, the Discovery Channel, first launched in the United States in 1985, to current global operations in more than 160 countries and territories with 1.2 billion cumulative subscribers. DCI's over 90 networks of distinctive programming represent 21 entertainment brands including TLC, Animal Planet, Travel Channel, Discovery Health Channel, Discovery Kids, Discovery Times Channel, The Science Channel, Military Channel, Discovery Home Channel, Discovery en Español, Discovery HD Theater and FitTV. DCI's other properties consist of Discovery Education and Discovery Commerce, which operates 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., Advance/Newhouse Communications and John S. Hendricks, the Company's Founder and Chairman.

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