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Contact: **Jody Arlington, SILVERDOCS**
301.495.6759
jarlington@AFI.com

Katie Stack, Discovery
240.662.3705
Katie_Stack@Discovery.com

SILVERDOCS ANNOUNCES COMPETITION FILMS AND JURY

Ally Derks Serves as Sterling Award Jury Chair

Music Documentary Award Added

Silver Spring, Maryland, June 2, 2005—SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival announces the 2005 Sterling Awards jury and competition films for this year's Festival, which takes place June 14 – 19 at the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center. The Third annual event will screen 89 films representing 43 different countries selected from over 1,300 entries.

"Each year we have increased the number of World and US premieres in the competition section, as we seek to raise the profile of the Sterling Award," said Festival Director Patricia Finneran, "But it is the quality and diversity of the work that has truly inspired our programming team, led by Mary Kerr."

Features competing for the \$25,000 combined cash and in-kind Sterling Award are: Neil Abramson's BOB SMITH – U.S.A.; Hubert Sauper's DARWIN'S NIGHTMARE; Jeff Zimbalist and Matt Mochary's FAVELA RISING; Jeffrey M. Togman's HOME; Danielle Beverly's LEARNING TO SWALLOW; Ido Haar's MELTING SIBERA; Margaret Loescher's PULLED FROM THE RUBBLE; Mark Becker's ROMANTICO; Barbara Attie and Janet Goldwater's ROSITA and Susan Stern's THE SELF-MADE MAN.

Mary Kerr, Programming Director, said, "This year's submissions demonstrate that the rising popularity of the documentary film genre has spurred a dramatic increase in outstanding documentaries. The greatest challenge with programming the Festival was not just filling the slots," she said, "but the enviable and difficult task of choosing one great film over another."

SILVERDOCS 2005 also announced that Ally Derks, Director of the International Documentary Filmfestival Amsterdam (IDFA), will serve as Jury Chair. Derks co-founded IDFA with the help of the Netherlands Film Institute in 1988. She is also Director of the Jan Vrijman Fund, which supports documentary filmmakers in developing countries.

"We are particularly pleased to have Ally Derks as our Jury Chair," said Finneran and Kerr. "Ally is a true leader in placing the documentary at the center of international issues and celebrating the work of creative documentary filmmakers around the world."

SILVERDOCS is pleased to announce that Microsoft is the Official Sponsor of the Sterling Award for 2005. Kodak and Video Labs will again provide product and service grants to the winners.

The Festival also presents an award for best short, and, new this year, best music documentary. Jurors for all sections are listed below. For more information on the competition films in each category, go to www.SILVERDOCS.com.

The Sterling Award Feature jury includes:

SILVERDOCS jury chair **Ally Derks** studied film and theater science at the University of Utrecht. From 1985 to 1987, Derks was coordinator of Festikon, a yearly educational film and video festival in Hilversum. In 1988, she started International Documentary Filmfestival Amsterdam (IDFA). Since 1989, she has been director of IDFA. Derks is director of the Jan Vrijman Fund and head of the selection committee of the Jan Vrijman Fund, which supports documentary filmmakers in developing countries. She also is a member of the advisory committee from the Amnesty International Filmfestival Amsterdam. She has taken part in different congresses and seminars around the world: Dokumentar Kongress Munich; FORUM Bornholm International Film and television Forum China; Hot Docs (Canada); IDA (Los Angeles).

Don Edkins is a documentary film director and producer with extensive work experience in the field of media and development. In Lesotho, South Africa, he founded a mobile video cinema that distributes and screens films at a community level. His most recent documentary work includes the multi-awarded STEPS FOR THE FUTURE (2001 - 2004), a collection of 38 films from Southern Africa about life in the time of HIV/AIDS. Currently, Edkins is the executive producer for the STEPS global documentary project on democracy.

Alyce Myatt is a multimedia consultant who provides analysis and strategic planning services for independent media organizations and the philanthropic community. Her clients include the media policy organization Center for Digital Democracy, MediaWorks, a media funder network, and Free Speech TV, a 24-hour progressive television network. She was formerly the Vice President of Programming for PBS and a program officer for media at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, where she administered grant making for documentary film and television, community outreach related to media, community-based media arts centers and public radio.

Stanley Nelson is an Emmy-winning documentary film producer, writer and director whose work includes THE MURDER OF EMMETT TILL and THE BLACK PRESS: SOLDIERS WITHOUT SWORDS. His new film, SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK: RAISE YOUR VOICE, is featured in this year's SILVERDOCS. With his wife, Marcia Smith, Nelson is co-founder of Firelight Media, a New York City-based independent non-profit production company dedicated to telling stories of people, places, cultures and issues that are underrepresented in mainstream media. In 2002, he received a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship for his work as a documentarian.

Etienne Sauret directed, produced and shot *COLLATERAL DAMAGES*, a feature documentary that won the Special Jury Award at SILVERDOCS 2003, and his short film *PULL THE PLUG* played at SILVERDOCS 2004. Sauret's acclaimed documentary *WTC: THE FIRST 24 HOURS* was an official selection at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival and MOMA New Directors/New Films. Sauret directed *THE LAZY MAN'S ZEN*, which aired on Discovery and Arte. Sauret recently completed camera work for the 2005 Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner *WHY WE FIGHT*, directed by Eugene Jarecki.

BEST SHORT JURY

Kelly M. DeVine acquires shorts and independent features for the Independent Film Channel. While working chiefly for the channel, she has also brought talent and films to the production and theatrical divisions of IFC Companies, notably *LOST IN LA MANCHA*, the critically acclaimed doc focusing on the "unmaking" of Terry Gilliam's dream turned nightmare project to bring his telling of Don Quixote to the screen.

Chad Lorenz, a Washingtonian managing editor, also runs the magazine's Where & When section for arts and culture, which expanded last year to cover the city's exciting film scene. Lorenz came to the magazine in January 2004 after five years as a copy editor and occasional writer at the Washington Post.

Mark Ruppert is the Creator and Co-Executive Producer of the 48 Hour Film Project, an international competition that requires film teams to write, shoot and edit a short film in just a weekend. Ruppert is a producer, director and entertainer. His latest venture is "A Night at the Club," songs and comedy evoking the feel of a '60s nightclub. Ruppert has worked with award-winning filmmaker Jeff Krulik as an editor and producer on such films as *OBSSESSED WITH JEWS* and *PLANET KRULIK 2000*.

BEST MUSIC DOCUMENTARY JURY

Doug Pray is best known for the documentary features *SCRATCH* and *HYPE!* Both films premiered at Sundance to rave reviews and received international theatrical distribution. He's currently directing *BIG RIG*, and this summer will finish his newest documentary, about illegal graffiti writers. Other works directed and edited by Pray include *VEER* and *TURNOUT*, a Cannes Lion and Clio-winning campaign for gay rights in the workplace. He received an MFA from UCLA's School of Film and Television.

Penelope Spheeris worked as a film editor and cinematographer before forming her own production company, Rock 'n' Reel, the first music video company in Los Angeles, producing and directing music videos for such acts as Funkadelics, Fleetwood Mac and The Doobie Brothers. She directed the critically acclaimed *THE DECLINE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION* documentary series. Her work spans from mainstream studio comedies (*WAYNE'S WORLD*) to cutting edge independent features to historically significant documents of youth culture.

Ondi Timoner won last year's Grand Jury Prize at Sundance for *DIG!* Timoner founded Interloper in 1994, through which she has made music videos and music documentaries for The Dandy Warhols, Dave Koz, Vanessa Carlton, The Vines, Paul Westerberg and

Lucinda Williams, among others. She created and directed the original series SOUND AFFECTS for VH1, the highest-rated pilot in VH1's history. She also filmed THE NATURE OF THE BEAST, winner of the Bettina Russel Grand Jury Prize in Canada and The National Society for Visual Anthropology Commendation. Her short film RECYCLE is showing at SILVERDOCS this year.

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.

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 21st 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 or 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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