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**SILVERDOCS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY
CONFERENCE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

Penelope Spheeris Keynote Speaker

"Doc Talk" with Richard Dreyfuss and BBC's Nick Fraser

Silver Spring, Maryland, June 2, 2005—SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival announces program highlights at the second annual International Documentary Conference with three full days of seminars, workshops, screenings, pitch sessions, and informal networking opportunities for filmmakers and funders. In its first year, the Conference drew 450 filmmakers and guests from more than 50 countries.

"SILVERDOCS is the only Festival in the US dedicated to creative documentary that combines the exhibition experience of a festival with a concurrent professional conference," said Festival Director Patricia Finneran. "With more than 150 industry executives participating from Denmark, Italy, France, US, South Africa, Netherlands and Germany—combined with our "docuwood" status as home base for Discovery Communications, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and National Geographic—SILVERDOCS is truly a launch pad for independent documentary film."

Eighty of the 500 films released in 2004 were documentaries and for the first time a documentary broke the \$100 million mark. SILVERDOCS contributes to the swell of documentary popularity and profits, through programming, promotion and professional events. This year's Conference is again focused on the business of feature length documentaries. Participating companies include:

- Major NYC-based theatrical distributors including Wellspring, ThinkFilm, First Run Features, 7th Art, Palm Pictures
- Representation from all the key domestic broadcasters of docs: PBS stations and major strands, National Geographic, Discovery Channel, Discovery Times, A&E, Sundance Channel, IFC, HBO and others
- Key DVD distributors including New Video/Docurama and Lorber Media
- Top international broadcast distributors CS Associates, and ro*co films International, Films Transit and Instituto Luce

- Important domestic funding agencies like NEH and NSF
- Top agents Cinetic, Submarine Entertainment and others
- Representation from international broadcasters such as BBC, TV2/Denmark, ARTE, ZDF and National Geographic Channels

Donald A. Baer, Senior Executive Vice President of Discovery Communications noted, "For Discovery, the International Documentary Conference is a outstanding extension of Silverdocs, giving filmmakers the chance to discuss the issues important to them with an international audience of their peers. There is no better way to support the vision and craft of documentary filmmakers than by making sure their projects are funded and released to larger audiences."

In addition to 110 professional panelists over three days, program highlights include the keynote address, given this year by **Penelope Spheeris**, director of 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. Spheeris founded Rock 'n' Reel, the first music video company in Los Angeles, producing and directing music videos for acts like Funkadelics, Fleetwood Mac and The Doobie Brothers. She is also a Music Documentary Award juror.

A key theme for 2005 is Freedom and Democracy, and SILVERDOCS will host the only US-based pitch session for a consortium of international broadcasters who have come together to commission and distribute 10 documentaries from filmmakers around the globe addressing the idea of democracy. Five projects will be presented to project partners from the BBC, ZDF/ARTEFrance, TV2/Denmark, ZDF/Germany and the Project's Executive Producer from STEPS International, South Africa. Filmmakers pitching new projects include: Academy Award winning actor, activist and filmmaker Richard Dreyfuss (THE GOODBYE GIRL, MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS); Academy Award winner Paul Wagner (THE STONE CARVERS), Kate Chevigny (DEADLINE, Silverdocs 2004) Liz Mermin (BEAUTY ACADEMY OF KABUL, Silverdocs 2004) and Cecilia Domeyko (CUBA MIA).

One of dozens of professional events includes actor, filmmaker and documentarian Richard Dreyfuss when he talks docs with the BBC's Nick Fraser at SILVERDOCS' DOC Talk, one of three small intimate discussions at our industry and filmmaker exclusive events in the cinema lounge. Other featured participants are filmmaker Werner Herzog (GRIZZLY MAN).

Other notable Conference participants include:

Michael Pack, CPB
 Mark Urman, ThinkFilm
 David Koh, Palm Pictures
 Cara Mertes, POV
 Andrea Meditch, Discovery Channel
 John F. Wilson, PBS
 Janet Han Vissering, National Geographic Channels International
 Erin Heidenreich, Cinetic Media
 Karen Fuglie Miles, National Endowment for the Humanities
 Maryanne Culpepper, National Geographic Television and Film

See the full conference schedule at 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.

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 FiTV. 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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