

For Immediate Release
June 14, 2005

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WEDNESDAY AT SILVERDOCS:

**SILVERDOCS CELEBRATES FREEDOM WITH SCREENING OF
SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK: RAISE YOUR VOICE**

WAMU'S Kojo Nnamdi joins filmmaker Stanley Nelson and Sweet Honey in the Rock to discuss the a capella group's unwavering message of social justice and empowerment

Penelope Spheeris Curates Eclectic Music Video Mix

Silver Spring, Maryland, June 15, 2005—The Third Annual SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival presents the **Washington, DC premiere** of SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK: RAISE YOUR VOICE by Stanley Nelson at 7:00 p.m. on June 15th at the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center.

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 justice and empowerment in this Washington, DC premiere.

Following the film, WAMU's **Kojo Nnamdi** talks with director Stanley Nelson and members of Sweet Honey In The Rock—including founder **Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon**. *Post-screening reception for pass holders and invited guests only.*

What: SILVERDOCS presents SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK: RAISE YOUR VOICE followed by an uplifting and inspiring discussion

Who: **Stanley Nelson**, Director
Kojo Nnamdi, WAMU's "Kojo Nnamdi" Show
Sweet Honey In The Rock:
Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, Founder
Carol Maillard, Leader
Aisha Kahlil
Shirley Childress Saxton
Louise Robinson
Arnae
Nitanju Bolade Casel
Ysaye Maria Barnwell

When: Wednesday, June 14, 2005
7:00 Film
8:45 Panel discussion
Post screening reception for pass holders and invited guests only, which includes press.

Where: AFI Silver Theatre
8633 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD

Space is extremely limited for the film screening and Q&A. Media wishing to attend this event should RSVP to Jody Arlington at 301.495.6759 or jarlington@afi.com.

Other Highlights on Wednesday, June 15 at SILVERDOCS:

9:45 a.m. International Documentary Conference Keynote Address: Penelope Spheeris, filmmaker, *THE DECLINE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION*, *WAYNE'S WORLD*

12:00 p.m. Filmmaker Ido Haar screens and discusses the **North American Premiere** of *MELTING SIBERIA* about his mother's quest to meet her biological father for the first time since he abandoned her as a child. They travel to Siberia to learn family ties run deep.

2:30 p.m. Filmmaker Margaret Loescher presents the **North American Premiere** of *PULLED FROM THE RUBBLE* about her father Gil Loescher, who lost both legs when a truck loaded with explosives hits the UN headquarters in Iraq.

2:30 p.m. Documentarian **Richard Dreyfuss** will be on hand as one of several key filmmakers to pitch new efforts to THE DEMOCRACY PROJECT pitch panel as part of the International Documentary Conference. The Project funds films about democracy and SILVERDOCS is their exclusive session location to hear US-based film pitches.

4:30 p.m. Filmmaker Danielle Beverly and film subject Patsy Desmond discuss the **World Premiere** of *LEARNING TO SWALLOW* about Patsy's struggles to rebuild her life and creative career after a failed suicide attempt destroys her digestive system.

7:00 p.m. Directors Janet Goldwater and Barbara Attie, recent recipients of a Pew grant, screen and discuss the **World Premiere** of *ROSITA* about a nine-year-old Nicaraguan girl living in Costa Rica who becomes pregnant after a rape. Her parents struggle to end her pregnancy, pitting them against doctors, two governments and the Catholic church.

9:30 p.m. Director **Penelope Spheeris** (*THE DECLINE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION*) presents a selection of her rarely seen early Rock n' Reel videos and eclectic mix of works by Spike Jonze, Mike Mills and Michael Gondry.

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