

For Immediate Release
June 15, 2005

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THURSDAY AT SILVERDOCS:

SILVERDOCS FESTIVAL SPOTLIGHTS FILMS ON DEMOCRACY

Featured Political Films OUR BRAND IS CRISIS and STREET FIGHT

Jan Vrijman Fund: Films by Developing Country Filmmakers

Silver Spring, Maryland, June 16, 2005—The Third Annual SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival presents the Washington, DC premiere of OUR BRAND IS CRISIS by Rachel Boynton at 7:00 p.m. on June 15 at the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center.

A mix of electoral politics and Latin American economic crisis takes center screen as Boynton's dramatic film reflects her behind-the-scenes access throughout Bolivia's difficult 2002 presidential campaign and dramatic aftermath when Bolivia's poverty, protests, ethnic divisions and pressures related to globalization collided – not dissimilarly to last week's Bolivian governmental crisis.

Following the film, The New Republic's Peter Beinart will moderate a discussion with Rachel Boynton, political consultant and film subject Jeremy Rosner, and former White House chief of Staff John Podesta to explore how globalization, development and politics are shaping democracy around the globe.

What: SILVERDOCS presents OUR BRAND IS CRISIS followed by Panel discussion

Who: **Rachel Boynton**, Director of OUR BRAND IS CRISIS
Jeremy Rosner, Greenberg, Quinlan Rosner Research
John Podesta, Center for American Progress
Peter Beinart, The New Republic

When: Thursday, June 16, 2005
7:15 Film
8:45 Panel discussion

Post screening reception for press, pass holders and invited guests only

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 Thursday, June 16 at SILVERDOCS:

12:00 p.m. Filmmaker Neil Abramson screens and discusses the **World Premiere** of BOB SMITH USA along with subjects “Normal” and “Yogi” Bob Smith. The film presents a wide array of characters from clown preachers to atheists. The film is an often hilarious view of the US seen through the eyes of average Joes named Bob Smith.

5:00 p.m. Screening and discussion of Marshall Curry’s STREET FIGHT which follows the campaign trail of young Yale Law School Graduate Cory Booker as he tries to unseat four-term incumbent Sharpe James in a Mayoral race. Intimidation, slander and racial slurs show that dirty politics are still alive and well in Newark, New Jersey.

5:30 p.m. South African filmmaker Khalo Matabane will present his film STORY OF A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY, which captures the changing face of the new South Africa engaging a diverse group of citizens. The film is one of three Jan Vrijman Fund Films by developing country filmmakers.

7:00 p.m. Swing band Radio King Orchestra will perform for free in the Silver Plaza behind the theater prior to our free outdoor Music Strand film at 9:30 p.m. - PUCKER UP: THE FINE ART OF WHISTLING by Kate Davis and David Heilbroner. The film follows a wild crew of passionate whistlers, including a turkey hauler, investment banker and Dutch social worker as they compete for the International Whistling Competition. Local competitor and film subject Chris Ullman in attendance!

9:15 p.m. Filmmaker Hubert Sauper to discuss his film DARWINS NIGHTMARE following the screening. The documentary shows the impact of globalization in Lake Victoria where the non-native Nile perch kills off everything else in the water while the fish feed two million Europeans while the Tanzanians living on the shore starve.

9:45 p.m. Filmmaker Jenny Abel is joined by her father and film subject Alan Abel at the DC Premiere of ABEL RAISES CAIN, where Jenny Chronicles the life of her prankster and comic mastermind behind such grand media hoaxes as the Euthanasia Cruise Line and campaigns to clothe naked animals and ban breastfeeding.

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