

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**SILVERDOCS ANNOUNCES DOCS RX FULL PROGRAM**

**Former President Jimmy Carter Serves as Honorary Chair**

**Silver Spring, Maryland, May 25, 2006**—SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival announces the film, special event and conference programs in its DOCS Rx: A World of Documentaries on Global Health program. This special sidebar presentation offers eight documentary features from around the world, as well as panel and conference discussions bringing together educators, public health professionals and media leaders with documentary filmmakers and Washington audiences to increase awareness and open a dialogue about the current state of global health. SILVERDOCS 2006 DOCS Rx brings the most revealing, inspiring and thought-provoking documentaries to the big screen. As previously announced, the films in this program are eligible for a Best Global Health Award juried by members of the program's advisory committee.

"The SILVERDOCS' DOCS Rx program is harnessing the power of cinema to illuminate the fight against neglected diseases and health challenges we face as global citizens," said Former President Jimmy Carter. "It is heartbreaking to see a child's bright, hopeful eyes dimmed by preventable disease. I salute SILVERDOCS and its many talented filmmakers for bringing to the world stage the personal stories and images that help to improve health and the quality of life for citizens around the world."

"We have chosen these eight competition films from hundreds of submissions from around the world. Each one of them is a cinematic triumph as well as a unique opportunity to enhance our understanding of the pressing global health issues across the continents," said DOCS Rx Director of Programming, Nina Gilden Seavey.

Underscoring the need for a coherent film program that illuminates the central issues in global health today, DOCS Rx Medical Director Susan Blumenthal, MD notes, "Annually, one of four deaths worldwide is due to infectious diseases including AIDS, malaria, TB and measles. Seventy-nine percent of the chronic disease burden is in the developing world, and over one billion people do not have safe water to drink. These compelling documentaries serve as a call to action to end needless suffering and death caused by preventable diseases, disability, poverty, unsafe water, and hunger worldwide." Blumenthal served as Assistant Surgeon General of the United States in the Clinton Administration.

Now in its fourth year, SILVERDOCS is a six-day international documentary festival called the "Pre-eminent US Documentary Fest" by Screen International, the "premiere showcase for documentary films" by Hollywood Reporter, and "Non-Fiction Nirvana" by Variety. The Festival runs June 13-18, 2006.

A full run-down of the DOCS Rx Program follows:

## **DOCS Rx: A World of Documentaries on Global Health**

### **Film, Special Event and Conference Programs**

#### **What is DOCS Rx: A World of Documentaries on Global Health?**

SILVERDOCS is committed to using documentary as a catalyst for public discourse and social change. In this vein, DOCS Rx will showcase films that challenge audiences to understand the critical issues on the global healthcare landscape today and to discuss the opportunities for film to communicate and help solve these pressing health concerns. By bringing together films from around the world, SILVERDOCS will create a forum for exploring contemporary issues in international health such as the expanding epidemics of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis, as well as the increasing concern over universal access to health care, food and clean water.

The best documentaries illustrate without telling, introducing people and characters we can relate to, and making complex—sometimes startling—issues in worldwide health and healthcare more comprehensible. DOCS Rx brings these revealing, inspiring and thought-provoking documentaries to the big screen.

#### **SPOTLIGHT EVENT**

##### **THE BLOOD OF YINGZHOU DISTRICT**

**Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM**

China, 2006, 39 minutes, Director: Ruby Yang—Little is known about the film's main character, Gau Jun, not even his age. Indeed, he does not even speak a word until the closing minutes of the film. Yet the AIDS orphan's search for a home to call his own forms the dramatic center of this stunning documentary set in rural China.

##### **Opening Video: Jimmy Carter , Honorary Chair, DOCS Rx**

39<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Founder, The Carter Center, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, 2002

**Opening Welcome: Ann Curry**, NBC News Anchor, THE TODAY SHOW, Co-Author, DATELINE NBC.

##### **POST-SCREENING PANEL**

**Moderator: Susan Blumenthal, MD, MPH**

Former US Assistant Surgeon General and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, Medical Director, DOCS Rx: A World of Documentaries on Global Health

**Panelists:**

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**Nils Daulaire, MD MPH**, President and CEO, Global Health Council; **Thomas Lennon and Ruby Yang**, The China Media AIDS Project and The Blood of Yingzhou District; **Clifford Lane, MD**, Clinical Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, (NIAID); **Jack Valenti**, President, Friends of The Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Former President, MPAA; and **Frank O. Richards, MD**, Technical Director for the [River Blindness Program](#), [Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Program](#), and [Schistosomiasis Control Program](#), The Carter Center.

**PANEL DISCRPTION:** This panel will focus on the global fight against AIDS, the scientific future of the vaccine and AIDS treatments, the use of media to raise awareness about the epidemic, and the impact of AIDS' efforts on the eradication of other prevalent and neglected diseases around the world.

## **DOCS Rx FILM PROGRAM**

### **THE DEVIL'S WATER**

**Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm**

France/Bangladesh/India, 2005, 53 minutes, Director: Amirul Arham Sheikh—In Bangladesh and India, 75 million people were contaminated by arsenic contained in the water they unwittingly drank every day for years. Through the personal accounts of village residents, this striking film unveils the story of what is considered today as the worst mass poisoning in human history. *North American Premiere*

### **MEMORY FOR MAX, CLAIRE, IDA AND COMPANY**

**Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm**

Canada, 2005, 112 minutes, Director: Allan King—Who do we become upon losing some of our memory? Meet Max, Claire, and Ida in their slightly off-beat and yet challenging existence on an Alzheimer's ward. Veteran director Allan King provides an intimate look a small band of Jewish elders as they come to grips and find comfort in their adopted home. *Washington, DC Premiere.*

### **A CERTAIN KIND OF BEAUTY**

**Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 pm**

USA, 2005, 65 minutes, Directors: Elizabeth Witham, Nancy Aronie—Dan Aronie was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis at age 22. Before MS, Dan was an aspiring actor—handsome, strong-willed, able-bodied. Intimately captured over six years, his story is one of a man who may no longer be built like a rock, but whose heart could move a mountain. *World Premiere.*

### **BEFORE FLYING BACK TO THE EARTH**

**Friday June 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm**

Lithuania, 52 minutes, Director: Arunas Matelis—A moving and poetic glimpse into the lives of children living with leukemia at Vilnius pediatrics hospital in Lithuania. As the parents cope with their children being sick, the children begin a new life in the hospital with friends, games and even love. *North American Premiere.*

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## **THE VOYAGE OF THE WOMEN OF ZARTALE**

**Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm, Theater 3**

France/Afghanistan, 90 minutes, Director: Claude Mourieras—Set against the striking vistas of Afghanistan, Burka-cloaked women walk for hours to reach a health clinic to treat their tuberculosis. As the women fight for their lives, the medical tent provides a space for both the men and women to experience modern medicine, gossip about loved ones and debate the role of women in their society. *US Premiere.*

## **THE BREAST CANCER DIARIES**

**Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 pm**

USA, 2006, 82 minutes, Director: Linda Pattillo—The Breast Cancer Diaries is an intimate, unvarnished first-person account of a young mother's nine-month journey with breast cancer, punctuated with humor, poignancy and romance. Diagnosed with breast cancer at age 38, Ann Murray Paige sets up a video diary camera in her bedroom, resulting in a memoir of a life turned sideways. *World Premiere.*

## **Preceded by The DOCS Rx Community Breast Cancer Diary**

10 minutes.

## **PERSPECPLEJIA**

**Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 pm**

Chile, 2005, 98 minutes, Director: David Albala—PersPecPlejia is the story of what happens when life gets in the way of a film director. Chilean filmmaker David Albala becomes a paraplegic in a traffic accident and is unwittingly transformed into a narrator and protagonist in a journey to discover how life can be remade from a wheelchair. *North American Premiere.*

## **DOCS RX CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

Thursday, June 15

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Silver Theatre 3

## **CROSS-PLATFORM MEDIA CASE STUDIES: RX FOR SURVIVAL; GOSPEL OF JUDAS; GOLD MINING**

Case Studies of three media projects drawn from public media and the commercial world that have successfully combined broadcast, print, radio, internet and other digital tools. Featuring Rx For Survival, WGBH/PBS; GOSPEL OF JUDAS, National Geographic; GOLD MINING, NYTIMES TV

Moderated by: Mark Halperin, Political Director, ABC News.

Panelists: David Rummel, Senior Producer, New York Times Television; WGBH Presenter, TBA; and Maryanne Culpepper, Senior Vice President, Editorial Development, National Geographic Television and Film

Friday, June 16

2:30 - 3:20 p.m. Discovery HD Theatre

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## **SPECIAL CONFERENCE SCREENING GLOBAL HEALTH IMPACT (Part I)**

ASK ME I'M POSITIVE directed by Teboho Edkins, Day Zero Films

The protagonists of the film are three attractive HIV+ young Basotho men. They travel with a mobile cinema unit screening their film for remote communities and sharing their stories and dilemmas of living openly with the virus. How does one go about picking up girls if you have just publicly-disclosed your HIV status?

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Discovery HD Theatre

## **GLOBAL HEALTH IMPACT: Case Studies (Part II)**

A look at the positive impact that social issue documentaries addressing health issues have had when accompanied by innovative community outreach and grassroots engagement.

Moderator: Rear Admiral Susan J. Blumenthal, M.D.

Case Studies:

FIGHT MALARIA, Aric Naboa, Global Education Partnership; THE FORGETTING, Naomi Boak, Executive Producer, Twin Cities Public Television; THE LION IN THE HOUSE, Dennis Palmieri, Director of National Outreach, ITVS; and THE BLOOD OF YINGZHOU DISTRICT, Thomas Lennon, Ruby Yang China Media Aids Project

## **About SILVERDOCS**

SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival brings the best new documentaries to Washington, DC, audiences, with six days of programming showcasing 100 films, plus special screenings. Now in its fourth year, SILVERDOCS is the most talked about documentary festival in the United States, called "Non-Fiction Nirvana" by *Variety*, the "Pre-eminent US Documentary Fest" by *Screen International*, and "premiere showcase for documentary film" by *Hollywood Reporter*. The Festival—which will take place June 13–18, 2006, at the AFI Silver Theatre just outside Washington, DC—serves as a launch pad for independent documentaries, and affords international filmmakers access to US audiences. SILVERDOCS provides business and creative connections between filmmakers, broadcasters, distributors, and funders from both established and emerging media markets at the concurrent International Documentary Conference, June 14-17. For more information, go to [www.SILVERDOCS.com](http://www.SILVERDOCS.com).

## **About AFI**

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 the AFI Digital Content Lab and K-12 Screen Education Center. As the largest non-profit exhibitor in the US, AFI ON SCREEN encompasses the annual AFI FEST presented by Audi: AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival—as well as year-round programming at ArLight Hollywood and the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland, including SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival. 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 33 years, AFI's Life Achievement Award has become the highest honor for a career in film. Additional information about AFI is available at [www.AFI.com](http://www.AFI.com).

**About Discovery Communications, Inc.**

Discovery Communications, Inc. is the leading global real-world media company. Discovery has grown from its core property, the Discovery Channel, first launched in the United States in 1985, to current global operations in 170 countries and territories with nearly 1.4 billion cumulative subscribers. DCI's over 100 networks of distinctive programming represent 27 network 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 Kids en Español, Discovery HD Theater, FitTV, Discovery Travel & Living (Viajar y Vivir), Discovery Home & Health and Discovery Real Time. DCI's other properties consist of Discovery Education and Discovery Commerce, which operates more than 100 Discovery Channel Stores in the U.S. DCI also distributes BBC America and BBC World News in the United States. DCI's ownership consists of four shareholders: Discovery Holding Company (NASDAQ: DISCA, DISCB), Cox Communications, Inc., Advance/Newhouse Communications and John S. Hendricks, the Company's Founder and Chairman.

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