

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT:

Jody Arlington, SILVERDOCS
301.495.6759, jarlington@AFI.com

Tammy Shea, Discovery Communications
240.662.6506, Tammy_Shea@Discovery.com

FRIDAY AT SILVERDOCS:

SILVERDOCS CELEBRATES SOUTH AFRICA!

Free Outdoor Screening of the World Premiere of SOWETO BLUES

Live Performance By MAHALA and Zulu Dancers

Silver Spring, Maryland, June 16, 2006—SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival presents a free concert of South African music by MAHALA and Zulu Dancers at 8:00 p.m. in the Silver Plaza followed by the World Premiere screening of **SOWETO BLUES** just steps away on Veterans Field, one block from the theater. The film examines South Africa's political history through the context of the musical artists who gave voice to the struggle and engaged audiences around the globe, raising awareness about South Africa's battle to achieve freedom and establish a democratic society. The evening is part of the Festival's special "Celebrate South Africa!" program in celebration of South Africa's Youth Day and commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Soweto uprisings.

Prior to the Concert and Screening, the South African Embassy is hosting a reception at Discovery World Headquarters at 6:30 p.m. to commemorate Youth Day. South African Ambassador **Barbara Masakela**, is among the guests who will speak.

Media wishing to attend the South African Embassy reception should contact Jody Arlington at jarlington@AFI.com.

Other Highlights on Friday, June 16 at SILVERDOCS:

11:00 a.m. Director **Andrew Berends** presents the DC Premiere of **THE BLOOD OF MY BROTHER: A STORY OF DEATH IN IRAQ** which documents the Iraq war from the perspective of an Iraqi man caught between the necessity of supporting his family and his desire to join the Shia uprising to avenge his brother's inadvertent killing by an American patrol.

1:30 p.m. Filmmaker **Portia Rankoane** presents the World Premiere of **SENZENI-NA** about her hero Tsietsi Mashini, the 19-year-old leader of the Soweto student uprisings. Rankoane's film explores the movement's roots and questions why today's South African youth know so little about the man that led the charge.

2:30 p.m. Director **Mark Woollen** discusses the East Coast Premiere of *JAM*, about a motley crew of former roller derby stars who reunite—fighting age, economic disparity, and illness to emerge together from obscurity and obsolescence.

5:00 p.m. “Doc Talk” with indie film guru and SILVERDOCS 2006 Short Film Jurist **Jon Pierson**, author of *Spike, Mike, Slackers and Dykes: A Guided Tour Across a Decade of American Independent Cinema*.

5:30 p.m. Filmmaker **Ken Levis** and Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times columnist **Thomas L. Friedman** present *ADDICTED TO OIL: THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN REPORTING*, which takes on petropolitics—the relationship between oil prices and the power of oil-rich nations—and its effect on the mainstream. A Times Talk discussion follows the screening.

5:45 p.m. Filmmaker **Rehad Desai** presents the World Premiere of *THE BUSHMAN'S SECRETS*. Will the multi-million dollar weight loss industry save the way of life of the Kalahari Bushmen?

7:30 p.m. Director **Alexandra Lipsitz** and film subject **Bjorn Tuoroque** present the DC Premiere of *AIR GUITAR NATION*. In their struggle for mock stardom, competitors Bjorn Tuoroque and C-Ditty progress from a friendly contest above a New York strip club to the international finals in Oulu, Finland.. Air-e-oke follows the screening at SILVERDOCS' Cinema Lounge at 9 p.m. with participants from the US Air Guitar Championships in attendance.

8:00 p.m. Filmmaker **Jake Clennell** presents the East Coast Premiere of *THE GREAT HAPPINESS SPACE - TALE OF AN OSAKA LOVE THIEF*. Welcome to the host clubs of Osaka, Japan, where women spend extravagantly to buy romance and beautiful young men make thousands a night. But where do these lovely young women get all that cash?

9:45 p.m. Filmmaker **Frank Popper** and film subjects **Jeff Smith, Clay Haynes** and **Artie Harris** discuss the World Premiere of *CAN MR. SMITH GET TO WASHINGTON ANYMORE?* About the upstart campaign of politically savvy and energetic newcomer Jeff Smith, run by college student volunteers, that takes on the Missouri political establishment with moxie, if not money. Discussion moderated by WAMU's **Kojo Nnamdi**.

10:00 p.m. Director **Steve Anderson** presents the DC Premiere of *F*CK*, an outrageous documentary which explores the etymology and history of that word.

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