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SILVERDOCS ANNOUNCES OPENING AND CLOSING NIGHT FILMS

East Coast Premiere of BOFFO! TINSELTOWN'S BOMBS AND BLOCKBUSTERS
Directed by Bill Couturié Opens Festival

World Premiere of Christopher Quinn's 21 UP AMERICA to Close SILVERDOCS

Silver Spring, Maryland, May 15, 2006—SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival announced the opening and closing night films for SILVERDOCS 2006. The Festival will open on June 13, with the east coast premiere of Bill Couturié's BOFFO! TINSELTOWN'S BOMBS AND BLOCKBUSTERS and closes on June 18 with the World Premiere of Christopher Quinn's 21 UP AMERICA, inspired by the critically acclaimed British series by Michael Apted. Created through a unique collaboration between AFI and the Discovery Channel, SILVERDOCS brings the best new documentaries to Washington, DC, audiences, with six days of programming showcasing 100 films, plus special screenings, musical performances and hundreds of filmmakers and film subjects. Now in its fourth year, SILVERDOCS remains the most talked about documentary festival in the United States.

BOFFO! TINSELTOWN'S BOMBS AND BLOCKBUSTERS, executive produced by *Variety* editor **Peter Bart** and publisher **Charlie Koones**, was suggested by Bart's upcoming book *How I Learned to Love the Blockbuster and Fear the Bomb* and is in celebration of *Variety's* 100th Anniversary. The film explores the alchemy of the hit and the razor thin line between success and failure. Lively and amusing interviews with George Clooney, Charlize Theron, Morgan Freeman, Jodie Foster, Danny Devito, Sherry Lansing and major filmmakers detail the rewards and vicissitudes of moviemaking. Bill Couturié, Peter Bart, Charlie Koones and special guests from the film will participate in a post-screening discussion. Dan Glickman, President and CEO of the Motion Picture Association of America will introduce the film.

"What a delight to open the festival with a celebration of cinema! BOFFO! is an in-depth critical analysis of a new national pastime: betting on what will bomb and what will breakout at the box office each weekend," said Festival Director Patricia Finneran. "Couturié goes way behind the scenes to interview Hollywood's top executives and stars about what makes a hit, all of whom ironically utter William Goldman's famous phrase 'nobody knows anything.' But watching them try is an awful lot of fun."

SILVERDOCS Closing Night film is the WORLD PREMIERE of 21 UP AMERICA, which is both inspired and executive produced by Michael APTED, who created the original UP series that has been heralded by critics as one of the great documentary series of all time.

21 UP AMERICA is directed by Christopher Quinn, fresh off his double win of both Jury and Audience award at Sundance for his documentary GOD GREW TIRED OF US. This third installment of the series explores the subjects of adulthood in America, offering a candid examination of this age, and demonstrating the impact of race and class on life's trajectory. From red state to blue, spanning east to west, 21 UP AMERICA offers a longitudinal study of growing up in America and captures the spectrum of choices for the generation that came of age at the dawn of the twenty-first century. The director and all the subjects from the film will be in attendance to see the film for the first time and to participate in a post-screening discussion.

Additionally, the East Coast Premiere of Michael APTED's latest in the UP series, 49 UP, will be screened earlier that day. This is the seventh installment in a series that was launched in 1964 and has followed the same group of Britons from seven-year-old children to middle age, offering an extraordinarily revealing social history.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2006 SILVERDOCS:

Guggenheim. The Festival's signature program, the Charles Guggenheim Symposium, honors the legacy of artistic excellence, profound respect for humanity and democratic values of the late four-time Academy Award® winning Guggenheim. In 2006, the Symposium will honor the legendary **Martin Scorsese** in person for his extraordinary body of documentary work, ranging from his first documentary, 1974's ITALIAN AMERICAN, to A PERSONAL JOURNEY WITH MARTIN SCORSESE THROUGH AMERICAN MOVIES, to MARTIN SCORSESE PRESENTS: THE BLUES and last year's NO DIRECTION HOME: BOB DYLAN. Auteur filmmaker **Jim Jarmusch** will converse with Scorsese on stage about his career.

International Documentary Conference. The 2006 Conference explores 'The Future of Real.' What is the future of documentary storytelling in a moment where distribution technology is radically altering the industry's financial, marketing and distribution models? How will these new models affect the role of documentary and the ways in which stories are told? Former Vice President, documentary subject of the Sundance hit, AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH and Current TV founder **Al Gore** will give the keynote address.

DOCS Rx. Along with the annual Sterling Award feature film competition, SILVERDOCS features special thematic programs. **DOCS Rx: A World of Documentaries on Global Health** showcases documentaries that illuminate complex issues in public health, using the best of cinematic storytelling. A Who's Who of global health professionals are lending their support and advice to help guide the program and extend its impact. There will also be a Juried award for Best Documentary on Global Health within the category.

Celebrate South Africa! In collaboration with Artists for a New South Africa and Encounters, the leading South African documentary festival, SILVERDOCS will feature the best new films from this rapidly emerging media market.

SILVERDOCS 2006 Juries. *Sterling Award Feature Jury:* **Diane Weyermann**, Participant Productions, Jury Chair, **Michelle Byrd**, Executive Director, IFP, **Christoph Jörg**, Senior Commissioning Executive, Arte France, and **Steven Markovitz**, Encounters Festival Director and producer. *Sterling Award Short Jury:* **Rachel Grady**, Director, BOYS OF BARAKA, JESUS CAMP, **John Pierson**, Independent film guru, and **David Wilson**, Filmmaker and True/False Festival Director. *DOCS Rx Best Documentary on Global Health Jury:* **Neal Baer**, MD Executive Producer, LAW AND ORDER: SVU, former Executive Producer ER, **Nils Daulaire**, MD, MPH, President and CEO, Global Health Council, **Arlene Donnelly Nelson**, Filmmaker, POSITIVELY NAKED, **Don Edkins**, Executive Producer, "Steps for the Future," South Africa, **Richard Seifman**, Senior Advisor, World Bank AIDS Campaign Team for Africa and **Pascal Villaneuve**, MD, Chief of Health for the United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF). There will also be an award presented for Best Music Doc selected from SILVERDOC's Music Strand, Judged by **Peter Gabriel**, musician and founder of WITNESS, **Tracy McKnight**, co-founder and president of Commotion Records and **Keven McAlester** whose first feature, YOU'RE GONNA MISS ME won SILVERDOC'S 2005 music award.

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Ace Grant. Animal Content in Entertainment (ACE) grant of \$10,000 and other benefits will be awarded for the creation of films that include animal issues. SILVERDOCS and ACE will select the top five treatments. The filmmakers for these selected treatments will be invited to pitch their projects to a distinguished panel of broadcast and distribution executives in an open session of the International Documentary Conference and winning pitch will be announced at the SILVERDOCS Sterling Awards Ceremony on June 17, 2006.

Platinum Pass. New this year, the Platinum Pass, all-access for two plus tickets for four for opening night and for four to one other special screening, not tickets needed for all regular Festival screenings, access for two to all conference programs, Cinema Lounge, the social hub of the Festival including all parties, happy hours, special receptions and the Sterling Awards ceremony, invitation for two to one exclusive VIP reception during the festival, special thanks to Platinum pass-holders in the SILVERDOCS 2006 catalog, four regular festival screening tickets to use as gifts, two \$50 FRIEND memberships to the AFI. Platinum Passes cost \$1,000.

Film Library. This year SILVERDOCS has added a film library for press and film professionals who miss public screenings.

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.

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 nonprofit 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.

About Discovery Communications, Inc.

Discovery Communications 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 and 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 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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