

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**SILVERDOCS ANNOUNCES FESTIVAL WINNERS**

**JESUS CAMP by Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady Wins Sterling Award Feature**

**Special Jury mention to CHAIRMAN GEORGE by Daniel Cross and Mila Aung-Thwin**

**SEEDS by Wojciech Kasperski Wins Sterling Award Short**

**Honorable Mention went to MCLAREN'S NEGATIVES by Marie-Josée Saint-Pierre and  
THE ALUMINUM FOWL by James S. Clauer**

**Special Jury Mention for Student Short for A GIRL LIKE ME by 17-year-old Kiri Davis**

**Music Documentary Award Goes to Stefan Berg and Magnus Gertten's  
ROLLING LIKE A STONE**

**DOCS Rx Global Health Documentary Award went to Ruby Yang's  
THE BLOOD OF YINGZOU DISTRICT**

**Special Jury Mention for BEFORE FLYING BACK TO EARTH by Arunas Matelis**

**Feature Audience Award to CAN MR. SMITH GET TO WASHINGTON ANYMORE?  
by First Time Feature Filmmaker Frank Popper**

**THE SHERIFF OF GAY WASHINGTON by John W. Poole and A GIRL LIKE ME by Kiri Davis  
tie for Short Audience Award**

**ACE Grant winner is COUGARS ON THE EDGE by Janice Jensen**

**Silver Spring, Maryland, June 19, 2006**—SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival announced its distinguished award winners, culminating the weeklong Festival activities that included screening 100 films from 22 countries, free outdoor screenings and live performances, and a four-day concurrent International Documentary Conference attended by over 500 filmmakers, film and television executives and media professionals exploring "The Future of Real". Winning filmmakers received over \$42,000 in cash, goods and in-kind services.

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This year's SILVERDOCS Sterling Award for a Feature Film goes to **JESUS CAMP** directed by Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady. The film investigates a summer camp where fervent evangelical devotion drives daily life, exploring the young followers' faith, how adults influence it, and what it means for the future of American religion and politics. The directors will receive \$10,000 cash and \$10,000 in-kind services from Video Labs and \$5,000 in film stock from Kodak.

Honorable Mention went to **CHAIRMAN GEORGE** directed by Daniel Cross and Mila Aung-Thwin. The film follows Greek-Canadian statistician George Sapounidis who is passionate about singing in Chinese. Determined to perform at the Olympics, George travels to Beijing where he gains popularity, self-confidence and a true sense of belonging.

The Jury noted that "JESUS CAMP addresses one of the most central issues of our time—the role of religion in our society—with balance, integrity and a sincere respect for its subject." The Jury said that CHAIRMAN GEORGE received special mention as "an inspiring fairytale, which ends firmly planted in reality."

The SILVERDOCS Sterling Award for a Short Film was given to **SEEDS**, directed by Wojciech Kasperski, an achingly beautiful portrayal of a Siberian family's secret heartaches. The sage-like father's admirable patience and strong will seem to be the only things keeping this family together. The filmmaker will receive \$5,000 cash.

Special mention went to **MCLAREN'S NEGATIVES** directed by Marie-Josée Saint-Pierre, an unusual documentary about Canadian animator Norman McLaren's creative process that uses McLaren's own techniques to make a personal statement about the art of filmmaking.

**THE ALUMINUM FOWL** by James S. Clauer also received a special mention. The film is a cinematically beautiful but disturbing portrait of four brothers with too much time on their hands and too little to do living on a rural Louisiana chicken farm.

A special mention for a student went to **A GIRL LIKE ME** by 17-year-old Kiri Davis, who adeptly examines her peers' attitudes on Blackness, self-esteem and self-image.

The SILVERDOCS Music Documentary Award went to **ROLLING LIKE A STONE** directed by Stefan Berg and Magnus Gertten. The film explores an unforgettable weekend in 1965 that Swedish rock sensations The Namelosers and The Gonks spent with the Rolling Stones. Forty years later, the filmmaker tracks down the aging band members, fans and groupies to record their memories and reminisce about the road not taken.

The SILVERDOCS DOCS Rx Global Health Documentary Award went to **THE BLOOD OF YINGZOU DISTRICT** directed by Ruby Yang. The film follows the young HIV/AIDS orphan Gao Jun, who does not speak a word until the closing minutes of the film. He is a literal and figurative symbol of the voiceless victims of the disease. His struggle to find a home in rural China addresses the stigma that still prevails about HIV/AIDS—a disease that has taken 40 million lives around the globe.

The SILVERDOCS DOCS Rx Jury awarded a special mention to Arunas Matelis' **BEFORE FLYING BACK TO THE EARTH**, a moving and poetic glimpse into the lives of children undergoing treatment for leukemia at a pediatrics hospital in Vilnius, Lithuania.

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The Award Winner for the Animal Content in Entertainment (ACE) Grant went to **COUGARS ON THE EDGE** by Janice Jensen. The film explores the habitat encroachment of the cougar in the Santa Monica Mountains. The director received a \$10,000 grant.

The **SILVERDOCS** Audience Award Winner for a Feature was **CAN MR. SMITH GET TO WASHINGTON ANYMORE**, directed by first time feature filmmaker Frank Popper. The film follows the upstart campaign of politically savvy and energetic newcomer Jeff Smith who takes on the Missouri political establishment with moxie, if not money. The film had its World Premiere at SILVERDOCS.

The **SILVERDOCS** Audience Award Winner for a Short was given to two films in a statistical tie: **THE SHERIFF OF GAY WASHINGTON** by John W. Poole about how Sergeant Brett Parson balances stereotypes and skillfully commands the Washington Metropolitan Police Department's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit, dedicated to solving crimes by and against members of the gay community.

The other winner was **A GIRL LIKE ME** by 17-year-old Kiri Davis, which also received the short jury's special mention for a student. Her film adeptly examines her peers' attitudes on Blackness, self-esteem and self-image.

Patricia Finneran, Festival Director, said, "SILVERDOCS honors films that exhibit a singular approach to subjects that matter, films that alter our perspective on the world, by showing the deep complexities of the human experience, often from the inside out. Films like JESUS CAMP, CAN MR. SMITH GET TO WASHINGTON ANYMORE?, THE BLOOD OF YINGZHOU DISTRICT and ROLLING LIKE A STONE take us inside specific worlds and communities to tell stories that reveal the universal truth of our desire to belong, find meaning, comfort and joy."

Sky Sitney, Director of Programming said, "We are profoundly inspired by the talent displayed in all the films in competition and are indebted to our esteemed jurors for taking on the very difficult task of recognizing one from each exceptional group."

"Our greatest goal in joining with AFI to produce SILVERDOCS was to celebrate and honor the creativity of independent filmmakers and the documentary art form. With these awards, we are honoring those filmmakers from around the world whose vision and storytelling truly excel," said Don Baer, Senior Executive Vice President, Discovery Communications.

The SILVERDOCS award winners were chosen by an eminent Festival jury including:

*Sterling Award Feature Jury:* **Michelle Byrd**, Executive Director, IFP; **Christoph Jörg**, Senior Commissioning Executive, Arte France; and **Steven Markovitz**, Encounters International Documentary Festival, South Africa, Director and film producer.

*Sterling Award Short Jury:* **Rachel Grady**, Director, BOYS OF BARAKA, JESUS CAMP; **John Pierson**, Independent film guru and author of *Spike, Mike, Slackers & Dykes*; and **David Wilson**, Filmmaker and True/False Festival Director.

*Best Music Documentary Jury:* **Peter Gabriel**, musician and WITNESS founder; **Tracy McKnight**, co-founder and president of Commotion Records; and **Keven McAlester** whose first feature, YOU'RE GONNA MISS ME, won SILVERDOCS' 2005 music award.

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*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 Villeneuve, MD, Chief of Health for the United Nations' Children's Fund (UNICEF).*

The SILVERDOCS 2005 Sterling Award Winner **DARWIN'S NIGHTMARE** was nominated for an Academy Award along with the 2005 Feature Audience Award winners **STREET FIGHT** and **BOYS OF BARAKA** and Short Audience Award Winner **GOD SLEEPS IN RWANDA. MURDERBALL**, which also screened at SILVERDOCS in 2005, was also nominated. The 2004 Audience Award Honoree **BORN INTO BROTHELS** went on to win an Academy Award and the 2003 Sterling Award winner **MY ARCHITECT** received an Academy Award nomination.

For Festival photos go to Getty Images at:

<http://editorial.gettyimages.com/source/search/product.aspx?p=3&e=0&pg=1&am=-1>

## **FESTIVAL SPONSORS**

The 2006 SILVERDOCS sponsors help make the festival possible. This year's Festival sponsors include: *Silver Sponsors:* Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Comcast, and *The Gazette*; *Presenting Media Sponsor:* *The New York Times*; *Bronze Sponsor:* Current; *Video Design & Production:* Spirit Creative; and *Major Sponsors:* Borders, Storehouse and WAMU 88.5 FM.

## **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 ArcLight 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 with operations in 170 countries and territories reaching 1.4 billion cumulative subscribers. DCI's over 100 networks of distinctive programming represent 28 trusted brands including Discovery Channel, TLC and Animal Planet. DCI's other properties consist of Discovery Education and COSMEO, a revolutionary online homework help service, as well as Discovery Commerce, which operates more than 100 Discovery Channel Stores in the U.S. Discovery brings the real world to the whole world through its global multiplatform initiatives including Discovery Travel Media, Discovery Mobile and multiple broadband services. 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. More information about Discovery and its businesses can be found at [www.discovery.com](http://www.discovery.com).

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