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**LINK TV LAUNCHES GROUNDBREAKING INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY  
SERIES “*DOC-DEBUT*”**

**Peabody Award-Winning Channel Expands Line-Up to Include Global Documentary  
Premieres**

**Six Politically and Socially Charged Documentary Films to Premiere on U.S. Television on  
*DOC-DEBUT* Starting April 1<sup>st</sup> at 8 p.m. PT/11 p.m. ET**

New York, NY, March 15, 2007 — Kim Spencer, President of **Link TV**, announced today the launch of *DOC-DEBUT*, a groundbreaking international documentary series to feature U.S. television premieres of outstanding films. *DOC-DEBUT* offers the American audience unprecedented perspectives on world events and culture as seen through the eyes of individuals across the globe. This regular series will launch on **Link TV** on Sunday, April 1, premiering one film per week.

Spencer states, “Documentary film is emerging as an essential element of a functioning democracy. Link is committed to bringing its audience superbly crafted and insightful films that give us a fresh perspective of the world stage – a perspective many viewers tell us they are lacking. These documentaries chosen for *DOC-DEBUT* allow people to understand their world neighbors by providing a new way of seeing the often one-sided account of how people, countries and events are portrayed by the mainstream U.S. media.”

**Link TV** presents more international documentaries than any other channel in the U.S., broadcasting at least 120 new documentaries a year. *DOC-DEBUT* provides a unique outlet for films by independent directors and producers of documentaries whose work would not otherwise reach U.S. television viewers.

The following documentaries will receive their U.S. television premiere on **Link TV** as part of **DOC-DEBUT**:

- *Nobility* directed by Turk Pipkin
- *Sufi Soul: The Mystic Music of Islam* directed by Simon Broughton
- *Friends of Kim* directed by Raphael Wilking and Hans Van Dijk
- *Gitmo: The New Rules of War* directed by Erik Gandini and Tarik Saleh
- *The Film Class* directed by Uri Rosenwaks
- *A World Between* directed by Nezam Manouchehri

**DOC-DEBUT** was conceived and developed by Lorraine Hess, **Link TV**'s Director of Acquisitions, in response to positive feedback from **Link**'s viewers about its current affairs, documentaries and world music programming, and audience research indicating viewers' desire to see more foreign films and documentaries.

Hess states, "Since **Link TV** launched in 1999, we have been unearthing documentaries that offer viewers in-depth, alternative, and sometimes controversial perspectives of people's lives around the world that no major network news organization will reveal. The films featured on **DOC-DEBUT** will give people an outlet to understand the so-called enemy, bridge divides, and increase our ability to fully understand and appreciate the world we live in."

### **ABOUT THE DOCUMENTARIES**

*Nobility* directed by Turk Pipkin  
U.S.A , 84 minutes

Airs: April 1, 8:00 p.m. PT/11:00 p.m. ET  
April 14, 5:00 p.m. PT/8:00 p.m. ET

Winner, Audience Award – Tahoe /Reno International Film Festival

"All of us are searching for solutions and ways to take personal actions to affect change, especially for our children's future. *An Inconvenient Truth* raises compelling questions, *Nobility* offers compelling answers."  
– Christopher Gavigan, CEO/Executive Director, *Children's Health Environmental Coalition*

"Pipkin's remarkable new film, *Nobility*...leaves you wanting more and thinking that if Pipkin's nine were in charge, we would leave a better world indeed." – *Esquire Magazine*

There is one question we can not turn away from: is this the kind of world we want to leave for our children? *Nobility* is the search for a path to a better future, with nine Nobel laureates as our guides. An entirely original look at the world's most pressing problems through the eyes of nine of the world's greatest minds, *Nobility* follows filmmaker Turk Pipkin's on a personal journey in search of answers about the kind of world our children and grandchildren will know. Filmed across the U.S., and in France, England, India, and Africa, *Nobility* combines the insights

of nine distinguished Nobel Prize-winners with a first-person view of world problems and the children who are most challenged by them. Featured Nobel Laureates include Steven Weinberg, Jody Williams, Ahmed Zewail, Rick Smalley, Wangari Maathai, Sir Joseph Rotblat, Dr. Harold Varmus, Desmond Tutu and Amartya Sen. Visit [www.nobelitythemovie.com](http://www.nobelitythemovie.com) for further information, and to view the trailer.

“The sea is actually made up of drops of water.” – Reverend Desmond Tutu

**Sufi Soul: The Mystic Music of Islam** directed by Simon Broughton  
U.K., 50 minutes

Airs: April 8, 8:00 p.m. PT/11:00 p.m. ET  
April 21, 5:00 p.m. PT/8:00 p.m. ET

With a dogmatic and fundamentalist view of Muslims increasingly predominant in the Western media, there has never been a more important time to show an alternative view of Islam. Sufism is the mystical dimension of Islam that preaches peace, tolerance and pluralism, while encouraging music as a way of deepening one’s relationship with God. This documentary explores Sufism and its music in different parts of the Islamic world, including Syria, Turkey, Pakistan and Morocco. ***Sufi Soul*** reveals the views and beliefs of devotees while examining the growing threat from fundamentalist Islam and showcasing fantastic performances from some of the world’s greatest Sufi musicians.

**Friends of Kim** directed by Raphael Wilking and Hans Van Dijk  
Netherlands, 55 minutes

Airs: April 15, 8:00 p.m. ET/11:00 p.m. PT  
May 5, 5:00 p.m. PT/8:00pm ET

Declared as a nation on the axis of evil by George W. Bush, North Korea is the country many love to hate. ***Friends of Kim*** is a hilarious and ultimately sobering account of the first time an international group of Kim Jong II sympathizers from the western world visits North Korea. Their mission is to chronicle the “International March for Korea's Peace and Reunification” organized by the Korean Friendship Association in order to show solidarity with the regime and the North Korean people. The KFA, is a worldwide group of supporters of North Korea. They are young, idealistic and fed up with the consumerism of the Western world. Its leader is a 29-year-old Spanish citizen, Alejandro Cao de Benos de Les y Perez. In 12 days, the 22 participants of the march travel through a country full of monuments, propaganda and poverty. What begins as an

idealistic magical mystery tour gradually turns into a nightmare – leading the travelers to discover that the “workers’ paradise” is far from heavenly

**Gitmo: The New Rules of War** directed by Erik Gandini and Tarik Saleh

Sweden, 79 minutes

Airs: April 22, 8:00 p.m. PT/11:00 p.m. ET  
June 9, 5:00 p.m. PT/8:00 p.m. ET

- Winner, 1st prize – Seattle International Film Festival
- Jury Special mention – Miami International Film Festival

This probing documentary examines the interrogation practices at the infamous Guantanamo Bay detention facility, aka GITMO. The mission of the young Swedish filmmakers to conduct an on-site investigation of how U.S. officials seek intelligence in the Global War on Terrorism is thwarted by a shrewd and well rehearsed U.S. military PR machine that welcomes them to the base with a smile, but manages affairs on its own terms. The journalists are shown how the soldiers live, how they shop and how they play golf. They are permitted to interview certain soldiers under supervision of senior officers who stop the interview if they deem questions unsuitable. Even though filmmakers Gandini and Saleh are not allowed to meet or talk to any prisoners, at night, they hear them screaming in their cages. The U.S. military response? – “They are saying their prayers.” In response to the lack of access to prisoners, the filmmakers captured testimonials from others who have been released, or since left GITMO. Interviews include “private contractors” who worked in the camp and, because they are not U.S. military, were allowed to torture the prisoners. They recount the various methods of abuse conducted at the base. Also interviewed is Janet Karpinski, blamed in the torture scandals in Iraq, who tells how methods were exported from Guantanamo to Iraq, and suggests that such methods were sanctioned by high-ranking officials in the U.S. government. Perhaps the most memorable of the interviewees is an ex-prisoner – a young Swedish man named [Mehdi Ghezali](#) whose vow of silence about his experiences in Guantanamo offers a whiff of the many untold truths yet to emerge about the War on Terror.

**The Film Class** directed by Uri Rosenwaks , 53 minutes

Airs: April 29, 8:00 p.m. PT/11:00 p.m. ET  
June 16, 5:00 p.m. PT/8:00 p.m. ET

Centuries after they were brought to Palestine as slaves, black Bedouins still face discrimination. About two years ago, Filmmaker Uri Rosenwaks, came to Rahat, a Bedouin town down in Israel's Negev Dessert, to teach a group of Black Bedouin women a class in filmmaking.

Afflicted with pessimism, unemployment, poverty and violence, Rahat is partially populated by Black Bedouins who were brought to the Middle East as slaves. Kidnapped in Africa by Arab slave traders, they were auctioned-off in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Zanzibar, and until 50 years ago, Black Bedouins were enslaved by the White ones. When the Israeli film director first started work with the group, the women never mentioned the issue. Only after about 18 months of working and making short films together, did he work up the nerve to suggest that they make a film telling the history of the Black Bedouins. Suddenly, a small and modest course in filmmaking became a forum for the airing of the unspoken taboos and history of an entire society.

***A World Between*** directed by Nezam Manouchehri  
Iran/USA , 55 minutes

Airs: May 6, 8:00 p.m. PT/11.00 p.m. ET  
June 23, 5:00 p.m. PT/8:00 p.m. ET

*A World Between* is the story of a naïve young Iranian-American raised in the United States, who travels to Iran to discover his father's homeland. His encounters take him across the country, from the teeming capital of Tehran, to the center of Ancient Persia in Esfahan, and finally to the home of his ancestors Iran's holiest city, Mashhad. In each place we meet his friends and relatives who help form a more representative view of Iranians than often seen in the West. As the film progresses our narrator becomes more Iranian, both personally and practically, as he is forced to buy an exemption from the Iranian military to prolong his stay. He connects with his relatives, enjoying large family gatherings that span five generations and visits the burial place of his grandparents, a site where filming is usually prohibited. Finally, his father takes him to the now dilapidated house where the family once flourished. *A World Between* is the story of one young man's experience that speaks volumes to all Iranians living abroad and anyone who desires to know the place that his forefathers called home. We see Iran through his eyes, eyes that seek to understand both Iranian and American sensibilities.

### **ABOUT LINK TV**

**Link TV** provides diverse, global perspectives on issues not typically in the U.S. media. **Link TV** broadcasts a compelling mix of unseen documentaries from around the world, global and national news, world music from 96 countries, award-winning foreign films and innovative participatory programs promoting citizen action. **Link TV**'s programs and website promote cross-cultural dialog and viewer participation. Most of **Link TV**'s programs have never been broadcast on American television.

**Link TV** is a nationwide, non-commercial television network available in more than 28 million U.S. homes as basic service on DIRECTV channel 375 and DISH Network channel 9410 and on select cable stations. Select programs are streamed on the internet at [www.LinkTV.org](http://www.LinkTV.org) and available for download.

Hailed by the late Peter Jennings on *ABC World News Tonight* as having “found a successful way to satisfy the curious,” **Link TV** is renowned for its ground-breaking programming including the Peabody Award-winning daily newscast *Mosaic*, which monitors and airs unedited selections of news reports from more than 30 Middle-Eastern broadcasters, translated into English. An archive of *Mosaic* programs is available at [www.linktv.org/mosaic/streamsArchive](http://www.linktv.org/mosaic/streamsArchive). *Mosaic* and its executive producer Jamal Dajani have been featured in a wide array of news media including *ABC World News Tonight*, *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*, *NPR*, *The New York Times*, *The International Herald Tribune* and *The Washington Post*, among others.

**Link** has garnered the support of Bill Cosby, Brad Pitt, Dave Matthews, Cher, Danny Glover, Harry Belafonte, Bonnie Raitt, Willie Nelson and others. For complete background information, program schedule, and streaming video, visit [www.LinkTV.org](http://www.LinkTV.org)

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