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**AWARD-WINNING FILM ABOUT FARMERS TRANSFORMING THEIR  
RELATIONSHIP TO ANIMALS AT HOT SPRINGS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL**  
Screening at the Malco Theatre Friday, Oct. 23 at 3:25 PM and Sunday, Oct. 25 at 10:05 AM

**A stirring story of awakening conscience, *Peaceable Kingdom: The Journey Home* offers a rare glimpse into both the moral struggles of farmers and the emotional lives of farm animals**

*Filmmakers available for interview upon request. Film trailer at [www.peaceablekingdomfilm.org](http://www.peaceablekingdomfilm.org)*

**Hot Springs, AR** — Last month, *Peaceable Kingdom: The Journey Home* won the Best Feature Documentary award at the Moondance Film Festival, where it had its world premiere screening in Boulder, Colorado. Its second stop on the film festival circuit is the Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival, where it will screen on Friday, October 23 (3:25 pm) and Sunday, October 25 (10:05 am), at the Malco Theatre in downtown Hot Springs. Filmmakers Jenny Stein and James LaVeck will be on hand for Q&A after each showing. Individual tickets to films cost \$5 each, while a day pass is \$20.

A 78-minute documentary, *Peaceable Kingdom: The Journey Home* focuses on the emotional lives of farm animals as well as the journey of conscience experienced by several farmers in the process of reconsidering their relationship to these animals. "Our goal," says LaVeck, "was to combine an intimate portrait of animal lives with an equally sensitive exploration of a seldom-discussed moral struggle experienced by many people growing up in farm culture."

Also portrayed is the riveting story of a humane police officer who struggles against overwhelming odds to help farm animals in need. Rare footage from dramatic animal rescues vividly depict the individuality and familial bonds of farm animals. "We wanted to let the animals 'speak' to the audience directly through the universal language of behavior," says Stein, "which is far more understandable to us humans than many of us may realize."

"This film reminds me to live with heartfelt connections to animals, people and the earth," wrote one viewer on a comment card following the film. "This is by far the best film on our modern agricultural system, and an alternative view, that I have ever seen," wrote another.

On Saturday, Oct. 24 (10:30 am), LaVeck will also participate in an environmental panel along with the filmmaker of *Food, Inc.*, Robert Kenner. The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held at Spencer's Corner, also in downtown Hot Springs.

This is not the first trip to Hot Springs for Stein and LaVeck, who screened their first documentary, *The Witness*, to a standing-room-only crowd at the festival in 2000. The film went on to become a film festival favorite, being translated into 11 languages and winning awards all around the world. "We've taken our films to dozens of festivals over the years, says Stein," and our experience in Hot Springs stands out as one of the most memorable."

*(Continued on next page)*

SERVING PEOPLE AND PROJECTS THAT AWAKEN THE HARMONY, WISDOM AND JOY THAT DWELL IN ALL BEINGS

LaVeck agrees, adding, "I was really impressed by the quality of programming at the festival and the sense of community amongst the filmmakers and festival staff. But even more, I will never forget the open-mindedness of the attendees and their willingness to engage in lively dialogue on subjects that were new to them. Our first experience at the Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival was terrific."

*Peaceable Kingdom: The Journey Home* will continue its film festival run with screenings in November at the Orlando Film Festival, the Ojai-Ventura International Film Festival, and the St. Louis International Film Festival.

#### **About director Jenny Stein and producer James LaVeck**

Stein and LaVeck are the co-founders of Tribe of Heart, a nonprofit production company that produces life-changing, award-winning films about the journey of awakening conscience. Their documentaries have screened at 70 film festivals around the world, winning 14 top awards. Their first documentary, *The Witness*, was described by Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Howard Rosenberg as "one man's truth that cries out for mass exposure... may be the most important and persuasive film about animals ever made" (*Los Angeles Times*). Stein and LaVeck's films have been screened on PBS, endorsed by Dr. Jane Goodall, and supported by radio personality Paul Harvey as well as actors James Cromwell, Alicia Silverstone and William Baldwin. Learn more at <http://www.tribeofheart.org>

#### **About the Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival**

One of the first and the oldest documentary film festivals in the world (second only to Amsterdam), the Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival is recognized by the International Documentary Association (IDA) and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) as one of only seven national Academy Award qualifying venues. The festival's screening committee views nearly 1,000 films submitted from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, and selects 100 to be screened each year.

The Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival is a multicultural and intergenerational event. With its emphasis on documentary film as an art form as well as a means to promote critical thinking on real life issues, it attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year, making it one of the largest tourist attractions in Arkansas. Past HSDFF guests have included Ken Burns, Geraldine Chaplin, Tippi Hedren, Arthur Hiller, James Earl Jones, Albert Maysles, Brenda Vaccaro, Jack Valenti, and many others. This year's festival runs from October 16 through 25. Learn more at <http://www.hsdff.org>