

'Peaceable Kingdom'

Farmers transform their relationships to animals

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, Colo.

Its second stop on the film festival circuit is the 18th annual Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival, where it will screen today at 3:25 p.m. and Sunday at 10:05 a.m. at the Malco Theater, 817 Central Ave.

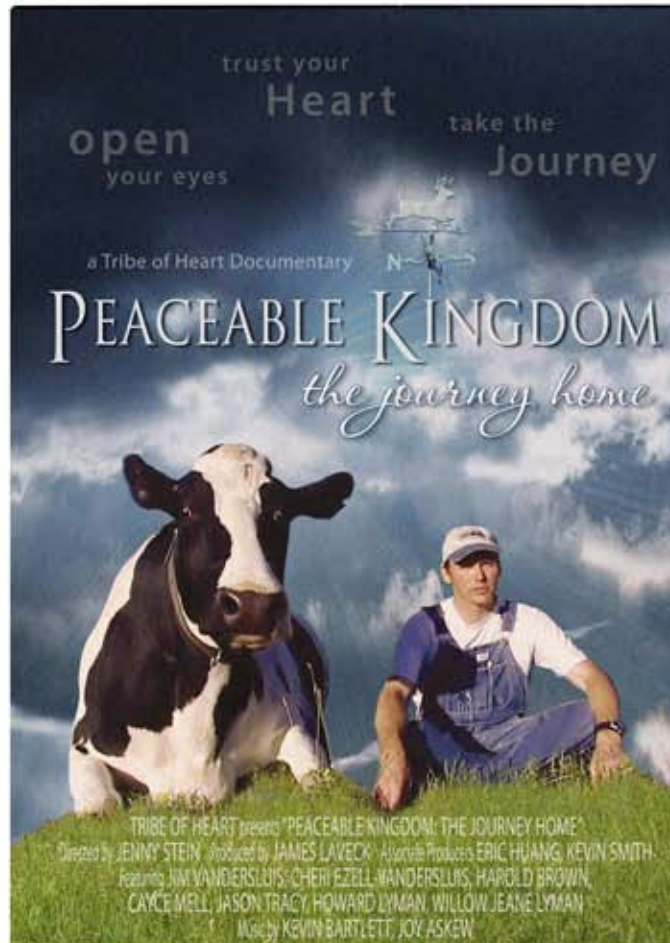
Filmmakers Jenny Stein and James LaVeck will be on hand for Q&A after each showing. Individual tickets to films cost \$5 each, while a day pass is \$20.

A 78-minute documentary, "Peaceable Kingdom" 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 lan-



JOURNEY OF CONSCIENCE: 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.

guage of behavior," said Stein, "which is far more understandable to us humans than many of us may realize."

On Saturday at 10:30 a.m., 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.

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."