

## **Inaugural Cinema Eye Legacy Award to be Presented to Ross McElwee's **SHERMAN'S MARCH****

**New York** - The Cinema Eye Honors for Nonfiction Filmmaking is proud to announce that Ross McElwee's 1986 classic **SHERMAN'S MARCH** has been named as the first recipient of the Cinema Eye Legacy Award. The award will be presented at the 2010 Cinema Eye Honors in New York City on Friday, January 15 at TheTimesCenter with McElwee scheduled to attend and accept the award on behalf of the film.

The Legacy Award is given to a film that embodies the Cinema Eye mission statement of recognizing and honoring exemplary craft and innovation in nonfiction film as well as being a film that has inspired a new generation of filmmakers to create art in the nonfiction realm.

In presenting **SHERMAN'S MARCH** with the Legacy Award, the Cinema Eye Honors recognize the film's distinctive place in the history of American nonfiction filmmaking and the lasting influence of McElwee's singular, first-person epic on a host of filmmakers who have chronicled their own stories.

### **ABOUT THE 2010 CINEMA EYE HONORS**

In addition to **SHERMAN'S MARCH**, this year's Cinema Eye Honors will salute more than thirty of the best nonfiction feature films of 2009, from **THE BEACHES OF AGNES** to **WE LIVE IN PUBLIC**. The five films nominated for this year's top award - **BURMA VJ**, **THE COVE**, **FOOD INC.**, **LOOT** and **OCTOBER COUNTRY** - are a mix of some of the most compelling and most honored documentaries of the year made by veterans and newcomers alike.

Voting for this year's Cinema Eye Audience Choice Prize is already underway, with voting having opened on Monday, December 14. Already, this year's voting - which is open to the public - has eclipsed previous years, garnering more than five times the number of votes in less than one week. This year's Audience Choice Prize includes many of the year's biggest films - **ANVIL! THE STORY OF ANVIL**, **THE COVE**, **EVERY LITTLE STEP**, **FOOD INC.**, **GOOD HAIR**, **THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE**, **TYSON** and **VALENTINO: THE LAST EMPEROR**.

The Cinema Eye Honors are produced by Indiepix and Cinema Eye. Indiepix is the founding sponsor of Cinema Eye. HBO Documentary Films is the presenting sponsor for the 2010 awards. Contributing sponsors include the Camden International Film Festival, Sheffield Doc/Fest and Thompson LES Hotel.

For more information about this year's nominations and to vote for the 2010 Audience Choice Prize, go to <http://www.cinemaeyehonors.com>.

### **ABOUT ROSS MCELWEE and SHERMAN'S MARCH:**

Ross McElwee has made eight feature-length documentaries as well as a number of shorter films. **SHERMAN'S MARCH** has won numerous awards, including Best Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival. In 2000, it was chosen for preservation by the Library of Congress National Film Registry as a "historically significant American motion picture." The Museum of Modern Art said the film "established a new benchmark in American independent film".

In a 1998 interview with *Film Quarterly*, McElwee spoke of the film's enduring charm: "I'd never presume to make a pronouncement concerning what I think relationships between men and women are all about. I think it's abundantly clear, from **SHERMAN'S MARCH**, that I myself, haven't a clue--at least at that point in my life. I guess the one lesson I might have garnered from the experience of making **SHERMAN'S MARCH** was that true love, whatever that is, was unlikely to present itself as long as I was determined to track it down with a camera, and the audience knows this. But the humor of this knowledge, this audience one-upmanship, is one of the reasons why the film works--at least for most people who see it."

McElwee's films have been included in the festivals of New York, Berlin, Toronto, London, Vienna, Rotterdam, Florence, and Sydney. McElwee has received fellowships and grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the American Film Institute, the LEF Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Four of his films were featured in a selection of western documentaries shown for the first time in Tehran.

He is a Professor of the Practice of Filmmaking at Harvard University.

#### **BACKGROUND ON THE CINEMA EYE HONORS:**

The Cinema Eye Honors for Nonfiction Filmmaking were founded in late 2007 to recognize and honor exemplary craft and innovation in nonfiction film. Cinema Eye's mission has been to advocate for, recognize and promote the highest commitment to rigor and artistry in the nonfiction field.

Previous Cinema Eye Honorees have included **MANDA BALA (SEND A BULLET)** and **MAN ON WIRE** (Outstanding Feature in 2008 and 2009), **WALTZ WITH BASHIR, UP THE YANGTZE, ENCOUNTERS AT THE END OF THE WORLD, TAXI TO THE DARK SIDE, KING OF KONG: A FISTFUL OF QUARTERS, BILLY THE KID, GHOSTS OF CITE SOLEIL** and **THE MONASTERY - MR. VIG AND THE NUN**. Presenters have included Al Maysles, DA Pennebaker and Chris Hegedus, Barbara Kopple, Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky, Alex Gibney, Morgan Spurlock, Jehane Noujaim and Laurie Anderson.

The third edition of Cinema Eye will be held at the Times Center on January 15, 2010. It will mark the first time the Honors will be presented prior to the Academy Award ceremonies.

The Cinema Eye Honors leadership team for 2010 includes three co-chairs: filmmaker Esther Robinson, San Francisco Film Society programmer Rachel Rosen and filmmaker/writer AJ Schnack, who founded the awards. Thom Powers, the documentary programmer for the Toronto International Film Festival, chairs the Cinema Eye Nominations Committee, and Andrea Meditch serves as chair of the Cinema Eye Advisory Board.

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