

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **EUROPEAN DOCUZONE ANNOUNCES EIGHT DOCUMENTARIES SELECTED FOR OPENING WEEKEND AND REVEALS NAME CHANGE TO CINEMANET EUROPE**

#### **Highlight is *Peace One Day***

September 20, 2004. . . European DocuZone (EDZ) today announced that it is changing its name to CinemaNet Europe. It also unveiled the programme for its opening showcase when the world's largest digital film network goes live across Europe the weekend of November 12th, 13th and 14th, 2004. The headline film is the critically acclaimed *Peace One Day* from the UK, which will open as pan-European premiere across all nine countries with a satellite-linked Q&A with the director.

Other highlights include the Emmy award-winning Slovakian film *The Power of Good*; the award-winning Dutch production *The Damned and the Sacred*; and an upcoming HD production, *The White Diamond*, by Werner Herzog of Germany.

The name change to CinemaNet Europe reflects a long term objective of distributing all types of specialist films, including shorts, low-budget features and animation, in addition to the original focus on documentaries. It also communicates the importance of the organisation's network of digital cinemas across Europe.

CinemaNet Europe is transforming over 180 independent cinemas into digital cinemas in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Slovakia and the UK. In addition to locally produced films in each country, CinemaNet Europe will distribute at least 12 European documentary films in the first year. The films are selected by an international jury representing partners from every country. This is the first time these films will have been subtitled and distributed across Europe.

"*Fahrenheit 9/11* and *Touching the Void* demonstrated that documentaries can be more dramatic, entertaining and humorous than formulaic Hollywood fiction. We are building on this groundswell to introduce the best of European documentaries to new audiences," said Kees Ryninks, managing director of CinemaNet Europe. "With the recent reductions in the cost of digital cinema technology it is now cost-effective to distribute digital films by satellite and screen them on high quality digital projectors."

For the first time, specialist films will be able to open as pan-European premieres simultaneously across over 180 cinemas with a satellite-linked Q&A with the director. "It is

every filmmaker's dream to have their work exhibited internationally and to be seen by the widest possible audience. CinemaNet Europe is a ground-breaking initiative and for *Peace One Day* to be the opening film of this launch year is a tremendous honour," said Jeremy Gilley, director of *Peace One Day*.

"I have been known as a vocal opponent of digital cinema," commented Jos De Putter, the Dutch director of *The Damned and The Sacred* also known as *Dans, Grozny Dans*. "But the launch of CinemaNet Europe is an interesting development. This digital cinema network could provide a major boost for specialist European filmmakers and audiences alike."

The eight films selected reflect the diverse range of themes covered by contemporary European documentaries – from history to sports and music – and set a high standard for the quality of films CinemaNet Europe will distribute in the future:

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>COUNTRY OF ORIGIN</b>	<b>GENRE</b>
<b>Peace One Day</b>	<b>UK</b>	Socio-Political
<p>This documentary charts the remarkable five-year journey of the filmmaker as he meets heads of state, Noble Peace Laureates, aid agencies, freedom fighters, media moguls, the innocent victims of war and, eventually, everyone who was anyone at the UN.</p> <p>An individual genuinely can make a difference: the film documented and inspired the establishment of the United Nations International Day of Peace as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, now 21st September annually.</p> <p>The Film received its World Premiere at The Edinburgh International Film Festival, August 2004 and will launch in the US in September. <a href="http://www.peaceoneday.org">http://www.peaceoneday.org</a></p>		
Language: English	Director: Jeremy Gilley	80 mins. Digital Betacam

<b>Nicholas Winton – The Power of Good</b>	<b>Slovakia</b>	Historical
<p>The documentary tells the story of British stockbroker Nicholas Winton, 'The British Schindler,' who saved 669 Jewish children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, bringing them across Hitler's Germany to the UK.</p> <p>Winner of 2002 International Emmy Award for outstanding documentary program. <a href="http://www.wintonfilm.com/">http://www.wintonfilm.com/</a></p>		
Language: English	Director: Matej Mináč	62 mins. 35mm Dolby Digital Betacam

<b>The White Diamond</b>	<b>Germany</b>	Nature
<p>Twelve years ago an airship engineer met his death while flying his helium-filled invention observing the wildlife in the tree tops in the heart of the jungle of Guyana. In the summer of 2004, Werner Herzog returns to embark on a similar high-risk expedition in airship.</p>		
Language: English	Director: Werner Herzog	90 mins; HD

<b>The Damned and The Sacred or Dans, Grozny Dans</b>	<b>The Netherlands</b>	Socio-political, dance and music
<p>This film follows a children's dance ensemble, aged between six and sixteen, from the ravaged Chechnyan city of Grozny. In the midst of devastation they practice their dances based on social and cultural patterns dating back centuries and tour the radically different world of western Europe.</p> <p>This film has won five international film festivals.</p>		
Language : Czech, Russian	Director: Jos De Putter	75 mins; HD

<b>I am from nowhere</b>	<b>Austria</b>	Anthropology/humorous
<p>This film investigates the effect of the extensive media attention on the village of Miková, Eastern Slovakia. The reason for the interest in the population of 150 is that Andy Warhol's family emigrated from Miková, playing on Warhol's legendary 15 minutes of fame.  <a href="http://www.iamfromnowhere.com">http://www.iamfromnowhere.com</a></p>		
Language: Slovakian	Director: Georg Misch	80 mins; Digital Betacam

<b>My Louis Armstrong Years</b>	<b>France</b>	Music
<p>Glinda, and her prodigy 13-year old son, Chantz, from Mississippi spend their life on the road. He plays the trumpet and dances in the street and subway and on the world's most prestigious stages. The love-hate relationship between mother and son spices the film with conflict and tenderness. <a href="http://www.fipa.tm.fr/02_programmes/2004/mus_09657.htm">http://www.fipa.tm.fr/02_programmes/2004/mus_09657.htm</a></p>		
Language: English	Director: Mohamed Kounda	85 mins. Digital Betacam

<b>Fleurette</b>	<b>Portugal</b>	Family Drama
Award-winning film about a son trying to understand the troubled past of his mother, Fleurette, 79 years old. Despite her resistance to answer questions, little by little she reveals secrets of voluntarily forgotten events.		
Language: Portuguese	Director: Sérgio Tréfaut	80 mins

<b>Bola de Nieve</b>	<b>Spain</b>	Music
Documentary about Cuban pianist and singer Bola de Nieve "Snowball" aka Ignacio Villa, black, homosexual, mystic, pro-revolution and, above all, musician. One of the Latin-American myths of the 20th Century.		
Language: Spanish	Director: José Sánchez-Montes	73 mins

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Note to editors:

CinemaNet Europe is an initiative of the Netherlands Film Fund in collaboration with Salzgeber & Co. Medien GmbH and Docspace UK. It is supported by the European Union's MEDIA programme.

<http://www.CinemaNeteurope.com> (going live in October 04)

<http://www.europeandocuzone.com>



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