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## TWO-TIME ACADEMY AWARD WINNING DOCUMENTARIAN BARBARA KOPPLE STARS IN FUSION FILM FESTIVAL'S OPENING NIGHT

New York, NY (February 20, 2007)

Barbara Kopple, director and producer of Academy Award winning feature documentaries *American Dream* (1991) and *Harlan County, USA* (1977) will feature in Fusion Film Festival's opening night event on March 1<sup>st</sup>, screening her most recent documentary, *Shut Up and Sing* (2006) at the Cantor Film Center as part of Fusion's Retrospective Panel Event, *Reflections of a Life in Documentaries*. Robert Christgau, music journalist, and his sister, film critic, Georgia Christgau, will interview Kopple and lead the discussion on her impressive career.

*Shut Up and Sing* explores the aftermath of the comment made in 2003 by Natalie Maines, the lead singer of the top selling female recording band The Dixie Chicks, about President George W. Bush. From CD burnings to their personal struggles the film questions how we deal with issues of free speech both as individuals and as a community.

*Shut Up and Sing* has earned high recognitions, such as the Audience Award (2006) for Audience Favorite Documentary at the Aspen Film Festival (2006), the Boston Society of Film Critics Award for Best Documentary (2006), the Broadcast Film Critics Association Award for Best Documentary Feature (2007), the Special Jury Prize at the Chicago International Film Festival (2006), the Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature at the Woodstock Film Festival (2006), among others.

For more information about the festival, contact

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