

NINA GILDEN SEAVEY

Nina Gilden Seavey is an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker and a 25-year veteran of the documentary world. Her work can be seen on television, in theaters, and in museum exhibitions across the nation. She is the founder and director of The Documentary Center at The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. She also has served as Founding Director and then Executive Producer for SILVERDOCS: The AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival. She is currently the Director of DOCS RX: A World of Documentaries on Global Health for the 2006 edition of SILVERDOCS.

Seavey's latest film, **A SHORT HISTORY OF SWEET POTATO PIE AND HOW IT BECAME A FLYING SAUCER**, is a 17 minute documentary comedy and was released on the film festival circuit in the spring of 2006. Her most recent film in broadcast distribution is, **THE OPEN ROAD: AMERICA LOOKS AT AGING**, which aired on public television beginning in July 2005. The film was screened in town meetings in 22 states, before the Senate Select Committee on Aging, and during the White House Conference on Aging.

In 2004, Seavey received an Emmy nomination for Best Director for **THE BALLAD OF BERING STRAIT**. The film follows the journey of seven Russian teenagers who come to America to become country music stars. **BALLAD** won the Audience Award at the Washington International Film Festival and was an official selection of the International Documentary Association's qualifying run for the Academy Awards.

Seavey's film, **A PARALYZING FEAR: THE STORY OF POLIO IN AMERICA** was nationally broadcast on PBS in October 1998 and garnered three Emmy nominations and won one Emmy Award. The film also received the Erik Barnouw Prize for the Best Historical Film of the Year. The film was released theatrically at the Film Forum in New York City and toured sixty cities nationwide. The broadcast of **A PARALYZING FEAR** was accompanied by the publication of a companion book for which Seavey was the first author.

Among other notable projects, Seavey produced the Discovery Channel special, **THE BATTLE OF THE ALAMO**, which she also co-directed with Academy-Award winning filmmaker, Paul Wagner. Seavey also produced four documentary films on permanent exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum and co-produced **THERE WE WANDERED SOMETIMES WEST**, a large-screen installation at the base of the great western trails for the National Park Service. In addition, Seavey was the filmmaker and historian for the **SLOAN VIDEOHISTORY PROGRAM** at the National Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian Institution.

As Director of the Documentary Center over the past 15 years, Seavey has mentored and graduated over 350 aspiring non-fiction filmmakers who have come from around the world to study in her unique, intensive six-month program. She also regularly serves as panelist and advisor to many projects including efforts on behalf of the Duke Ellington School for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Anthony Radziwill Documentary Fund of the IFP, the Southern Humanities Media Fund, and Women in Film and Video.

Prior to becoming a filmmaker, Seavey had a career in politics from 1972 until 1980. She served on the Missouri campaign staff for the presidential campaigns of George McGovern and Morris Udall and for the senatorial campaign for Thomas Eagleton (D-MO). Later, she served as foreign and military policy advisor to Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder (D-CO) and received a political appointment in the Office of the Secretary of Defense during the Carter Administration.

Seavey lives in Takoma Park, MD, with her husband, Ormond, and their three children, Aaron, Eleanor, and Caleb, along with the family dogs, Daisy and Lily.