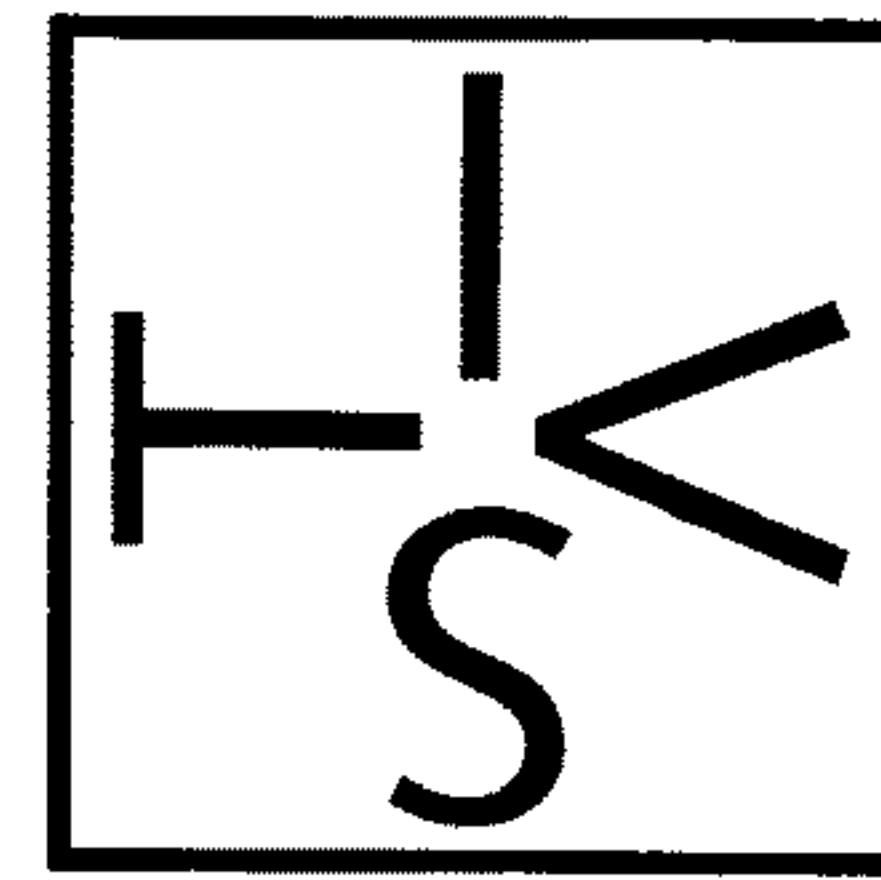


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ITVS Production
THE GATE OF HEAVENLY PEACE
Wins Prestigious Peabody Award
for “Extraordinary” Investigation of
China’s Student Democracy Movement
and the Events Leading to Tiananmen Square Protest

(St. Paul, Minnesota) — The Independent Television Service is pleased to announce that THE GATE OF HEAVENLY PEACE, produced and directed by Carma Hinton and Richard Gordon, and broadcast on FRONTLINE, was honored with the George Foster Peabody Award, one of the most prestigious awards in the television industry.

One of only 31 programs selected out of 1175 entries, THE GATE OF HEAVENLY PEACE was singled out by the jurors as “An extraordinary compilation of the historical events and issues surrounding the student democracy movement in China that exploded at Tiananmen in 1989 and reverberates today.”

The critically acclaimed film, produced by Long Bow Group, Inc. and Independent Television Service for FRONTLINE/WGBH-TV, Boston, gives voice to a wide range of Chinese citizens who directly participated in the protests and events of “Beijing Spring” and examines publicly how the democracy movement was hampered by, among other things, internal schisms between moderates and extremists. Producers and directors Carma Hinton and Richard Gordon spent six years researching this watershed political event in concert with an international group of scholars and participants in the movement. The result is a two-and-one-half-hour epic documentary that the *NY Times* called “enthraling” and “absorbing.”

“The independently-produced GATE is television that matters. It goes beyond the safety of formula, and brings the real story behind the news bite to millions of viewers. ITVS knows that programs like GATE can make good on the promise of public television,” says James Yee, ITVS Executive Director. “We wanted to contribute to the long-term record on Tiananmen to help ensure that the protests of ‘89 are accorded their proper place in history,” says China-born American maker Hinton. “Clearly, the forces that brought millions into the Square will continue to affect China’s future — and our own.”

A FRONTLINE and ITVS presentation, THE GATE OF HEAVENLY PEACE was

—more —

broadcast on PBS in June, 1996. Recently, the film has been playing in Hong Kong to record crowds — over 50,000 tickets in a single theater: unheard of for a documentary. Gate's web site (www.nmis.org/Gate) continues to be a popular source for both lively debate and in-depth information (in both English and Chinese), garnering over 800,000 "hits" to date.

THE GATE OF HEAVENLY PEACE's Peabody Award marks the second such honor for ITVS, the Congressionally-mandated organization dedicated to the funding, development, and distribution of compelling, independently produced public television that takes creative risks and meets the needs of underserved and unserved audiences. The 1995 Peabody winner, COMING OUT UNDER FIRE by Arthur Dong, was an ITVS presentation as well. Likewise, GATE's Peabody Award is the second for Hinton and Gordon, whose acclaimed trilogy ONE VILLAGE IN CHINA won in 1987.

Major credits for THE GATE OF HEAVENLY PEACE include:
Produced and directed by Richard Gordon and Carma Hinton. Editor: David Carnochan. Producers: Peter Kovler, Orville Schell, Lise Yasui. Writers: Geremie Barme, John Crowley. Associate producers and research coordinators: Nora Chang, Kim Roberts, Dong Hua. Associate director; Geremie Barme, Gail Hershatter. Associate editor: Charles Phred Churchill. Interviewer: Carma Hinton. Camera: Richard Gordon. Narrator: Carmen Flowers.

THE GATE OF HEAVENLY PEACE was produced by Long Bow, Inc. and Independent Television Service for FRONTLINE/WGBH, Boston and is a public television presentation of ITVS and FRONTLINE. Major funding for THE GATE OF HEAVENLY PEACE was provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities with additional funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The Ford Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, the Marjorie Kovler Fund, The Aaron Diamond Foundation, and the John Merck Fund, among others.

For more information about ITVS and its programs contact Lois Vossen at 612/225-9035, x235. For more information about Carma Hinton and Richard Gordon, contact Long Bow Group, Inc. At 617/227-6400. For more information about FRONTLINE, contact Jim Bracciale at 617/783-3500.

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