

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Television Without Borders

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**WORLDBLINK TV LAUNCHES NEW SERIES “THE ACTIVE OPPOSITION”
HOSTED BY PETER COYOTE**

First Program Features Sean Penn and other Eyewitness Accounts of Iraq

(San Francisco, January 20, 2003) –As the weekend’s peace marches exemplified, the heightened pitch of American war drums over Iraq is intensifying a new strain of activism among US citizens and a growing number of American citizens have decided to get actively involved in social issues of all kinds. Some well-known public figures are also using their celebrity status to build awareness of various social and political issues.

Internationally renowned actor and activist Peter Coyote, who has appeared in more than seventy films, will host WorldLink TV’s **The Active Opposition**. In this new monthly series, Mr. Coyote will interview celebrities, public figures, politicians, journalists and other guests who have become actively involved in critical national and international issues. The opening program: *Iraq: Eyewitness Reports*, features an exclusive at-home interview with Sean Penn, along with other recent “eyewitnesses” to the buildup to war in Iraq. The Active Opposition will launch on January 25th at 9PM ET (6PM PT) on WorldLink TV, a national non-commercial network offering a global perspective on news and world events. The program will also be repeated over the following weeks.

Mr. Coyote, who has shown a long-standing commitment to social activism, notes that: “Conversations on this show will move into depths not available to broadcasters selling commercial time in seconds. We will continue to trust the native intelligence of our WorldLink TV viewers, and allow you to decide for yourselves which points of view expressed on this show are most relevant to help you become fully engaged in the democratic process.”

In Mr. Coyote’s in-depth interview, Penn describes his recent trip to Iraq and how it has affected him as an American citizen, as an artist, and as a father. The interview features exclusive photos taken by Penn in Iraq and Penn speaks at length about the patriotism of

dissent instilled in him by his father. “I don’t think that my father's being blacklisted in Hollywood really hit me until later in life...he had great pride in his country and pride in his service despite the fact that after he came back from WWII the country he risked his life for wouldn’t permit him to work. So the way that has registered for me is that I thought a lot about how much bitterness he didn’t have. He was a patriot to the end.”

WorldLink TV’s *Iraq: Eyewitness Reports* will also include film clips never before seen in the US, along with up-to-the-minute eyewitness reports, from Scott Ritter, former U.N. weapons inspector, and Dennis Halliday, former head of the U.N Oil-for-Food program and former UN Assistant Secretary General. WorldLink TV viewers will be invited to call in live and voice their questions and comments to Mr. Coyote, Mr. Penn, Mr. Ritter, Mr. Halliday, and the other program guests.

Coyote’s activism dates to the Cuban missile crisis, when he and a group of fellow college students were protesting the resumption of nuclear testing and were invited to the White House by President Kennedy. In the Sixties, and early Seventies, he was a founding member the Diggers, a group that supplied free food, housing and medical aid to runaways who appeared on the streets of San Francisco. Coyote documents these experiences in his autobiography **Sleeping Where I Fall**. He is currently a board member of Baykeepers, a proactive organization that monitors pollution and polluters in the San Francisco Bay.

WorldLink TV presents voices and viewpoints seldom, if ever, presented elsewhere on US television. With offices in San Francisco, New York, and DC, WorldLink TV is accessible nationwide to more than 19 million households on satellite channels Direct TV Channel 375 and DISH Network Channel 9410. WorldLink TV also streams selective original programming on its website. **The Active Opposition** is funded by a grant from the John and Geraldine Cusenza Family Foundation which is devoted to cross linking humanity. WorldLink TV is a non-commercial network funded by viewer contributions and grants from major foundations. For additional information, go to www.worldlinktv.org.