

## **"Black Coffee" – Three-Hour Documentary Caffeine Fix On TVO**

Airs In Three Parts Beginning Wednesday, November 16, 2005 At 10:00pm EST

October 31, 2005 (Toronto)—Cuppa joe. Java. Coffee. Millions of java-addicted consumers make a beeline for local coffee shops every morning, willingly shelling out as much as \$4 for one of the "specialty coffees," such as a tall, non-fat latte. Coffee represents the second-most-traded legal commodity in the world, after oil. But what lies behind our romance with the bean?

BLACK COFFEE, a new Canadian three-hour documentary on the social and cultural history of coffee, airs on TVO's "The View From Here" in three parts, beginning Wednesday, November 16 and continues on the following two Wednesdays. BLACK COFFEE was written and directed by Irene Angelico and produced by Ina Fichman, both Montreal-based. Fichman produced the 2004 YTV series "My Brand New Life," as well as the acclaimed documentary about Dorothys in Oz, Kansas, "Being Dorothy," seen on CBC in 2004. Angelico is best known for her other caffeine-fuelled trilogy, "The Cola Conquest." "These films took us around the world," said Fichman, "to meet those involved in both the production and consumption of coffee and production. It was extraordinary to see how coffee truly reflects the complex relationship between North and South."

The cost of a caffeine fix equals a day's wages for millions of workers of harvest workers around the world. From a \$2 cup of coffee, only one cent goes to the grower. Many farmers have never tasted their own coffee. Since its alleged discovery by goats in the Ethiopian hillside in the sixth century, the beloved green bean hidden in the red cherry of the coffee bush has represented a dominant force in shaping the economic and social structures of entire nations. BLACK COFFEE provides a revealing portrait of the dark side of the brew that was instrumental in promoting romance, revolution and the slave trade. The series also sheds light on a human rights and ecological record that remains tenuous at best, and links the morning ritual to the rise in café culture as well as the Fair Trade movement's efforts to guarantee small growers a decent price.

BLACK COFFEE was produced by Ina Fichman and Productions La Fête (Coffee) Inc. in association with TVOntario with the participation of the Canadian Television Fund created by the Government of Canada and the Canadian Cable Industry, Telefilm Canada: Equity Investment Program, CTF: Licence Fee Program, Government of Quebec Tax Credit Program, Canadian Film or Video Tax Credit Program, National Film Board of Canada, The Harold Greenberg Fund, Historia, TFO.