

**NEW DOCUMENTARY, EARTHLINGS: UGLY BAGS OF MOSTLY WATER,
PROFILES KLINGON LANGUAGE SPEAKERS**

70-Minute Filmic Romp Visits Klingon Language Institute's Annual qep'a' (Conference)

DENVER, COLO. (April 12, 2004) – The entertaining documentary *Earthlings: Ugly Bags of Mostly Water* captures the lives, passions and quirks of the members of the Klingon Language Institute during their annual qep'a' (conference). Klingon is, of course, the warrior language invented by Linguist Marc Okrand for the Star Trek television and movie franchise, including the feature *Star Trek: The Search for Spock*, among others. *Earthlings* will make its international debut at the upcoming Cannes Film Market, May 12 – 23, 2004.

“Language fascinates me,” says Dr. Lawrence Schoen, Director of the Klingon Language Institute (KLI). “By age five, we have learned a lot of our language, and it defines our humanity, forms our society, and helps to develop and transfer our technology.”

Humanity and society are just two of the themes examined in *Earthlings*. Director Alexandre O. Philippe artfully shows the interplay between culture and language, communication and emotion, and the rather delicate line between reality and fiction within a science fiction-like background of visual textures, lighting and images. By turns, *Earthlings* is serious, comedic, intellectual and sad, as the various KLI members speak about what drew them into learning a constructed language.

Among the many ‘ugly bags of mostly water’ (the term Klingons use to describe Terrans, humans on earth), the picture show introduces Rich Yampell (Captain Krankor), the musical composer for whom the Klingon national anthem, ‘taHaj wo’ (‘Long Live the Empire’) might turn out to be his only hit song, Dr. d’Armond Speers, a Denver-based linguist who spoke only Klingon to his son until age three-and-a-half, and Michael J. Oetting, a studious postal worker, who attends the 2003 qep'a' to pass a language facility exam because, “It’s about acceptance. If I pass the test, it’s official - - I am one of them.”

Earthlings Producer Steve Williams of SONEW productions insists that, “*Earthlings* is not a *Trekkies* imitator [the 1994 documentary of a Star Trek convention], but instead it’s a entertaining view of intellectual (and sometimes not-so-intellectual) endeavor to sort out and to explore humans and language, and the definitions of success and failure.”

For more information about *Earthlings: Ugly Bags of Mostly Water*, please visit www.earthlings-movie.com.

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