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International News

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Global Film Initiative takes 'Mourning'

Iranian film shared Busan fest top prize

By ELSA KESLASSY

PARIS -- Global Film Initiative has acquired North American distribution rights to Iranian helmer Morteza Farshbaf's debut "Mourning."

Deal was inked with sales company Wide Management at the Busan Film Festival, where the film shared the fest's top prize, the New Currents award, with Loy Arcenas' "Nino," and took the Fipresci award.

A black comedy, "Mourning" turns on a boy who ends up in the care of deaf relatives after his parents are killed in a car accident.

The film adds to Global Film Initiative's slate of critically acclaimed Iranian films, such as Mohammad Rasoulof's "White Meadows" and Granaz Moussavi's "My Tehran for Sale."

"There's nothing timid about our support of Iranian film and filmmakers," said Santhosh Daniel, topper of Global Film Initiative's programs. "If they're willing to risk their lives to make a film, we have a commitment to make sure those films reach an audience."

The Global Film Initiative is a non-profit org that was created in 2002 to support independent cinema from Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

"Mourning" is one of eight films that are part of Eye On Films, a global network of nearly 80 festival and distribution partners, which was founded by Wide Management's topper Loic Magneron in 2011 to guarantee the commercial release and festival exposure of feature debuts around the world.

Next up, "Mourning" will play at the Tokyo Film Festival.

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