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## News in the Arts: Initiative takes global look at cinema



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By John Beifuss, The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tenn.

May 1--Recent feature films from Iran, Algeria, South Africa, Mexico, Peru, India, Vietnam, Uruguay, Serbia and China will be screened at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art through July when the "Global Lens" series debuts May 13.

Previously presented during the Indie Memphis Film Festival, the series is a project of the not-for-profit Global Film Initiative, "created to promote cross-cultural understanding through the medium of cinema," according to the Web site (globalfilm.org) of the San Francisco-based effort.

"Although American film continues to thrive in the global marketplace, developing world filmmaking has suffered from shifting economic conditions in film financing and distribution," the Web site continues. "As a result, audiences in the United States have been denied the rich cultural lessons these films have to offer." The Global Film Initiative is an attempt to help offset that imbalance.

Each film will be screened twice, usually within the same week. Admission is \$6 per screening, or free with a Brooks VIP Film Pass or an Indie Memphis membership. A \$30 "passport" is good for admission to all 10 films.

Many of the movies premiered and earned awards at some of the world's most prestigious film events, including the Venice and Toronto international festivals. Opening film "Masquerades," for example, was named Best Feature at the 2008 Dubai International Film Festival. The films are not documentaries but narrative features -- comedies, dramas, love stories, and so on.

Here's the lineup:

May 13 and 20: "Masquerade" (Algeria; comedy about a gardener trying to marry off his narcoleptic sister).

May 16 and 21: "Shirley Adams" (South Africa; a single mother's woes in a Cape Town slum).

May 27 and June 3: "Ordinary People" (Serbia; war in the Balkans).

May 30 and June 4: "My Tehran for Sale" (Iran; a woman's struggle in a stifling political/cultural climate).

June 10 and 17: "Leo's Room" (Uruguay; a wry college student's coming of age).

June 13 and 18: "Becloud" (Mexico; a trucker and his companion find a baby at the breast of its dead mother on a dry lake bed).

June 24 and July 1: "Gods" (Peru; a young woman dreams of wealth).

July 8 and 15: "Ocean of an Old Man" (India; set in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami).

July 11 and 16: "Adrift" (Vietnam; erotic tension and emotional isolation in modern Hanoi).

July 22 and 29: "The Shaft" (China; life in a poor mining town).

For more information, visit [brooksmuseum.org](http://brooksmuseum.org) and [indiememphis.com](http://indiememphis.com).

-- John Beifuss

Yes we Cannes

At least two movies with Memphis connections will screen during the 63rd Cannes Film Festival, set for May 12-13.

"Food for Haiti," a close to 5-minute documentary short by Memphian Gil Hayes, is included in the Cannes "Short Film Corner," a noncompetitive showcase for shorts with "cinema artistic values." Hayes' film is a "visual summary" of the efforts of some 5,000 volunteers in the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee to provide meals for Haitians in the wake of the island nation's recent earthquake.

Also at the world's preeminent film festival is the feature "S\*--Year," produced by Memphian Nick Case. Directed by Cam Archer and shot in Los Angeles, the film stars Ellen Barkin as an unhinged actress facing retirement. The movie will screen as a premiere in the prestigious "Directors' Fortnight" slot of the festival.

-- John Beifuss

Theatre Memphis gala

Theatre Memphis, approaching its 90th year, holds its annual gala on Friday, May 7. The party, separated into two parts, features Steinway artist Richard Glazier performing his one-man show "From Gershwin to Garland: A Musical Journey."


The Wizard of Oz-themed party, beginning at 6:30 p.m., includes an open bar and "munchie-kin" buffet. Jazz artist Joyce Cobb performs on the Next Stage.



**Wanted**



**Public Information Officials**



**Writers Wanted**

Those who wish to join in later, and pay \$25 instead of \$150, can show up at 9:30 p.m. for an Oz-themed dance party.

For more information about the gala, and silent and live auctions, call 682-8323.

-- Christopher Blank

Spring for WinterArts

The WinterArts co-op holds its weeklong Spring Show beginning today through May 8 in the Regalia, Center Court, Poplar at Shady Grove (next to Great Wines and Spirits). More than 30 local artists and artisans members will have paintings, photography and sculpture for sale as well as works in glass, metal, clay, wood and more. Hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, go to [winterartsmemphis.com](http://winterartsmemphis.com).

-- Bill Ellis

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