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THE LITERACY PROJECT

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FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2010

The Global Film Initiative

Become a tutor mentor and mean something to somebody who needs you.

While I was attending Guadalajara Producers Network, I attended a roundtable discussion with Susan Weeks of the [Global Film Initiative](#) which Susan founded in 2002 to promote cross-cultural understanding through the medium of cinema. Their model was based on the Rotterdam Film Festival's [Hubert Bals Fund](#).

Grants

Privately funded, this non-profit organization gives small grants of \$10,000 two times a year toward production of films from countries with little or no visibility in the U.S. Of some 80 applicants, 5 to 7 receive the grants which are awarded at script but materially given out at the rushes of the film. This week's evaluations were just finished. The next round will be in June.



Awards are made to filmmakers whose work exhibits artistic excellence, authentic self-representation and accomplished storytelling. The granting program furthers the Initiative's mission of contributing to the development of local film industries while offering audiences a variety of cultural perspectives on daily life around the world. Monies received through the Initiative's granting program are used to support completion of film production, and to subsidize post-production costs, such as laboratory and sound mixing fees and access to modern editing systems.

The Global Film Initiative accepts grant applications from countries in the following regions: Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, Asia (excluding Hong Kong, Iran, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan), and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand). One success story occurred in 2003 or 2004 when a woman Angola filmmaker, Maria João Ganga, was awarded the grant which became the first film out of Angola in 8 years after 20 years of civil war. The grant so impressed the government that it funded the rest of the film *Hollow*.

Mexico is on the award list because, like all Latino films in the US, there are not enough films made frequently enough to create a

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