THE GLOBAL FILM INITIATIVE LAUNCHES DVD DISTRIBUTION ARM FOR THE PRESTIGIOUS GLOBAL LENS FILM SERIES

First films to be released on July 27th are “GETTING HOME” from China and “SONG FROM THE SOUTHERN SEAS” from Kazakhstan

NEW YORK, NY, June 28, 2010 — The Global Film Initiative announced today the launch of its new DVD distribution arm, dedicated to the release of films from its hailed Global Lens film series. The first films in the lineup of 10 titles to be released this year are GETTING HOME, directed by Zhang Yang (Shower), from China and SONG FROM THE SOUTHERN SEAS, by Marat Sarulu, from Kazakhstan. The films will be available starting July 27th through Amazon, Netflix and other retailers.

The Global Lens series opens with an inaugural event at MoMA in New York each year, and then travels to museums, festivals and venues across the country garnering national acclaim and exposure. The Global Film Initiative will release 4-5 Global Lens films per quarter comprising the entire 2009 series, which includes the following works of international cinema: I Am From Titov Veles by Teona Strugar Mitevska, Macedonia; Mutum by Sandra Kogut, Brazil; My Time Will Come by Victor Arregui, Ecuador; The Photograph by Nan Achnas, Indonesia; Possible Lives by Sandra Gugliotta, Argentina; Sleepwalking Land by Teresa Prata, Mozambique; Those Three by Naghi Nemati, Iran; and, What a Wonderful World by Faouzi Bensaïdi, Morocco.

For full information about upcoming Global Lens DVD releases, and to download press materials and images, visit: globalfilm.org/press.htm

About the Films

In the soulful and humane comedy GETTING HOME, Zhao, a middle-aged construction worker, struggles to fulfill a dying co-worker’s last wish to be buried at home in China’s Three Gorges region. Setting out with his colleague’s body in tow, Zhao travels hundreds of miles across the extraordinary countryside, finding adventure, encountering colorful characters — and even discovering love in the unlikeliest quarters. Director Zhang Yang’s humorous and moving tale of friendship offers a powerful and, at times, slapstick commentary on the value of community and human connectivity in modern China.

“The premise of GETTING HOME, a gently mordant comedy from the Chinese director Zhang Yang, is halfway between As I Lay Dying and Weekend at Bernie’s...The picaresque tale, which won a jury award at the 2007 Berlin International Film Festival, combines the social commentary almost inevitable in a contemporary Chinese film...with a canny Western-style whimsicality” — Mike Hale, The New York Times
In **SONG FROM THE SOUTHERN SEAS**, two couples, one Russian and one Kazakh, live side by side in relative harmony in a beautiful yet semi-desolate region of the Great Steppe. But when the fair-skinned Russians give birth to a boy of decidedly darker skin, fifteen years of suspicion and acrimony arise between the neighbors and can only be resolved by an ironic twist of family and fate. At times darkly somber and at other times tender and wistful, the film is buoyed throughout by a soundtrack of folk-inspired melodies. Writer-director Marat Sarulu draws on Kazakhstan’s epic history to create a gritty and deeply compassionate tale of humor and cultural insight.

“This compact work, energized by the yin and yang of assorted conflicts (ethnic, generational, familial), focuses chiefly on the love-hate relationship between indigenous Kazakhs and Russian immigrants who have lived side by side for decades.” — Screen International

**About the Global Film Initiative**
The Global Film Initiative is a U.S.-based, not-for-profit organization specializing in the support of independent film from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Founded in 2002 to promote cross-cultural understanding through the language of cinema, the Initiative awards numerous grants to deserving filmmakers from around the world each year and supports a touring film series entitled Global Lens. For more information about the Global Lens film series and Global Film Initiative programs, please visit our website (www.globalfilm.org) or contact us at gfi-info@globalfilm.org.

**GETTING HOME**

**SONG FROM THE SOUTHERN SEAS**

Distributor: The Global Film Initiative  
Street Date: July 27, 2010  
Suggested Retail Price: $24.95  
Discs: 1  
Region: NTSC Region 1  
Production Year: 2008  
Rated: NR  
Run time: 80 minutes  
Aspect Ratio: 1.85  
Language: Russian, with subtitles in English  
Bonus Features: Global Lens Trailer, Film Discussion Guide  
Order Online: globalfilm.org/store

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