FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LGBT Festival-favorite LEO’S ROOM and Rajesh Shera’s Post-Apocalyptic Gem

OCEAN OF AN OLD MAN to Release on DVD November 8th

Enrique Buchichio’s Montevideo love story and Shera’s critically acclaimed debut feature lead

Global Lens winter releases

San Francisco, CA – November 1, 2011 – The Global Film Initiative is pleased to announce the DVD release of two new award-winning films from the Global Lens film series, including the first film ever to be shot on India’s Andaman and Nicobar Islands:

LEO’S ROOM (EL CUARTO DE LEO), dir. Enrique Buchichio, Uruguay

Shaken by a recent breakup, a troubled but handsome young man dreams of the future and cautiously explores his sexuality with the encouragement of an old friend and a sympathetic therapist. Special Jury Award, Torino GLBT Film Festival; Official Selection of the San Sebastián Film Festival (New Directors), NewFest and Miami International Film Festival.

“A sensitive, engaging and emotive portrayal of a young man coming to terms with his sexuality. Leo’s Room is a triumph of a movie….The understated performances, subtle direction and strong story make Leo’s Room a must-see.” –Entertainment Focus

“Filled with wonderful little touches and character beats….Leo’s Room feels utterly fresh.”
–Miami Herald

OCEAN OF AN OLD MAN, dir. Rajesh Shera, India

In the devastating aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, an elderly British schoolteacher comes to grips with his own loss as he searches for missing students on the remote Indian islands of Andaman and Nicobar. Best Cinematography, International Film Festival Ahmedabad; Official Selection of the Pusan International Film Festival (New Currents), Cairo International Film Festival and International Film Festival of Kerala.

“A thoughtful visual poem on the terrible effects of the [2004] tsunami….This film of immense formal beauty reminds you that life in all its splendor carries on.” –DearCinema

“From its opening sequence, Ocean of an Old Man strikes an exact note….A symphony filling our senses.” –Upperstall

LEO’S ROOM and OCEAN OF AN OLD MAN toured as part of the Global Lens 2010 film series and appeared in venues, festivals and theatrical locations throughout the U.S. and Canada, including the New York Latino International Film Festival, the Dallas International Film Festival and the Seattle International Film Festival. The DVD release of LEO’S ROOM coincides with its release on television cable network HBO Latino this month. Both titles are also featured on Virgin America airlines, along with other Global Lens films.

DVDs will be available for purchase through the Global Film Initiative’s website (catalogue.globalfilm.org) on November 8th. OCEAN OF AN OLD MAN includes a “Making of” featurette with behind-the-scenes footage and an interview with the film’s lead, venerable Indian actor Tom Alter. Both releases also include DVD-ROM discussion guides with directors’ statements, comprehensive background information about each country’s geographical setting and history, and commentary on cultural references within each film.

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

**LEO’S ROOM (EL CUARTO DE LEO),** dir. Enrique Buchichio, Uruguay

In the heart of Montevideo, the affable but secretly troubled Leo wraps himself in the comfort of his small rented room, unmotivated to finish his college thesis or find a job, and content with infrequent visits from his girlfriend. After their six-month relationship ends, Leo begins to break out of his shell by cruising the Internet for a new companion, enlisting the aid of a sympathetic therapist along the way. However, it’s not until he has a chance reunion with a classmate that he is forced to consider the true meaning of his reclusive lifestyle, and a future outside the metaphorical safety of his room. Featuring an affecting soundtrack and an equally endearing cast of characters, director Enrique Buchichio’s affirming drama is a unique vision of isolation and coming-of-age set against a modern tale of romance and friendship.

**OCEAN OF AN OLD MAN,** dir. Rajesh Shera, India

In the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and amid the stunning natural beauty of India’s Andaman and Nicobar islands, an elderly British teacher struggles to run a small primary school despite the loss of many of the islands’ children to the recent tragedy. Ignoring the overwhelming grief that washes over the islands, he continues to teach his few remaining students until a government official delivers a relocation order to all residents, causing him to embark on a heartbreaking search for his missing students, convinced they must still be alive. Blending exquisite vistas with the ubiquitous sound of the ocean to convey the precarious balance between human life and the inexorable forces of nature, Rajesh Shera’s debut feature quietly unfolds as a delicate meditation on grief and loss.

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<tr>
<th><strong>LEO’S ROOM (EL CUARTO DE LEO)</strong></th>
<th><strong>OCEAN OF AN OLD MAN</strong></th>
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<td>Distributor: The Global Film Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Street date: November 8th, 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suggested retail price: $24.95</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Rated: NR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Run time: 92 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aspect ratio: 1.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language: Spanish, with subtitles in English</td>
<td>Language: Hindi, with subtitles in English</td>
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<td>Bonus features: Global Lens trailer, Film Discussion Guide</td>
<td>Bonus features: Global Lens trailer, Making of OCEAN OF AN OLD MAN, Film Discussion Guide</td>
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<td>Order online: catalogue.globalfilm.org</td>
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**Upcoming releases include:**

**ADrift (CHOI VOI),** dir. Bui Thac Chuyen, Vietnam

A young wife, ignored by her immature spouse, is caught in a love triangle between her best friend and a handsome stranger during a languorous summer in Hanoi. FIPRESCI Prize, Venice International Film Festival; Official Selection of the Toronto International Film Festival (Contemporary World Cinema), the Pusan International Film Festival (Window on Asian Cinema) and the International Film Festival Rotterdam (Bright Future).

“A subtle, melancholy exploration of erotic angst and uncomfortable awakening…Adrift evokes a culture whose puritanical restraints have begun to loosen, allowing dangerous sparks to fly. Once desire has been unleashed, smugly settling for less is no longer a comfortable option.” –The New York Times

**MY TEHRAN FOR SALE** dir. Granaz Moussavi, Iran

An ailing actress fighting for political asylum, and waiting to clear Australian immigration, recounts her attempts to live, work, and love in Tehran’s thriving yet turbulent arts subculture. Official Selection of the Toronto International Film Festival (Discovery Programme), the Pusan International Film Festival and the International Film Festival Rotterdam (Bright Future).

“Shot undercover in Iran’s teeming capital, this brave low-budget film speaks volumes....A passionate cry for international understanding and a stirring example of hit-and-run moviemaking.” –Screen Daily
Recent releases include:

**ORDINARY PEOPLE**
Dir. Vladimir Perisic
Serbia

**THE SHAFT**
(DIXIA DE TIANKONG)
Dir. Zhang Chi
China

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

**About Global Lens**

The Global Lens film series was launched in 2003 to support the distribution of unique and critically acclaimed cinematic works from around the world. The Global Lens Collection includes more than eighty-five unique cinematic perspectives from over thirty-five nations, and the Global Film Initiative makes these films available through theatrical, non-theatrical, home video, television, educational and airline markets in the United States and Canada. All proceeds from the Global Lens film series support international filmmaker grants, educational programming and resources, touring film exhibitions and other philanthropic initiatives and programs sponsored by the Global Film Initiative.

**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, Central & Eastern Europe, 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: [www.globalfilm.org](http://www.globalfilm.org).

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