FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Serbian War Drama ORDINARY PEOPLE and Zhang Chi’s Rural Triptych
THE SHAFT to Release on DVD September 27th
Cinéfondation and ND/NF filmmakers lead Global Lens fall release

San Francisco, CA – September 20, 2011 – The Global Film Initiative is pleased to announce the DVD release of two new award-winning ‘portraits of everyday life in exceptional circumstances’ from the Global Lens film series:

ORDINARY PEOPLE, dir. Vladimir Perisic, Serbia
One quiet afternoon, a busload of young soldiers is unexpectedly forced to question the morality of their profession after being enlisted to execute civilian prisoners at a remote facility in the countryside. Cannes Semaine de la Critique and FIPRESCI Prize, Sarajevo Film Festival.

“A laureate of Cannes’ Cinéfondation program, Perisic pushes the viewer to search for meaning or morality behind his character’s acts—but the only conclusion seems to be that such acts are hopeless, unfathomable and beyond human control.” –Variety

“Quietly devastating, a slow burning fuse that ends with an implosion of heart and mind.” –The Brag

THE SHAFT (DIXIA DE TIANKONG), dir. Zhang Chi, China
In three intertwined stories, a father, son and daughter fight to hold onto hope and family as they face the harsh realities of life in a poor western Chinese mining town. New Directors/New Films and NETPAC Award, Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival.

“A superb debut, achingly gorgeous...Graceful camera movements and striking compositions offset the dungeon that controls their life. Each time the elevator shaft descends, another layer of their dreams disappears.” –indieWire

“Tight and tender, this small family drama is so visually expressive that listening is always subordinate to looking...” –The New York Times

ORDINARY PEOPLE and THE SHAFT toured as part of the Global Lens 2010 film series and appeared in venues, festivals and theatrical locations throughout the U.S. and Canada. ORDINARY PEOPLE was also awarded the Cineuropa Prize at the Miami International Film Festival for its “universal and philosophical resonance,” and THE SHAFT—Zhang Chi’s debut feature—was awarded the Special Jury Prize at the Marrakech International Film Festival and Best Director at the Bogotá International Film Festival.

Both releases 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. DVDs will be available for purchase through the Global Film Initiative website (catalogue.globalfilm.org) on September 27th.

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

ORDINARY PEOPLE, dir. Vladimir Perisic, Serbia
On a seemingly average day, a busload of young soldiers is sent to a remote location in the countryside and given a macabre task: the execution of a number of civilians. Dzoni, a green recruit, initially objects, but as he moves from one killing to the next, he is swept up by the spectre of military authority, and quickly becomes desensitized by the apparently routine nature of his task. As he nears the end of his assignment, the quiet horror of the day slowly begins to affect him, forcing a painful reconciliation with his actions. Set in an unspecified time of conflict in the Balkans, director Vladimir Perisic’s highly attuned and unsentimental lens captures the psychological toll of war on its participants, and the universal struggle of all soldiers to reconcile morality with action.

THE SHAFT (DIXIA DE TIANKONG), dir. Zhang Chi, China
In a poor mining town in western China, the stories of a father and his two children intersect and intertwine, illuminating complicated relationships hidden beneath the community’s hardened exterior. Accused of an affair with her manager, the attractive daughter of the household finds herself spurned by her boyfriend and forced to accept an arranged marriage. Her brother dreams of being a singer, but after an unforeseen stint in prison, reluctantly heads into the mines like his father, who spends his days searching for the wife who left him many years ago. Writer-director Zhang Chi’s wise and poetic debut delicately expresses the turmoil of emotion and expectation wrought by a calloused and difficult existence.

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<th>ORDINARY PEOPLE</th>
<th>THE SHAFT (DIXIA DE TIANKONG)</th>
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<td>Distributor: The Global Film Initiative</td>
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<td>Street date: September 27th, 2011</td>
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<td>Suggested retail price: $24.95</td>
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<td>Region: NTSC Region 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production year: 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rated: NR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Run time: 79 minutes</td>
<td>Run time: 98 minutes</td>
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<td>Aspect ratio: 1.85</td>
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<td>Language: Mandarin, with subtitles in English</td>
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<td>Bonus features: Global Lens trailer, Film Discussion Guide</td>
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Upcoming releases include:

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 and Official Selection of San Sebastian International Film Festival (New Directors), NewFest and Miami International Film Festival.

“A triumph of a movie....a real gem. The understated performances, subtle direction and strong story make Leo’s Room a must-see.” –Entertainment Focus

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 and Official Selection of 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
Recent releases include:

**MASQUERADES**  
*MASCARADES*  
Dir. Lyes Salem  
Algeria

**SHIRLEY ADAMS**  
Dir. Oliver Hermanus  
South Africa

For more information about upcoming DVD releases, and to download press materials and images, visit:  
[globalfilm.org/press.htm](http://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 seventy-five unique cinematic perspectives from thirty 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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