FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Six Projects Awarded Production Funds by the Global Film Initiative

Previous grant recipients premiere films at Toronto and San Sebastian

San Francisco, CA – September 28, 2009 – The Global Film Initiative announced today that six filmmakers have been awarded production funding for their film projects during the Initiative’s Summer 2009 granting-cycle.

“We’re very excited about this season’s grant-recipients,” says Santhosh Daniel, Director of Programs at the Global Film Initiative. “These six projects not only represent the vanguard of international cinema, but also an amazing cross-section of talent, vision and cultural perspective—we’re very impressed.”

The projects were selected from a group of seventy-one applications from thirty-two different countries. Grant-recipients are chosen for their artistic excellence, accomplished storytelling, and cultural perspective on daily life around the world. Funds received from grants are used to subsidize post-production costs, such as laboratory and sound mixing fees, and access to advanced editing systems.

Since its founding in 2002, the Initiative has awarded eighty-one grants to film projects from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. These grants have supported the works of both emerging and established filmmakers, and have made a significant impact on the growth of developing film industries.

The Summer 2009 grant recipients are:

- **40 DAYS OF SILENCE (40 KUN CHILLA), dir. Saodat Ismailova, Uzbekistan**
  Passion, shame, love and motherhood leave an indelible imprint upon the lives of four generations of women living together in a traditional Uzbek village.

- **THE INCA, THE SILLY GIRL, AND THE SON OF A THIEF (EL INCA, LA BOBA Y EL HIJO DEL LADRÓN) dir. Ronnie Temoche, Peru**
  Three disparate characters, seeking acceptance and community, travel to Peru’s capital city in a journey fraught with absurdity, hardship and humor.

- **LUCÍA, dir. Niles Jamil Atallah, Chile**
  In the weeks following the death of General Augusto Pinochet, a woman and her aging father struggle through the monotony of a life burdened by the oppressive dictator’s legacy.
• **STRAW MAN (DAO CAO REN), dir. Peng Tao, China**
  A crematorium worker trading in the lonely and macabre market of “ghost wives” is forced to face his own need for companionship when diagnosed with a terminal illness.

• **WAITING THE VOTE (EN ATTENDANT LE VOTE), dir. Missa Hebie, Burkina Faso**
  In the fictitious African nation of Golfe, a griot recounts the story of a brutal dictator’s rise to power through fixed elections and the supernatural force of a sacred meteorite.

• **A YEAR WITHOUT A SUMMER dir. Tan Chui Mui, Malaysia**
  A past-his-prime rock musician returns home to a small seaside village, eager to reconnect with family and start life afresh as a fisherman.

Recent success of previous grantees:

• **CRAB TRAP (EL VUELCO DEL CANGREJO), dir. Oscar Ruiz Navia, Colombia.**
  Premiered in the Discovery section of the 34th Toronto International Film Festival, September 10th – 19th. GFI grant awarded 2007.

• **BLIND PIG WHO WANTS TO FLY, dir. Edwin, Indonesia.**

• **10 TO 11 (11'E 10 KALA), dir. Pelin Esmer, Turkey.**
  Premiered in competition at the 57th San Sebastian International Film Festival, September 18th – 26th. GFI grant awarded 2008.

• **LEO'S ROOM (EL CUARTO DE LEO), dir. Enrique Buchichio, Uruguay.**
  Premiered in the Works in Progress section at the 57th San Sebastian International Film Festival, September 18th – 26th. GFI grant awarded 2006.

• **KILL THEM ALL (MATAR A TODOS), dir. Esteban Schroeder, Uruguay.**
  Selected to screen in the BAM Cinématék’s ¡Go Uruguay! series, October 16th – 18th in New York. GFI grant awarded 2005.

The Initiative’s Winter 2010 granting-cycle opens September 30th. Applications for the winter cycle must be postmarked by January 15, 2010. To apply, or for more information on the Granting Program, visit: [http://www.globalfilm.org/programs.htm](http://www.globalfilm.org/programs.htm).

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**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: http://www.globalfilm.org.

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