

**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 34<sup>th</sup> Toronto International Film Festival, September 10<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. GFI grant awarded 2007.
- **BLIND PIG WHO WANTS TO FLY, dir. Edwin, Indonesia.** Screened for one week during the Museum of Modern Art’s ContemporAsian program, September 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> in New York. Read the New York Times review [here](#). GFI grant awarded 2008.
- **10 TO 11 (11’E 10 KALA), dir. Pelin Esmer, Turkey.** Premiered in competition at the 57<sup>th</sup> San Sebastian International Film Festival, September 18<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. GFI grant awarded 2008.
- **LEO’S ROOM (EL CUARTO DE LEO), dir. Enrique Buchichio, Uruguay.** Premiered in the Works in Progress section at the 57<sup>th</sup> San Sebastian International Film Festival, September 18<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. GFI grant awarded 2006.
- **KILL THEM ALL (MATAR A TODOS), dir. Esteban Schroeder, Uruguay.** Selected to screen in the BAM Cinématek’s ¡Go Uruguay! series, October 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> in New York. GFI grant awarded 2005.

The Initiative’s Winter 2010 granting-cycle opens September 30<sup>th</sup>. 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>.

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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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