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Five New Films Awarded Production Funds by the Global Film Initiative
Previous Grantees Include Un Certain Regard Recipient and Oscar Candidate

San Francisco, CA – October 12, 2010 – The Global Film Initiative announced today that five filmmakers have been awarded production funding for their film projects during the Initiative’s Summer 2010 granting-cycle.

“We are both excited and inspired by these new projects,” says Susan Weeks Coulter, Board Chair of the Global Film Initiative. “Each has a unique sense of artistic urgency and a very personal, yet universal, cultural insight—they have no comparison.”

The projects were selected from a group of eighty-eight applications, from thirty-six 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 ninety-one grants to film projects from Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, 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 2010 grant recipients are:

- **THE DEAD SEA (SENGADAL), dir. Leena Manimekalai, India**
A journalist’s quest to profile Tamil refugees fleeing Sri Lanka’s civil war reveals a mass-killing, a personal revelation and the painful reality of documenting a forgotten conflict.
- **I’M EXPECTING YOU (TE ESPERO EN CASA), dir. Daniel Gagliano, Argentina**
A couple faces dangerous consequences after choosing to circumvent a traditional adoption and instead enlist the aid of an illegal child-smuggling ring in northern Argentina.
- **IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE CITY (AKHER AYAM EL-MADINA), dir. Tamer El Said, Egypt**
In the fading grandeur of old Cairo, a depressed filmmaker decides to capture the “last days” of his beloved city on film in the hopes of creating his first meaningful work of art.
- **MOTHER’S SOUL (TAM HON ME), dir. Nhue Giang Pham, Vietnam**
A nine-year-old girl suffering from the loneliness of her own mother’s neglect unwittingly becomes a mother to her orphaned best friend—until an accident changes their lives forever.

- **SKOONHEID, dir. Oliver Hermanus, South Africa**
A middle-aged man struggles to suppress his latent sexual desires only to realize that, among many other problems, he has an unhealthy and destructive obsession with his friend's teenage son.

Recent success of previous grantees:

- **CRAB TRAP (EL VUELCO DEL CANGREJO), dir. Oscar Ruiz Navia, Colombia**
Selected as Colombia's official submission to the Best Foreign Film category of the 83rd Academy Awards. GFI grant awarded in 2007.
- **DOOMAN RIVER, dir. Zhang Lu, China**
Awarded the Special Jury Prize at the Paris Cinema International Film Festival. GFI grant awarded in 2009.
- **OCTOBER (OCTUBRE), dir. Daniel Vega Vidal and Diego Vega Vidal, Peru**
Awarded the Un Certain Regard Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival. GFI grant awarded in 2008.

In addition, YEAR WITHOUT A SUMMER by Malaysian director Tan Chui Mui (GFI grant awarded in 2009), and VIRGIN GOAT by Indian director Murali Nair (GFI grant awarded in 2007) will have their world premieres this October at the Pusan International Film Festival and Abu Dhabi Film Festival, respectively.

The Global Film Initiative's next granting deadline is January 15, 2011 and applications must be postmarked by this date. Submissions will be accepted beginning October 30, 2010; please visit the Global Film Initiative's website for more information regarding applications and guidelines: <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, 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 our [website](#) or contact us at gfi-info@globalfilm.org.



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