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Ten New Films Awarded Production Grants by the Global Film Initiative
*New Honorable Mention Category Highlights Expansion of Granting Program;
Previous Grantees Selected for Un Certain Regard and
Receive NETPAC and Jury Awards at Antalya and Pusan*

San Francisco, CA – April 14, 2011 – The Global Film Initiative announced today that ten filmmakers have been awarded production funding for their film projects during the Initiative’s Winter 2011 granting-cycle.

“These projects are evidence of a very dynamic energy in filmmaking right now,” says Susan Weeks Coulter, Board Chair of the Global Film Initiative. “Each is ambitious and almost defiant of popular convention, perhaps hinting that we are about to see the emergence of a new and unique generation of directors.”

In the Winter 2011 cycle, five filmmakers were awarded production grants of \$10,000 each, and five filmmakers were awarded the first-ever distinction of Honorable Mention, which includes a cash-grant of \$1,000 each. Included among the Honorable Mentions are Juan Sebastián Jácome’s Ibermedia-sponsored, multi-nation road-trip film, LA RUTA DE LUNA, and South African director Jenna Bass’s TOK TOKKIE, which recently took top honors at Durban FilmMart.

"Our inclusion of Honorable Mentions really does reflect a positive reality in independent cinema," says Santhosh Daniel, Director of Programs at the Global Film Initiative. "Simply put, there are more quality films being produced the world-over, and it would be a disservice not to recognize their obvious merit."

The awarded projects were selected from a group of sixty-seven applications, from thirty-one different countries. Grant recipients are chosen for their artistic excellence, accomplished storytelling and cultural perspective on daily life. 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 more than one-hundred grants to filmmakers from Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. These grants have supported the works of both emerging and established directors, and have made a significant impact on the growth of developing film industries.

The Winter 2011 production grant recipients are:

- **DON'T EXPECT PRAISES, dir. Yang Jin, China**
Young friends Yang-Jin and Xiaobo roam China’s rural countryside in what begins as a summer vacation, but eventually turns into an adventure that brings out their dark and not-so-carefree alter-egos.

- **GUERRILLA BOY, dir. F. Simiyu Barasa, Kenya**
An ingenious young boy surreptitiously intercepts government radio airwaves and broadcasts revolutionary songs throughout his village, inciting a frantic effort by officials to silence the mysterious, and perhaps militant, deejay.
- **ON THE PLANK (SUR LA PLANCHE), dir. Leïla Kilani, Morocco**
A pair of young shrimp peelers in a Tangiers factory are swept up in a petty crime scheme and an almost impossible dream of escaping their jobs and making a new life in the economically “free zone” on the other side of town.
- **TANGERINES (MTREBI), dir. Zaza Urushadze, Georgia**
In the heat of Georgia’s civil war, two injured soldiers, one Chechen and the other Georgian, put aside their prejudices and join forces to protect each other and their elderly caretaker from a group of violent soldiers.
- **VOICE OF MY FATHER (BABAMIN SESI), dir. Orhan Eskiköy and Zeynel Doğan, Turkey**
As Neyzel, an expectant father, prepares for the birth of his child, he gradually begins to excavate memories of his childhood through audio-taped “letters” that his father sent home while working overseas—but that his mother insists do not exist.

The Winter 2011 Honorable Mention grant recipients are:

- **ALI, THE GOAT, AND IBRAHIM (ALI ME’AZA), dir. Ibrahim El Batout, Egypt**
Two neighbors—a sound engineer plagued by strange noises and a man convinced that his deceased fiancé has been reincarnated as a goat—embark on an unusual trip to Egypt’s coastline to cure themselves of their eccentric afflictions.
- **THE MIRROR NEVER LIES, dir. Kamila Andini, Indonesia**
A young girl copes with her father’s disappearance by using a mirror to look for his reflection in the sea as her mother struggles to reconcile conflicted feelings about her missing husband, and a researcher visiting their small fishing village.
- **NO AUTUMN, NO SPRING (SIN OTOÑO, SIN PRIMAVERA), dir. Iván Mora Manzano, Ecuador**
In a series of intertwined stories, a group of teens and twenty-somethings—including a young man in love with his drug-dealer, and a terminally-ill girl—struggle with love, depression and coming-of-age amidst Ecuador’s “lithium generation.”
- **LA RUTA DE LA LUNA, dir. Juan Sebastián Jácome, Panama**
An albino hoping to compete in a bowling tournament in Panama sets out on a roadtrip through Costa Rica with his once-estranged father, only to be sidetracked by a free-spirited hitchhiker who unexpectedly changes the fate of both men and their relationship.

- **TOK TOKKIE, dir. Jenna Bass, South Africa**
A dark and imaginative portrait of Cape Town's underworld, as seen through the eyes of a ghost who teams up with a tortured demon to bring peace and closure to postmortem lives, stumbling across a city-wide conspiracy in the process.

Recent success of previous grantees:

- **DOOMAN RIVER, dir. Zhang Lu, China**
Received the NETPAC Award at the Pusan International Film Festival. GFI grant awarded in 2009 and included in Global Lens 2011.
- **IMANI, dir. Caroline Kamy, Uganda**
Awarded Best Film in an African Language at the African Movie Academy Awards. GFI grant awarded in 2009.
- **SHADOWS AND FACES (GÖLGELER VE SURETLER), dir. Dervis Zaim, Turkey**
Awarded the Turkish Film Critics Association Jury Prize at the Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival. GFI grant awarded in 2010.
- **SKOONHEID, dir. Oliver Hermanus, South Africa**
Selected for Un Certain Regard section of the Cannes Film Festival. GFI grant awarded in 2010.

In addition, the Initiative congratulates Malaysian director Tan Chui Mui (YEAR WITHOUT A SUMMER; GFI grant awarded in 2009), Indian director Vipin Vijay (THE IMAGE THREADS [formerly titled LEGEND OF THE HOLY NET POTATO]; GFI grant awarded in 2008) and Argentine director Alejandro Chomski (ASLEEP IN THE SUN; GFI grant awarded in 2005) for the recent premiere and worldwide screenings of their films, including upcoming presentations at the San Francisco International Film Festival, April 21-May 5.

The Global Film Initiative's next granting deadline is July 15, 2011 and applications must be postmarked by this date. Submissions will be accepted beginning April 30, 2011; 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-](#)



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