

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Global Film Initiative Announces Winter 2009 Grant Award Winners**  
*African awardees highlight Initiative's seventh year of granting*

**San Francisco, CA – April 16, 2009** – The Global Film Initiative announced today that seven filmmakers have been awarded production funding for their film projects during the Initiative's winter 2009 granting-cycle.

"These films represent a bold and invigorating style of filmmaking that is the hallmark of our Granting Program," says Santhosh Daniel, Director of Programs at the Global Film Initiative. "Strong cinematic vision and talent – that's what we look for and exactly what these projects embody."

The seven projects were selected from a group of sixty-six applications, from thirty-three different countries. Awardees 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 more than seventy 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 - notably in Southeast Asia, Latin America and most recently, Africa.

"We are particularly pleased to receive such strong projects from Africa, especially after recently attending FESPACO in Burkina Faso, and meeting so many talented filmmakers," says Susan Weeks Coulter, Board Chair of the Global Film Initiative.

The winter 2009 grant recipients are:

- **THE CAPTAIN OF NAKARA, dir. Wanjiru Kinyanjui, Kenya**  
A small-time thief falls in love and tries to build an honorable life, but is seduced back into a life of crime, jeopardizing his plans to marry.
- **CHAOS, DISORDER (HARAG W'MARAG), dir. Nadine Khan, Egypt**  
In a desert slum, amidst the chaos and comedy of daily life, two suitors settle their fight for a beautiful girl through a soccer match.
- **DOOMAN RIVER, dir. Zhang Lu, China**  
A young Chinese boy's allegiances are tested after he befriends a North Korean who has crossed the Dooman River into China.

- **IMANI, dir. Caroline Kamyia, Uganda**  
The lives of a former child soldier, a young maid, and a breakdancer overlap in this Ugandan triptych about perseverance, sacrifice and “imani” – *faith*.
- **KARAOKE, dir. Chris Chong Chan Fui, Malaysia**  
A young man returns home to run his family’s karaoke bar, only to discover a devastating truth about the life he left behind.
- **THE SONG OF THE WIND (LA TONADA DEL VIENTO), dir. Yvette Paz Soldan, Bolivia**  
After losing his father in a La Paz market, a young boy befriends a local orphan and embarks on a long journey home to the Aymara high country.
- **TARATA, dir. Fabrizio Aguilar Boschetti, Peru**  
In 1990’s Peru, a family grows increasingly distant from one another during an intense anti-government campaign waged by Shining Path guerrillas.

Recent success of previous grantees:

- **BLIND PIG WHO WANTS TO FLY (BABI BUTA YANG INGIN TERBANG), dir. Edwin, Indonesia.** Awarded the FIPRESCI prize (International Federation of Film Critics) at the 39th International Film Festival Rotterdam. GFI grant awarded 2008.
- **THE FIFTH STRING, dir. Selma Bargach, Morocco.** Invited to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Middle East Screenwriters Lab, (Royal Film Commission in consultation with the Sundance Institute). GFI grant awarded 2008.
- **THE LEGEND OF THE HOLY NET POTATO, dir. Vipin Vijay, India.** Invited to Produire au Sud co-production workshop (3 Continents Association). GFI grant awarded 2008.

The Initiative’s summer granting-cycle opens April 29<sup>th</sup>. Applications for the summer cycle must be postmarked by July 15<sup>th</sup>. 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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