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The Global Film Initiative Announces Spring Grants to Filmmakers

Past Recipients to Screen in Cannes Market and Un Certain Regard

New York City, NY – May 10, 2006 – The Global Film Initiative announced today that eight filmmakers have been awarded completion funding for their film projects in The Initiative's Spring granting cycle. Since The Initiative was founded in 2002, more than 40 grants have been awarded to filmmakers from the developing world. Film projects are selected based on their artistic excellence, accomplished storytelling, and cultural perspective on daily life around the world.

"The granting program fulfills an important component of our mission," said Susan Weeks Coulter, Chair of The Global Film Initiative. "By assisting these talented filmmakers in completing their projects, we help to support independent filmmaking in the developing world." The Global Film Initiative is a not-for-profit film distributor specializing in independent films from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. The Initiative awards grants twice each year, to both emerging and established filmmakers.

The Spring 2006 grant recipients are:

- ***Acne, Federico Veiroj (Uruguay)***. Rafael Bergman (13) lost his virginity, but has never kissed a girl. Overcoming his teenage awkwardness is an obvious first step.
- ***AGNUS DEI, Lucia Cedron (Argentina)***. A young woman's grandfather is kidnapped. While working with her mother to negotiate his release, the girl discovers details about her mother's exile to France, and the disappearance of her father many years ago.
- ***BAD DAY TO GO FISHING, Alvaro Brechner (Uruguay)***. A quirky story about an aging wrestler, his manager, and a young shopkeeper who collide in a wrestling match in front of their entire, small Uruguayan town.
- ***BEFORE WE FALL IN LOVE, James Lee (Malaysia)***. An uneasy alliance develops between a woman's husband and her lover, after she disappears. The two men discover a third man who may help them find her.
- ***NAVEL OF THE WORLD, Igor Ivanov (Macedonia)***. Jan Ludvick is a runaway circus performer with a severe case of Meniere's disease, a chronic ailment that causes him to see the world spinning. Despite this condition, he discovers that he has rare powers of balance and equilibrium.
- ***THREE DAYS TO FOREVER, Riri Riza (Indonesia)***. Two teenage cousins wake up after a big night out to find they have missed their flight to attend a family wedding. They have three days to get there, and in those three days their lives will change forever.
- ***TO GO, Huseyin Karabey (Turkey)***. A long-distance video-based romance is complicated by immigrant policies, national boundaries, and the outbreak of war in Iraq.
- ***THE WATERCOLORIST, Daniel Rodriguez (Peru)***. T has a dream: to leave his commercial life and become an artist. Moving into an apartment building occupied by a disjointed group of busybodies, he finds himself unable to paint, and yielding his life to others.

Past grant recipients screening at the 59th Festival de Cannes:

- ***ANOTHER MAN'S GARDEN*, Joao Luis Sol Carvalho (Mozambique)**, has market screenings sponsored by CNC France.
- ***TO GET TO HEAVEN FIRST YOU HAVE TO DIE*, Djamshed Usmonov (Tajikistan)**, selected for the *Un Certain Regard* program.

The Global Film Initiative

The Global Film Initiative is a non-traditional distributor specializing in independent films from the developing world. The Global Film Initiative was created to promote cross-cultural understanding through the universal language of cinema during a time of great change throughout the world. The Global Film Initiative offers grants each year to filmmakers and brings outstanding films to U.S. audiences through a 16-18 city theatrical release entitled *Global Lens*. *Global Lens* is supported by an educational outreach program to high school students. The Global Film Initiative is a 501(c)3 organization based in New York City. See www.globalfilm.org for more information.

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