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## The Global Film Initiative Awards Grants to Six Promising Projects

*Past grant recipient receives Sundance / NHK award, others screen at Cannes*

**San Francisco, CA - June 8, 2007** - The Global Film Initiative announced today that six filmmakers have been awarded completion funding for their film projects during the Initiative's Spring granting-cycle.

"GFI's granting program is at the core of our mission," says Santhosh Daniel, Director of Programs. "By funding projects from emerging nations, we support international filmmaking communities and our mission of cultural exchange through film."

The six projects were selected from a group of thirty-four applications, from twenty-one different countries, 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 fifty grants to emerging and established filmmakers from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

The Spring 2007 grant recipients are:

- **BUL DÉCONNÉ!, Massaër Dieng (Sénégal).** As a young man comes-of-age, his vision for the future conflicts with the gritty economic realities of his country. *Bul Déconné!* premiered at FESPACO 2007.
- **EVERY DAY IS A HOLIDAY, Dima El-Horr (Lebanon).** Three women, each with very different motivations, head toward Marmal Prison with intertwining fates. El-Horr's independent short *El-Havi (The Street, 1997)* was nominated in the International Short Film Competition at the Torino Film Festival.
- **HUACHO, Alejandro Fernandez Almendras (Chile).** Acceptance, adaptation and denial characterize the struggle to adjust to changing economic realities of rural Chile. Almendras' short *Lo Que Trae la Lluvia (Along Came the Rain, 2007)* was nominated for Best Short Film at Berlinale 2007.
- **LITTLE HEART, Nguyen Thanh Van (Viet Nam).** The lure of high paying jobs in an embroidery factory becomes a compelling reason for young girls to leave their villages for Saigon. Nguyen Thanh Van's film *Nightmare Woman (2003)* won the Golden Lotus award at the 14th Viet Nam National Film Festival.
- **PESANTREN, Nurman Hakim (Indonesia).** Friendships that test the limits of faith and devotion are depicted in post 9/11 realities of central Java. Hakim's short film *Seribu Kali Dunia (The World A Thousand Times Over, 2003)* won a prize at the Indonesian Short Film Festival 2003.

- **RAMCHAND: THE UNTOUCHABLE PAKISTANI, Mehreen Jabbar (Pakistan).** A Hindu family is held hostage by the political tension between India and Pakistan. Jabbar filmed an earlier short *Beauty Parlor* (1997) and many television pieces, including *Saraab* (2007).

Recent success of previous grant recipients:

- **AGNUS DEI, Lucia Cedron (Argentina).** Winner of 2007 Sundance / NHK International Filmmakers Award. GFI grant awarded Spring 2006.
- **BEFORE WE FALL IN LOVE AGAIN, James Lee (Malaysia).** Official selection at the 11th Pusan International Film Festival and the 31st Hong Kong International Film Festival. GFI grant awarded Spring 2006.
- **YE CHE (NIGHT TRAIN), Diao Yinan (China).** Selected for screening at the 60th Festival de Cannes in the *Un Certain Regard* program. GFI grant awarded 2004.
- **LAS VIDAS POSIBLES (THE POSSIBLE LIVES), Sandra Gugliotta (Argentina).** Selected for screening at the 60th Festival de Cannes in the *Pavillon Les Cinémas du Sud* program. GFI grant awarded Fall 2006.
- **THREE DAYS TO FOREVER, Riri Riza (Indonesia).** Official selection at the 31st Hong Kong International Film Festival. GFI grant awarded Spring 2006.

### The Global Film Initiative

The Global Film Initiative is a U.S.-based, 501(c)3 organization specializing in the acquisition, distribution and support of independent film from the developing world. Founded in 2002 with the mission of promoting cross-cultural understanding through the universal language of cinema, each year the Initiative awards numerous grants to deserving filmmakers from around the world, 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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