

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Global Film Initiative Appoints Six New Members to Board of Directors
New appointments to support Initiative's expanding mission

July 20, 2007, San Francisco, CA. The Global Film Initiative announced today the appointment of six new members to its Board of Directors. The new appointees join the current six-member Board in advising the Initiative and its ongoing expansion of the Global Lens Film series and related programs.

“Our new members come from diverse professional backgrounds and will be invaluable to our new vision for the Initiative,” says Susan Weeks Coulter, Board Chair.

The Global Film Initiative, now in its fifth year, has been actively expanding its various programs, including the Global Lens Film series. Recent innovations include theatrical DVD and digital distribution of the Global Lens series; increased online marketing and public relations; and the creation of institutional partnerships with educational and film organizations, such as World Savvy and The Film Connection.

New Global Film Initiative Board of Directors appointments:

Michael Guillen (San Francisco, CA) is author of the film & arts blog, *The Evening Class* and is also a regular contributing film-writer to *SF360*, *Twitch*, *Entertainment Today* and *Greencine Daily*. He has interviewed over sixty screenwriters, directors and film curators, and written extensively on Asian, Middle Eastern and Latin American film, and his most recent works include an interview with actor-producer Danny Glover and an essay on Spanish director Pedro Almodovar. Prior to his involvement with independent film, he worked as a legal aid for the California State Courts of Appeals.

Fredna Howell (San Francisco, CA) has over thirty years experience as an educator and administrator in the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), most notably as principal of John and Sala Burton Academic High School from 1984-2004. Publicly recognized as one of the Bay Area's most innovative educators, she is creator of the acclaimed touring chorus, *A Touch of Class* and also the *Work/Experience Partnership* between Burton H.S. and San Francisco-based corporations. She currently serves as an advisor to the SFUSD and is working to develop several new charter schools in the Oakland-area.

Miles Ito (Campbell, CA) is a marketing manager at Intel Corporation and co-founder of Milestone Mediaworks, a music production company headquartered in the Bay Area. He is also an accomplished pianist and composer, and has worked on music soundtracks and scores for various independent and major-motion picture film projects. He currently serves as a commissioner for Santa Clara County's Sister City program with Florence, Italy and is an alumnus of the CORO Community Leadership program. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles and a M.B.A. from Arizona State University.

Konrad Ng (Honolulu, HI) teaches film criticism and history at the University of Hawaii's Academy for Creative Media (ACM). Prior to joining the ACM, he was the Curator of Film and Video at the Honolulu Academy of Arts, and also worked as a film programmer for the Louis Vuitton Hawaii International Film Festival and served as juror for a number of other international film festivals.

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He received his Ph.D from University of Hawaii, Manoa, where his dissertation explored diasporic formations of Chinese cultural identity in narrative and experimental film and video, and he received his M.A. in the Cultural, Social and Political Thought Program at the University of Victoria, Canada and his B.A. in Philosophy from McGill University, Canada.

Judy Ovitz (Los Angeles, CA) is a civic philanthropist with a background in public relations, advertising and entertainment. She has been an active supporter of development initiatives for Saint John's Hospital & Health Center, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and UCLA Medical Center, and served as a board member of Humanities Council for the College of Letters and Sciences of UCLA.

She has also appeared in numerous commercials and major motion picture films, and has chaired premiere-committees for films produced by Universal, Warner Bros. and Paramount Pictures. Currently, she is the owner and operator of Aspen Grove Ranch, a horse breeding business in Ojai, California.

Dan Zilberman (New York, NY) is an experienced investor with over 10 years of private equity and investment banking experience. He is currently a Principal at Warburg Pincus LLC, a leading global private equity firm, where he focuses on investments in the financial services sector. Before joining Warburg Pincus, he was a Vice President at Evercore Capital Partners and an Associate at Lehman Brothers Inc. He is currently a board member of Aeolus Re Ltd., a Bermuda based reinsurance company, and also for Reunion Inc., an auto finance company. He received his M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and his B.A. in International Relations at Tufts University.

Current Global Film Initiative Board of Directors are **Susan Weeks Coulter**, Board Chair (New York & San Francisco), **Al Cattabiani**, Treasurer (New York), **David Shevlin**, Secretary (New York), **Shaari Ergas** (Miami & San Francisco), **Jeremy Kay** (Los Angeles), and **Dr. Maryalice Mazzara** (New York).

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 cinema, each year the Initiative awards numerous grants to deserving filmmakers from emerging nations, and supports a touring film series entitled Global Lens.

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