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GFI Announces Global Lens 2008 Film Lineup

New Crowned Hope, FIPRESCI and Un Certain Regard selections lead series in its 5th year

San Francisco, CA - August 7, 2007 - The Global Film Initiative announced today ten award-winning narrative, feature films from Argentina, China, Croatia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lebanon, Philippines and South Africa that will headline the Global Lens 2008 film series.

“The films selected for Global Lens 2008 are beautiful, powerful stories that represent the best of cinema from around the world—they must be seen and experienced,” says Susan Weeks Coulter, Board Chair of The Global Film Initiative.

Leading the list are critical favorites **Opera Jawa** (*New Crowned Hope*), **The Bet Collector** (*FIPRESCI*) and **Luxury Car** (*Un Certain Regard*). Also included is Sundance/NHK award-winner, **The Custodian** (*Golden Berlin Bear nomination*), and South African comedic hit, **Bunny Chow** (*Official Selection, Toronto IFF*).

Global Lens 2008, now in its fifth year, will premiere at the Museum of Modern Art, New York in January, before embarking on a year-long tour of over thirty cities across the United States. For screening-dates and locations, please visit: <http://www.globalfilm.org/calendar.php>

Global Lens 2008 films:

- **ALL FOR FREE (SVE DZABA), dir. Antonio Nuić, Croatia, 2006**
Personal tragedy leads a young man to buy a mobile refreshment truck and embark on a darkly humorous and quixotic journey across post-war Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- **THE BET COLLECTOR (KUBRADOR), dir. Jeffrey Jeturian, Philippines, 2006**
A resilient housewife's job of collecting cash bets on the local numbers-game takes a psychological toll on her in the days before All Saint's Day.
- **BUNNY CHOW, dir. John Barker, South Africa, 2006**
Three up-and-coming comedians head out on a road trip, abandoning rules, reason and girlfriends to find music and the meaning of life in the “new” South Africa.
- **THE CUSTODIAN (EL CUSTODIO), dir. Rodrigo Moreno, Argentina, 2006**
A man's threshold for the mundane is chronicled by the uneventful days of his life as a bodyguard for a high profile politician.
- **THE FISH FALL IN LOVE (MAHIHA ASHEGH MISHAVAND), dir. Ali Raffi, Iran, 2005**
A group of resourceful women use food to convince a stubborn businessman to allow them to continue operating a restaurant in a building he owns.

- **KEPT & DREAMLESS (LAS MANTENIDAS SIN SUEÑOS), dir. Vera Fogwill and Martín Desalvo, Argentina, 2005**
Set during Argentina's economic crisis of the nineties, a drug-addicted mother struggles to keep her life afloat with the aid of her fiercely affectionate nine year-old daughter.
- **THE KITE (LE CERF-VOLANT), dir. Randa Chahal Sabbag, Lebanon, 2003**
On the eve of her marriage, a Lebanese girl realizes she is in love with the Israeli soldier guarding the border checkpoint that separates her from her fiancé.
- **LET THE WIND BLOW (HAVA ANEY DEY) dir. Partho Sen Gupta, India, 2004**
At the height of nuclear-tensions between India and Pakistan, a restless group of friends weigh the bitter reality of their lives against fate and the philosophy of a nation.
- **LUXURY CAR (JIANG CHENG XIA RI), dir. Wang Chao, China, 2006**
A man travels to the city to visit his daughter—a karaoke bar escort—hoping to fulfill his wife's last wish of finding their missing son.
- **OPERA JAWA, dir. Garin Nugroho, Indonesia, 2006**
In the lush interior of Java, a potter's wife is seduced into a tragic love triangle in this stylish adaptation of the Hindu epic, The Ramayana.

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. For more information about the Global Lens film series and Global Film Initiative programs, please visit: <http://www.globalfilm.org>.

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