



## **THE GLOBAL FILM INITIATIVE ANNOUNCES 2005 DISTRIBUTION SLATE**

Global Lens Series to Tour Major U.S. Cities

With Titles from Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia/Herzegovina, China, Mali, Turkey, Uruguay, and Vietnam

(New York; Sept. 7, 2004) — Film festival favorites “Whisky” (from Uruguay; with multiple awards at Cannes, soon to screen at the Toronto Film Festival), “Uniform” (China, award winner at Rotterdam and Vancouver festivals), “Buffalo Boy” (Vietnam, to be screened at Toronto) and “What’s A Human Anyway” (Turkey, award at Istanbul Film Festival) are among the titles to be distributed in the U.S. in 2005 by The Global Film Initiative, it was announced today by Susan Weeks Coulter, Chairperson of the Initiative, and Holly Ornstein Carter, the Initiative’s Executive Director.

All are part of the slate of developing-world films that comprise the Initiative’s 2005 Global Lens touring series, to be seen in major cities across the United States.

Founded to promote cross-cultural understanding through cinema, the non-profit Initiative has partnerships with significant cultural institutions in key U.S. cities that present Global Lens annually, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, Ohio, among others. A total of 14 institutions are currently on board, with another three to four expected to join the series in the coming months. Beyond their local film-going audiences, all of the institutions provide free screenings and study guides for selected films to high school students and teachers, as part of the Initiative’s goal to acquaint U.S. youth with developing-world cultures.

The 2005 Global Lens series kicks off January 6th in Seattle in partnership with Cinema Seattle. The full roster of titles [followed by country of origin, name of director(s), significant awards and description] includes:

- “Buffalo Boy” (Vietnam; Minh Nguyen-Vo) A coming-of-age tale set in 1940 French-occupied Vietnam about 15-year-old Kim, his aged father, and their lives raising water

buffaloes in the country's southernmost landscape. Premiere at 2004 Locarno Film Festival.

- "Daughter of Keltoum" (Algeria; Mehdi Charef) A young woman raised in urban Switzerland, returning to a remote part of Algeria to reunite with her estranged mother, confronts her past and culture.
- "Fuse" (Bosnia/Herzegovina; Pjer Zalica) A comedic look at an opportunistic town in Bosnia preparing for a visit from President Clinton.
- "Hollow City" (Angola; Maria João Ganga) The story of an Angolan orphan and the characters he meets on the run in a country wracked by a 30-year war. Winner of prizes at the Film Festival of African, Asian and Latin American Cinema and at the Paris Film Festival.
- "Kabala" (Mali; Assane Kouyaté) A young African, banished from his village in shame, returns four years later to experience the conflict between local traditions and modern ways.
- "Lili's Apron" (Argentina; Mariano Galperin) A broad comedy about Argentina's economic crisis, involving an out-of-work man who masquerades as a woman to work as a live-in maid.
- "Uniform" (China; Diao Yinan) New guises alter the lives of a man and his girlfriend in an industrial city in a remote part of China. Winner of awards at Vancouver International Film Festival and International Film Festival Rotterdam.
- "What's A Human Anyway" (Turkey, Reha Erdem) The chaos of daily life consumes a large cast of characters in Istanbul, involving the loss of memory and the mystery of a precious ring. Winner of the FIPRESCI (International Critics' Association) Award at the 2004 Istanbul Film Festival.
- "Whisky" (Uruguay; Juan Pablo Rebella and Pablo Stoll) The story of the owner and his employee in a sock factory in Montevideo, who, having barely communicated over the years, are suddenly forced to pose as a long-married couple. Winner, Prize of Regard Original from the Un Certain Regard Jury and the FIPRESCI (International Critics' Association) Award at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival

Five of the films are recipients of the Initiative's completion grants to films from the developing world. The Initiative's previously-announced distribution deal with First Run Features ensures that the films will be considered for extended theatrical runs in cities hosting Global Lens as well as others, and will be released on home video under the combined Global Film Initiative and First Run Features label. First Run's sister company, First Run/Icarus Films, will handle educational film sales to libraries and universities.

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