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**The Global Film Initiative Joins Ninth Street Independent Film Center**  
*Headquarters Relocated to San Francisco Media Hub*

**San Francisco, CA – September 18, 2008** – The Global Film Initiative (GFI) has relocated its Potrero Hill headquarters to the Ninth Street Independent Film Center in SOMA.

In its new location, GFI joins a dynamic media consortium whose members include Frameline, The Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), The San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, The San Francisco Cinematheque, Canyon Cinema, The National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture (NAMAC) and TILT (Teaching Intermedia Literacy Tools).

“It’s an exciting opportunity for us to work side by side with community-focused media organizations with such a long history of success,” said Santhosh Daniel, GFI Director of Programs. “We hope to bolster and enhance the collaborative spirit by which the Ninth Street Independent Film Center was founded.”

The roots of the Ninth Street Independent Film Center date back to 1983, when Film Arts Foundation—the Bay Area’s leading membership organization of independent filmmakers—and CAAM (formerly NAATA) first moved into a small portion of a building at 346 Ninth Street (two blocks from the current location). Frameline and the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival followed in 1991 and 1995, respectively, and in 2001 these organizations formed an innovative partnership to purchase the building that is now the Ninth Street Independent Film Center at 145 Ninth Street.

In sharing space, the organizations at the Ninth Street Independent Film Center create a unique synergy of film production, distribution, education and media development and fundraising. The Global Film Initiative is the latest addition to this collaborative environment, contributing expertise in the areas of international grantmaking, education and film distribution, including the critically-acclaimed Global Lens film series.

Founded in 2002 by Susan Weeks Coulter and Noah Cowan, The Global Film Initiative’s mission is to promote cross-cultural understanding through cinema. Since its founding, GFI has awarded over 60 grants to filmmakers from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, and is sponsor and distributor of the Global Lens film series, now playing in more than 40 cities nationwide.

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