



**THE GLOBAL FILM INITIATIVE
ANNOUNCES 2006 DISTRIBUTION SLATE**

Internationally Acclaimed Features Acquired for Global Lens 2006

8 Films and 5 Shorts from the Developing World to Tour US Cities

New York City, NY – November 14, 2005 – The Global Film Initiative announces its third annual Global Lens touring film series, eight feature films and a collection of five short films from developing-world countries. Global Film Initiative Chair Susan Weeks Coulter noted that the slate of films in Global Lens 2006 “affirms our mission, of introducing American audiences to award-winning films from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.”

The films of Global Lens 2006 will be screened in cities across America beginning in January, through partnerships with major cultural institutions, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the San Francisco Art Institute, and the Oklahoma City Museum of Art.

Among the awards won by the films of Global Lens 2006:

- Cannes International Film Festival: French National Education Prize; Festival do Rio: Special Jury Prize and Best Actor for ***Cinema, Aspirins and Vultures***
- Tribeca Film Festival: Founders Award for Best Narrative Feature for ***Stolen Life***
- Fajr Film Festival: Best Screenplay and Best Actress for ***Border Café***
- Festival do Rio: FIPRESCI Prize for ***Almost Brothers***
- Cannes International Film Festival: FIPRESCI Prize for ***Thirst***
- FESPACO Film Festival: Best First Time Feature for ***Max and Mona***
- Milano Film Festival: Feature Film Jury Award for ***In the Battlefields***
- San Sebastian International Film Festival: Best Screenplay for ***The Night of Truth***

The films acquired for Global Lens 2006 are:

Almost Brothers (Brazil)

Director Lúcia Murat

A white middle-class boy became friends with a poor black boy through their shared passion for their fathers' music in Rio de Janeiro. Their friendship deepened during the years they spent in prison – and years later, when they meet again, one a government official, and the other running his street gang from a prison cell. By coincidence their lives are intertwined once again.

* ***Border Café*** (Iran)

Director Kambozia Partovi

A young Iranian widow re-opens her late husband's restaurant, to support her family, rather than bowing to tradition. Her success angers her brother-in-law, who devises one plan after another to take control of her life.

* ***Cinema, Aspirins and Vultures*** (Brazil)

Director Marcelos Gomes

A young German man fled his country to avoid World War II. Living in his truck in the remote northeastern region of Brazil, he drives from village to village peddling aspirin, which he advertises by showing films of the miracle cure. A young Brazilian hitches a ride and learns the trade. But the war is as close as the radio news reports, with their relentless warning that all lives are changed when the world is at war.

In the Battlefields (Lebanon)

Director Danielle Arbid

A family torn apart mirrors the bitter warfare in the streets of Beirut. The sad witness is a twelve-year-old girl, who is often caught in the middle of domestic violence, just as the family is trapped in their home with bombs exploding in the city. The girl finds an ally in the maid, who offers her a glimpse of freedom and a taste of adult life, but also tests her friendship when she tries to enlist the girl's help in a plan to escape.

Max and Mona (South Africa)

Director Teddy Mattera

A young man with his grandfather's gift for mourning goes to Johannesburg to study to be a doctor. Through a series of mishaps, he lands at the doorstep of his notorious uncle, with a sacred goat and nowhere to sleep. But he has a gift for mourning, and his uncle has a plan that will solve everything.

The Night of Truth (Burkina Faso)

Director Fanta Régina Nacro

After many years of slaughter, both sides want the war between the government and the rebels to end. A feast of reconciliation is arranged in the rebel village, where a peace treaty will be signed and soldiers on both sides will lay down their arms. Will the truths revealed this night bring

understanding – or revenge?

Stolen Life (China)

Director Li Shaohong

Based on a true story of a lonely girl raised by relatives in Beijing. She is unexpectedly accepted for study at the university, but on her way to her new life, she meets her fate – an unscrupulous man whose promise of love comes at a terrible price.

Thirst (Palestine)

Director Tawfik Abu Wael

A Palestinian family scratches out a living far from the town they fled because of a scandal involving the oldest daughter. The father's decision to build a pipeline to bring fresh water down the hillside sets off a chain of events that pushes his family to the breaking point.

** Awarded post-production funding by The Global Film Initiative*

Five short films have been compiled under the title Global Shorts, to be screened in lieu of a full-length feature film. These films are: ***Source of History***, directed by Adama Roamba (Burkina Faso); ***Little Terrorist***, directed by Ashvin Kumar (India); ***Harvest Time***, directed by Zheng Zheng (China); ***Elephants Never Forget***, directed by Lorenzo Vigas Castes (Venezuela); and ***More Than the World***, directed by Lautaro Nuñez de Arco (Argentina).

The Global Film Initiative

The Global Film Initiative is a non-traditional distributor specializing in independent films from the developing world. The Global Film Initiative was created to promote cross-cultural understanding through the universal language of cinema during a time of great change throughout the world. The Global Film Initiative offers grants each year to filmmakers and brings outstanding films to U.S. audiences through a 16-18 city theatrical release entitled *Global Lens*. *Global Lens* is supported by an educational outreach program to high school students. The Global Film Initiative is a 501(c)3 organization based in New York City. See www.globalfilm.org for more information .

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