

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eight Exciting New Projects Added to List of Successful Grantees

Four past recipients selected as their countries' official Oscar entries

San Francisco, CA – November 28, 2006 – The Global Film Initiative announced today that eight filmmakers have been awarded completion funding for their film projects in The Initiative's Fall granting cycle. Since GFI was founded in 2002, nearly 50 grants have been awarded to filmmakers from the developing world.

Film projects are selected based on their artistic excellence, accomplished storytelling, and cultural perspective on daily life around the world. "GFI's granting program is at the core of our mission," said Kristin Wiederholt, Executive Director of The Global Film Initiative. "By supporting filmmakers in the developing world, we help make sure audiences around the world get a glimpse of other realities."

The Global Film Initiative is a not-for-profit film distributor specializing in independent films from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. The Initiative awards grants twice each year, to both emerging and established filmmakers.

The Fall 2006 grant recipients are:

- **ALIVE, Artan Minarolli (Albania).** Koli comes home to his village in the Northern Albanian mountains for his father's funeral. While there, he finds a boy in the village is trying to kill him because of something Koli's grandfather did sixty years ago.
- **THE DAY WHEN THE WINTER BEGAN, Nedžad Begovic (Bosnia & Herzegovina).** In a small town on the Adriatic Sea, the alcoholic Stipe unexpectedly becomes the main caregiver of a baby girl. As he adjusts to the new reality, he quits drinking and reconnects to his own history.
- **JERMAL, Ravi L. Bharwani (Indonesia).** 12-year-old Jaya is sent to live with his father on a *jermal*, or fishing platform, after his mother dies. The film tells the story of how the two, slowly and painfully, develop a father-son relationship.
- **LEO'S ROOM, Enrique Buchichio (Uruguay).** About to turn 29, Leo grapples with a host of issues, from his sexual identity, to finishing his college degree, to wanting to please his widowed mother.
- **THE OLD WOMAN AT THE BACK, Pablo José Meza (Argentina).** The lives of a solitary 81-year-old woman and a penniless medical student intertwine after they get stuck together in the elevator of their building.
- **THE POSSIBLE LIVES, Sandra Gugliotta (Argentina).** When Carla's husband, Luciano, doesn't return from a business trip to the south of Argentina, she goes looking for him. What she finds, leads her to make some difficult decisions.

(more)

- **PURE COOLNESS, Ernest Abdyjaparov (Kyrgyzstan).** In the mountainous villages of Kyrgyzstan the ancient custom of bride stealing is still commonplace. *Pure Coolness* uses this theme to weave a tale of family loyalty, deception, betrayal and love.
- **THE STORM, Kazim Öz (Turkey).** Cemal moves to Istanbul from his small town to attend university. After several months, he joins a revolutionary group and the search for his identity begins.

Some past grant recipient success stories:

BORDER CAFÉ, Kambozia Partovi (Iran). Selected as Iran's official entry for the category of Best Foreign Language Film at the 79th Annual Academy Awards (2007). GFI grant awarded Fall 2004.

CINEMA, ASPIRINS AND VULTURES, Marcelo Gomez (Brazil). Selected as Brazil's official entry for the category of Best Foreign Language Film at the 79th Annual Academy Awards (2007). GFI grant awarded Fall 2003.

BUFFALO BOY, Nguyen-Vo Nghiem-Minh (Vietnam). Selected as Vietnam's official entry for the category of Best Foreign Language Film at the 78th Annual Academy Awards (2006). GFI grant awarded Fall 2003.

WHISKY, Juan Pablo Rebella and Pablo Stoll (Uruguay). Selected as Uruguay's official entry for the category of Best Foreign Language Film at the 77th Annual Academy Awards (2005). GFI grant awarded Fall 2003.

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 tour 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 San Francisco. See www.globalfilm.org for more information.

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