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The Global Film Initiative Announces Global Lens 2010 Film Lineup

FIPRESCI award-winner, Oscar candidate and seven U.S. premieres highlight upcoming series

San Francisco, CA - Dec 8, 2009 - The Global Film Initiative announced today ten award-winning narrative feature films from Algeria, China, India, Iran, Mexico, Peru, Serbia, South Africa, Uruguay and Vietnam that will headline the Global Lens 2010 film series.

"We're very excited about the 2010 series," says Susan Weeks Coulter, Board Chair of the Global Film Initiative. "This year's films are some of our boldest, most visually striking, unique visions to date--each filmmaker is reimagining our world from an entirely fresh viewpoint."

Global Lens 2010 features the U.S. premiere of Bui Thac Chuyen's provocative Vietnamese drama **ADRIFT** (*FIPRESCI, Venice International Film Festival*) and **MASQUERADES** (*Best Feature, Dubai International Film Festival*), Algeria's official submission to the foreign language category of the 2009 Academy Awards. Also featured are critical favorites **ORDINARY PEOPLE** (*Best Film, Sarajevo Film Festival*), **THE SHAFT** (*New Directors/New Films*) and South African tour-de-force **SHIRLEY ADAMS** (*Best Actress, Durban International Film Festival*).

In addition, Global Lens 2010 will present the U.S. premiere of Granaz Moussavi's Iranian independent, **MY TEHRAN FOR SALE** (*Official Selection, Toronto International Film Festival*) and the North American premiere of **OCEAN OF AN OLD MAN** (*New Currents, Pusan International Film Festival*)--the first film ever to be shot on India's Andaman and Nicobar islands.

The upcoming series includes a vibrant showcase of Latin American films from emerging directors, including Josué Méndez's **GODS** (*Best Peruvian Feature, Lima Latin American Film Festival*), Alejandro Gerber Bicecci's **BECLOUD** (*Special Mention, Morelia International Film Festival*) and GFI grant-recipient Enrique Buchichio's **LEO'S ROOM** (*Official Selection, San Sebastian International Film Festival*).

Global Lens, now in its seventh year, will premiere in January 2010 at the Museum of Modern Art and other locations in New York before embarking on a yearlong tour of over thirty-five cities across the United States and Canada. The series will also be released throughout the year on Virgin America airlines as part of an ongoing partnership between the Global Film Initiative and Virgin America, and be presented as a special showcase in San Juan, Puerto Rico in February to inaugurate the launch of the newly established Puerto Rico Film Society.

Global Lens 2010 films:

ADRIFT (CHOI VOI), dir. Bui Thac Chuyen, Vietnam, 2009

A young wife, ignored by her immature spouse, is caught in a love triangle between her best friend and a handsome stranger during a languorous summer in Hanoi.

BECLOUD (VAHO), dir. Alejandro Gerber Bicecci, Mexico, 2009

After years of separation, three boyhood friends reunite in Mexico City to overcome a tragedy that scarred their neighborhood, and childhood, years before.

GODS (DIOSES), dir. Josué Méndez, Peru, 2008

A wealthy industrialist's working-class fiancée plunges into the extravagance of her lavish new life as her future stepchildren self-destruct in a series of desperate attempts to escape their privileged upbringing.

LEO'S ROOM (EL CUARTO DE LEO), dir. Enrique Buchichio, Uruguay, 2009

Shaken by a recent breakup, a troubled but handsome young man dreams of the future and cautiously explores his sexuality with the encouragement of an old friend and a sympathetic therapist.

MASQUERADES (MASCARADES), dir. Lyes Salem, Algeria, 2008

In a dusty Algerian village, a well-intentioned fib suddenly turns a gardener into a mogul, forcing him to choose between the happiness of his narcoleptic sister and his newfound celebrity.

MY TEHRAN FOR SALE, dir. Granaz Moussavi, Iran, 2009

An ailing actress fighting for political asylum, and waiting to clear Australian immigration, recounts her attempts to live, work and love in Tehran's thriving yet turbulent arts subculture.

OCEAN OF AN OLD MAN, dir. Rajesh Shera, India, 2008

In the devastating aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, an elderly British schoolteacher comes to grips with his own loss as he searches for missing students on the remote Indian islands of Andaman and Nicobar.

ORDINARY PEOPLE, dir. Vladimir Perisic, Serbia, 2009

One quiet afternoon, a busload of young soldiers is unexpectedly forced to question the morality of their profession after being enlisted to execute civilian prisoners at a remote facility in the Serbian countryside.

THE SHAFT (DIXIA DE TIANKONG), dir. Zhang Chi, China, 2008

In three intertwined stories, a father, son and daughter fight to hold onto hope and family as they face the harsh realities of life in a poor western Chinese mining town.

SHIRLEY ADAMS, dir. Oliver Hermanus, South Africa, 2009

In the depressed Cape Town neighborhood of Cape Flats, a single mother contemplates her fate and cautiously accepts the help of an overeager social worker as she struggles to care for her paraplegic and suicidal son.

Global Lens 2010 will also present the award-winning film **THE NIGHT OF TRUTH** (dir. Fanta Regina Nacro, Burkina Faso) as part of the Initiative's retrospective program, *Chairman's Choice*, which was established in 2009 to re-introduce exceptional films from the Global Lens Collection for theatrical exhibition. **THE NIGHT OF TRUTH** originally appeared in Global Lens 2006.

About the Global Film Initiative

The Global Film Initiative is a U.S.-based, 501(c)3 organization specializing in the acquisition, distribution and support of independent film from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Founded in 2002 with the mission of promoting cross-cultural understanding through the universal language of cinema, each year the Initiative awards numerous grants to deserving filmmakers from around the world, 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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