

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Seven Projects Awarded Funds by The Global Film Initiative
Previous Grantees Premiere Films at Pusan, San Sebastian and Toronto

San Francisco, CA – December 11, 2007 – The Global Film Initiative announced today that seven filmmakers have been awarded completion funding for their film projects during the Initiative's Fall granting-cycle.

"This Fall's grant-recipients represent a diverse spectrum of global filmmaking," says Santhosh Daniel, Director of Programs. "We're very impressed by the high quality of projects, and the cultural breadth they represent."

The seven projects were selected from a group of forty-four applications, from twenty-six different countries, for their artistic excellence, accomplished storytelling, and cultural perspective on daily life around the world. Funds received from grants are used to subsidize post-production costs, such as laboratory and sound mixing fees, and access to advanced editing systems.

Since its founding in 2002, the Initiative has awarded more than fifty grants to emerging and established filmmakers from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

The Fall 2007 grant recipients are:

- **100% ALIVE, Ahmed Rashwan (Egypt)**
Just before the start of the Second Gulf War, a recently divorced photographer meets a seductive young woman and contemplates a second chance at love.
- **BIBI, Hassan Yektapanah (Iran)**
An elderly Iraqi refugee living in Iran desperately seeks an ID card that neither country will issue, to avoid being buried in an unmarked grave when she dies.
- **CRAB TRAP, Oscar Ruiz Navia (Colombia)**
A man arrives at an isolated, coastal village and is caught in a struggle between a local Afro-Colombian community and a white landowner's vision for modernization.
- **EUROPE BY ROAD, Ubaka Joseph Ugochukwu (Nigeria/Senegal)**
On his way to Europe, a young Nigerian becomes stranded in Senegal, surrounded by temptation and illegal activity that threaten both his ambitions and livelihood.
- **GOODBYE KATHMANDU, Nabin Subba (Nepal)**
The parallel lives of three young individuals of different ethnic backgrounds are profiled amidst the tumultuous political and social atmosphere of contemporary Kathmandu.

- **VERONICA'S PASSION, Cristian Pellegrini (Argentina)**
A transsexual with aspirations of studying at the local university faces prejudice against her nonconforming identity, and her goal to become a psychologist.
- **VIRGIN GOAT, Murali Nair (India)**
In this intelligent satire, a farmer's simple desire to have his goat mated is thwarted by family trauma, local bureaucracy and a marauding mob.

Recent success of previous grantees:

- **ACNE, Federico Veiroj (Uruguay).** Selected for competition in the San Sebastian Film Festival's (Spain) *Films In Progress (Cine en Construcción)* program, where it shared a TVE Prize. GFI grant awarded 2006.
- **BEFORE WE FALL IN LOVE AGAIN, James Lee (Malaysia).** Selected for *Asian Cinevisions 2007* series at Museum of Modern Art, New York. GFI grant awarded 2006.
- **UPSIDE DOWN, Igor Ivanov (Macedonia).** World premiere at the 42nd Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (Czech Republic). Selected for the 28th International Cinematographers' Film Festival "Manaki Brothers" (Macedonia) as the opening film. GFI grant awarded 2006.
- **I AM FROM TITOV VELES, Teona Mitevaska (Macedonia).** World premiere at the 14th Sarajevo Film Festival (Bosnia), where it won a Special Jury Prize. Official selection at the Toronto International Film Festival 2007 (Canada) and the 12th Pusan International Film Festival (South Korea). GFI grant awarded 2005.
- **KILL THEM ALL, Esteban Schroeder (Chile/Uruguay).** World premiere at Ibermedia's *Iberoamérica: That's the Way We Are* series at the Museum of Modern Art, New York. GFI grant awarded 2005.
- **MURDERER AMONG US, Daniel Benavides (Chile).** World premiere at the 2007 Valdivia International Film Festival (Chile). GFI grant awarded 2005.

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>.



Contact:

Santhosh Daniel
The Global Film Initiative
415-934-9500
pr@globalfilm.org

###