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The Global Film Initiative Announces Global Lens 2013 Lineup

Four first-time directors and Un Certain Regard, FIPRESCI and NETPAC films lead tenth anniversary of series

San Francisco, CA - November 14, 2012 - The Global Film Initiative announced today the selection of ten award-winning narrative feature films from Brazil, Chile, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Mexico and Serbia to headline Global Lens 2013—the tenth edition of the Initiative’s critically acclaimed film series.

“This year, our tenth year, we went back to our roots,” says Susan Weeks Coulter, Board Chair of the Global Film Initiative. “Bold and unique storytelling by filmmakers unafraid to take risks with their culture and creativity—it’s a beautiful lineup.”

Global Lens 2013 includes Zhang Yuan’s vibrant ode to disaffected Chinese youth, BEIJING FICKERS (2012 Toronto IFF; 2012 Busan IFF), Brazilian director Eduardo Nunes’s lush, chimerical portrait of a life lived in one day, SOUTHWEST (Special Jury Prize and FIPRESCI Prize, 2011 Rio IFF) and Mani Haghighi’s wonderfully fresh Iranian Robin Hood-with-a-twist, MODEST RECEPTION (NETPAC Prize, 2012 Berlin IFF).

The series also features Sebastián del Amo’s eclectic tribute to vintage Mexican cinema, THE FANTASTIC WORLD OF JUAN OROL (Best First Feature, 2012 Guadalajara IFF), Suman Ghosh’s sensitive, cinema-verité Kolkata-chronicle, SHYAMAL UNCLE turnoFF THE LIGHTS (2012 Busan IFF) and STUDENT (Un Certain Regard, 2012 Cannes FF), Darezhan Omirbayev’s atmospheric riff on the Dostoevsky classic Crime and Punishment.

The lineup is rounded out by four films that pay homage to the Initiative’s long-enduring mission of bringing to light the best undistributed and overlooked films of the world: Chilean auteur Sebastián Silva’s darkly comic LIFE KILLS ME, the Bahman Ghobadi-produced ABOUT 111 GIRLS (2012 Busan IFF), Srdjan Dragojević’s LGBT boundary-bender, THE PARADE (Panorama Audience Award, 2012 Berlin IFF), and CAIRO 678 (2011 New Directors/New Films), Mohamed Diab’s stunning revelation on gender and oppression in contemporary Cairo.

Global Lens 2013 films:

ABOUT 111 GIRLS (DARBARE 111 DOKHTAR), dir. Nahid Ghobadi & Bijan Zamanpira, Iraq, 2012

U.S. premiere and debut feature. An Iranian state official, his driver and a young guide race across a troubled but magnificent landscape to stop 111 young Kurdish women from committing suicide in protest against conditions that have left them spinsters. 2012 Busan IFF.

BEIJING FICKERS (YOU-ZHONG), dir. Zhang Yuan, China, 2012

A young man left behind by Beijing’s fabulous new wealth experiences moments of euphoria amid despair as he roams the city with other misfit dreamers in this darkly funny, gorgeously gritty portrait of disaffected youth. 2012 Toronto IFF; 2012 Busan IFF.

CAIRO 678, dir. Mohamed Diab, Egypt, 2010

Debut feature. Three Cairene women from different backgrounds warily unite to combat the sexual harassment that has impacted each of their lives—and become a citywide plague—but their unconventional response provokes a dogged police hunt. 2011 New Directors/New Films; 2011 Seattle IFF; Muhr Arab Feature Best Actress and Best Actor, 2010 Dubai IFF.
THE FANTASTIC WORLD OF JUAN OROL (EL FANTÁSTICO MUNDO DE JUAN OROL), dir. Sebastián del Amo, Mexico, 2012
*Debut feature.* Move over Ed Wood! The story of Mexico’s half-forgotten B-movie master, “involuntary surrealist” Juan Orol, receives a pitch-perfect tribute in this deft, irresistible love letter to life, the movies and a self-mad man of showbiz. *Best First Feature, 2012 Guadalajara IFF.*

LIFE KILLS ME (LA VIDA ME MATA), dir. Sebastián Silva, Chile, 2007
Life and death come wrapped in a mutual embrace, absurd and poignant at once, in celebrated director Sebastián Silva’s debut film about the unlikely friendship between a grieving, young cinematographer and a morbidly obsessed drifter. *Best First Feature, 2008 International Latino FF, Best Chilean Film of 2007, Chilean Art Critics Circle.*

MODEST RECEPTION (PAZIRAIE SADEH), dir. Mani Haghighi, Iran, 2012
Two sibling-sophisticates from Tehran travel the mountainous northern countryside, maniacally pushing bags of money on locals—a hilarious and alarming exercise that unfurls with unexpected force amid subtle themes of power and corruption. *NETPAC Prize, 2012 Berlin IFF; 2012 Chicago IFF.*

THE PARADE (PARADA), dir. Srdjan Dragojević, Serbia, 2011
In exchange for some wedding-planning expertise, a macho Serbian crime boss recruits a ragtag group of Balkan war-buddies to provide protection for a Pride march in this rollicking yet poignant comedy inspired by real events. *Panorama Audience Award, 2012 Berlin IFF; FIPRESCI Serbia Award for Best Serbian Film 2011.*

SHYAMAL UNCLE TURNS OFF THE LIGHTS, dir. Suman Ghosh, India, 2012
*U.S. premiere.* An 80-year-old Kolkata retiree is determined to get the streetlights turned off after sunrise, but finding someone to take him seriously proves a battle against an indifferent bureaucracy and a complacent status quo. *2012 Busan IFF.*

SOUTHWEST (SUDOESTE), dir. Eduardo Nunes, Brazil, 2011
*Debut feature.* A young woman gives birth on her deathbed to a child who, spirited away to a remote lakeside village, lives her lifetime in a single day, in this hauntingly dreamlike tale of incomensurable life. *Special Jury Prize, FIPRESCI Best Latin American Film and Best Photography, 2011 Rio IFF; 2012 IFF Rotterdam.*

STUDENT, dir. Darezhan Omirbayev, Kazakhstan, 2012
A solitary philosophy student commits a calculated violent crime against the backdrop of Kazakhstan’s growing inequality, institutional corruption and a ruthless ethic of eat-or-be-eaten in this broodingly contemporary adaptation of Dostoevsky’s *Crime and Punishment.* *Un Certain Regard, 2012 Cannes FF; 2012 Toronto IFF; 2012 Venice IFF.*

Global Lens 2013 will also present the award-winning coming-of-age narrative MAX AND MONA (dir. Teddy Mattera, South Africa) as part of the Initiative’s retrospective program, *Chairman’s Choice,* established in 2009 to reintroduce exceptional films from the Global Lens Collection for theatrical exhibition. MAX AND MONA originally appeared in Global Lens 2006.

The tenth anniversary of Global Lens will premiere January 10-24, 2013 at the Museum of Modern Art in New York before embarking on a yearlong tour of more than fifty cities throughout the United States and Canada. The series will be simultaneously released on Virgin America airlines, and will also release on television, home video and Internet (Hulu and Fandor) in late-2013.

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*The Global Film Initiative* was founded in 2002 to create global understanding, empathy and connectivity through film. Since its establishment, the initiative has supported hundreds of filmmakers with grants and networking opportunities, and has presented its signature film series, Global Lens, in the U.S. and select international locations via a diverse network of artistic, educational, cultural and diplomatic partners. For more information about the Global Lens film series and Global Film Initiative programs, please visit: [http://www.globalfilm.org](http://www.globalfilm.org)

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