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The Global Film Initiative Awards Grants at CineMart

Filmmakers from India, Turkey and the Philippines receive cash awards

San Francisco, CA – January 29, 2014 – The Global Film Initiative is pleased to announce three grants awarded to filmmakers at CineMart in Rotterdam. For more than a decade, the Initiative has supported developing world cinema through grants and distribution of feature film. Until recently, grants were awarded solely through a semi-annual call for entries. This year, in support of the Initiative’s long relationship with the Hubert Bals Fund and the Rotterdam International Film Festival, three grants are awarded directly to participants in CineMart.

Cash grants of $10,000 US will be released to each of the three filmmakers when rushes are submitted. “We felt that perhaps filmmakers would appreciate knowing they had an immediate decision about some financing,” says Board Chair Susan Weeks Coulter. “We decided to make that a reality for three fine film projects today.”

The three Global Film Initiative Grant recipients for 2014 CineMart are:

Chingari (The Spark). Rajesh Jaia, filmmaker, India

Nervous Translation. Shireen Seno, filmmaker, Philippines

Mustang. Deniz Erguven, filmmaker, Turkey

Since the Initiative's founding in 2002, the Granting Program has awarded 143 grants to deserving film projects from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central & Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and Oceania. These grants have supported the works of both new and established directors, and have made a significant impact on the growth of emerging film industries.

Films by two 2012 GFI Grant award winners are included in this year’s program at the International Film Festival in Rotterdam. Pelo Malo (Bad Hair), by Mariana Rondón (Venezuela) is screened in the Spectrum section for global cinema at IFFR. Pelo Malo tells the story of a nine-year-old boy whose obsession with straightening his curly hair threatens his relationship with his mother, a young widow struggling to find work. The film won the FIPRESCI prize at Thessaloniki and the Golden Shell for Best Film at San Sebastian. The Liar's Dice, by Indian filmmaker Geetu Mohan Das, is included in the Bright Future section at IFFR. The Liar's Dice follows a young woman on a hazardous journey from the Indian-Tibetan border to find her husband in Delhi.

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The Global Film Initiative was founded in 2002 as a U.S.-based 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to promote cultural literacy, diplomacy and education 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

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