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Eleven New Films Awarded Funds by the Global Film Initiative
Grant recipients include projects from Mauritius and Tibet
and films by seven first-time feature-length narrative filmmakers

San Francisco, CA – April 10, 2013 – The Global Film Initiative announced today that eleven film projects have been selected to receive production funding as part of the Initiative's Winter 2013 granting cycle.

“Filmmaking artistry continues to develop in and appear from all corners of the world, with storytelling that is original and heart-felt,” says Susan Weeks Coulter, Board Chair of the Global Film Initiative. “We are pleased to identify and support these eleven unique and powerful narratives.”

Winter 2013 grant recipients were selected from a diverse group of applicants representing thirty-nine nations, and include Mohamed Amin Benamraoui’s sensitive portrait of a Moroccan boy coping with ethnic conflict and the loss of his mother, ADIOS CARMEN; HISTORY OF FEAR by Argentine filmmaker Benjamin Naishtat (Ibermedia, World Cinema Fund, INCAA); and Sonthar Gyal’s sweeping narrative of a Tibetan family struggling with a dark secret, THE STONE WITH NINE EYES (Asia Pacific Screen Awards Children’s Film Fund 2011)

The Winter 2013 production grant recipients are:

• *3000 NIGHTS (3000 YAOM), dir. Mai Masri, Jordan/Palestine
  A falsely imprisoned Palestinian schoolteacher gives birth to her son behind bars while battling for justice amid a deeply divided prison population and deteriorating conditions.

• ADIOS CARMEN, dir. Mohamed Amin Benamraoui, Morocco
  In a gossip-prone Moroccan village in the summer of 1975, an abandoned boy develops a life-changing bond with Carmen, the Spanish woman working at the local cinema.

• BETWEEN YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW (THANHA RATHI RANGA), dir. Nilendra Deshapriya, Sri Lanka
  In the aftermath of Sri Lanka’s long civil war, three friends—a motor tricycle driver, university student and young father—embark on a fateful adventure through the nation’s once-forbidden regions in search of independence in a troubled world.

• *DREAMS OF DEER (LU MENG), dir. Edmund Yeo, Malaysia
  A century of Malaysian history unfolds in a detective’s search for the deer believed to be the reincarnation of a man who died 50 years earlier.

• *HISTORY OF FEAR (HISTORIA DEL MIEDO), dir. Benjamin Naishtat, Argentina
  The gardener of a gated suburban community resents a makeshift camp growing beyond the fence, as a summer blackout gives way to an atmosphere of apprehension.
**MARÍA**, dir. José Luis Rugeles, Colombia
A 13-year-old guerilla fighter in Colombia’s decades-long armed conflict must choose a new path for herself—and her unborn child—while on a mission to hide her commander’s infant baby.

**LOS HONGOS**, dir. Oscar Ruiz Navia, Colombia
Two disaffected graffiti artists wander the city of Cali together, rendering their hopes and desires on the walls they pass and in the people they meet.

**SAUDADE**, dir. Juan Carlos Donoso Gómez, Ecuador
As Miguel and his friends prepare to graduate high school during Ecuador’s 1999 banking crisis, the country and his family come to respective crossroads, throwing his own future into turmoil.

**SUGARCANE SHADOWS (LONBRAZ KANN)**, dir. David Constantin, Mauritius
Marco and his fellow workers must variously cope with dramatically new living conditions as the last of Mauritius’s sugarcane fields make way for new elite development.

**THE STONE WITH NINE EYES (TIANZHU)**, dir. Sonthar Gyal, China (Tibet)
A legacy of betrayal and political upheaval slowly reveal themselves across three generations of fathers and sons in the family of a young Tibetan girl.

**THE VALLEY (AL WADI)**, dir. Ghassan Salhab, Lebanon
A middle-aged man, escaping a car accident with a temporary case of amnesia, finds himself prisoner on a large and mysterious private estate in Lebanon’s fraught Bekaa Valley.

*Denotes honorable mention*

The Granting Program awards fifteen to twenty grants per year, of up to $10,000 each, to filmmakers whose work exhibits artistic excellence, accomplished storytelling and cultural perspective on daily life. 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 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.

Recent news about previous grantees:

**DON'T EXPECT PRAISES (ZHAN MEI CONG MING)**, dir. Yang Jin, China
Official Selection of the 2013 Hong Kong International Film Festival, 2013 Berlin International Film Festival, 2012 Tokyo International Film Festival. GFI grant awarded in 2011.
• **A FOLD IN MY BLANKET** (CHEMI SABNIS NAKETSI), dir. Zaza Rusadze, Georgia Official Selection of the 2013 Hong Kong International Film Festival, 2013 Berlin International Film Festival. GFI grant awarded in 2012.

• **NINAH’S DOWRY**, dir. Victor Viyuoh, Cameroon Nominee for Best Film, Achievement in Screenplay, Best Actress in a Leading Role at the 2013 African Movie Academy Awards; Official Selection of the 2013 Panafrican Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO), 2013 International Film Festival Rotterdam. GFI grant awarded in 2010.

• **SO MUCH WATER (TANTA AGUA)**, dir. Ana Guevara and Leticia Jorge, Uruguay Knight Grand Jury Prize at the 2013 Miami International Film Festival; Best First Feature at the 2013 Guadalajara International Film Festival; FIPRESCI at the 2013 Cartagena International Film Festival; Official Selection of the 2013 Berlin International Film Festival (world premiere). GFI honorable mention awarded in 2012.

• **WHEN I SAW YOU**, dir. Annemarie Jacir, Palestine/Jordan NETPAC Award at the 2013 Berlin International Film Festival; Official Selection of the 2013 Cinema Days of Beirut Arab Film Festival, 2013 Birds Eye View Film Festival, 2012 Toronto International Film Festival; Palestine’s official submission to the Best Foreign Language Film category of the 85th Academy Awards (Oscars). GFI honorable mention awarded in 2011.

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**About the Global Film Initiative**

*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://globalfilm.org/programs.htm](http://globalfilm.org/programs.htm).

**Change the Way You See the World.**

*The Global Film Initiative is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. All proceeds from the Global Lens film series support international filmmaker grants, educational programming and resources, touring film exhibitions and other philanthropic initiatives and programs sponsored by the Global Film Initiative.*

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