



GLOBAL FILM INITIATIVE ANNOUNCES AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR INAUGURAL GRANTING PROGRAM

CANNES, FRANCE - May 16, 2003 – The Global Film Initiative, a U.S.-based charitable foundation dedicated to the promotion of cross-cultural understanding through cinema, has announced the line-up of award recipients for its inaugural granting program. The announcement was made by Initiative Chairperson Susan Coulter at the 2003 Cannes Film Festival.

Four grant recipients were selected from among 37 submissions representing 12 countries and will receive completion funds for their feature films from the Initiative, which will also ensure that the granted films receive U.S. distribution. The Initiative has selected the films based on its mandate to support original filmmaking in the developing world that makes use of the power of local storytelling traditions - films that are currently underrepresented in the U.S. market – as well as filmmaking that displays innovative use of the cinematic medium.

Inspired by the Hubert Bals Fund, the enormously successful funding body created by the Rotterdam Film Festival, the Granting Program has offered between \$20,000 to \$40,000 to each of the six selected films as part of its Winter granting cycle. The Initiative's selection committee evaluated the applicants' scripts and reviewed early footage of their films. These filmmakers are then able to use grant monies received from the Initiative to assist with finishing production and/or post-production costs (edit systems, lab fees, sound mixes, blow-ups, etc.)

Created to counteract the uncertain economic conditions that have adversely affected film financing in the developing world and the distribution of those films in the United States, the Initiative's programs support films that promise artistic excellence, display accomplished storytelling and offer U. S. audiences a more varied range of cultural perspectives on daily life around the world.

"We are delighted at the tremendous response we received from filmmakers all over the globe, especially for this first granting cycle. We are honored to be associated with the films selected; they are all first-rate films, and with representation from several continents, constitute a truly international cross-section of works," noted Coulter.

The Global Film Initiative supports a traveling series that premieres beginning in New York City in Nov. 2003. The traveling series continues throughout the U.S. until Oct. 2004.

The Initiative will be accepting applications for its next granting round in August. Based on feedback from the first round of entries, rules have been altered for the Initiative's second round, thus filmmakers applying are advised to consult www.globalfilm.org for further information.

Granted Films:

THE BUFFALO BOY (MUA LEN TRAU) - Minh Nguyen-Vo, Vietnam

The epic herding of endangered buffalos during Vietnam's massive flooding season sets the stage for a young man's passage into adulthood.

IN THE EMPTY CITY (NA CIDADE VAZIA) - Maria Joao G., Angola

A young refugee from the war-torn countryside of contemporary Angola finds life on the capital city's streets tougher still.

ON EACH SIDE - Hugo Daniel Grosso, Argentina

A bittersweet comedy about an isolated town in northern Argentina and its inhabitants as a new massive bridge opens that will connect them to the rest of the country for the first time.

ANOTHER MAN'S GARDEN - Joao Luis Sol Carvalho, Mozambique

This is the powerful and uplifting story of a young woman struggling to become a doctor in contemporary Mozambique.

The Global Film Initiative is a 501c3 charitable organization located in New York City.

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