

Palm Springs Art Museum Announces Free Summer Foreign Film Series

Films to be Shown on Thursday Nights for Ten Weeks

June 17, 2008 (Palm Springs, CA) – The Palm Springs Art Museum announced that it will offer a free series of foreign films this summer from the Global Film Initiative (GFI). Called “Global Lens 2008,” the series will be shown in the museum’s Annenberg Theater every Thursday night at 6 p.m. starting June 26, 2008 and ending on August 28, 2008. The films presented in this series are part of a touring film exhibition conceived by GFI to encourage filmmaking in countries with developing film communities.

The film series will be additionally promoted by the Desert Film Society, a local organization that promotes the appreciation of film in the Coachella Valley. The Desert Film Society will promote the Global Lens 2008 series to its members and plans to do a joint venture with the Palm Springs Art Museum in the fall.

Schedule and summary of the series:

(High resolution stills from each movie are available for publication – please call to request them)

June 26: ALL FOR FREE

Antonio Nuic, Croatia, 2006

After his friends are killed in a bizarre, bar room argument, Goran devises an unusual plan to deal with the loss: he will sell his house, buy a mobile tavern and travel from town to town, giving away free drinks to everyone he meets.

July 3: THE BET COLLECTOR

Jeffrey Jeturian, Philippines, 2006

Amy, the family matriarch, makes ends meet by running a small convenience store out of her home. But in a struggling economy customers are scarce, and without the help of her husband or pregnant daughter, she is forced to supplement the family income by collecting bets for an illegal numbers game.

July 10: BUNNY CHOW

John Barker, South Africa, 2006

Up-and-coming comedians Kags, Joey and Dave make clear that life in the ‘new’ Johannesburg is not just about hardship and townships. It's also about finding humor in relationships, hanging out with friends and celebrating life on a raucous roadtrip to Oppi Koppi—South Africa's largest music festival.

July 17: THE CUSTODIAN

Rodrigo Moreno, Argentina, 2006

As a bodyguard for a high profile politician, Ruben is reduced to a mere shadow of a man: every action in his life is regulated by a series of mundane routines, and everywhere his boss goes he must follow, watching but never speaking. Resigned to his invisibility, his life is a series of days without meaning.

July 24: THE FISH FALL IN LOVE

Ali Raffi, Iran, 2006

Atieh's singular passion is food, and her small but popular restaurant on the sleepy Caspian coast is her pride and joy. But when Aziz, her former fiancé, appears after a twenty-year absence, the women believe he has intentions of closing the restaurant, so Atieh prepares his favorite dishes, one after the other, in a desperate effort to convince him otherwise.

July 31: KEPT & DREAMLESS

Vera Fogwill and Martín Desalvo, Argentina, 2005

During Argentina's economic crisis of the '90s, nine year-old Eugenia and her mother, Florencia, live a seemingly colorful life surrounded by eclectic neighbors and an offbeat collection of family. But for Eugenia, who must deal with her mother's dysfunctional and drug-addled lifestyle, life is anything but pleasant in this darkly inspiring story of expectation, acceptance and nontraditional family.

August 7: THE KITE

Randa Chahal Sabbag, Lebanon, 2004

Sixteen-year old Lamia must cross a border checkpoint between Lebanon and Israel to marry a man she has never met. But on her wedding day, neither she nor her betrothed are eager to consummate a marriage to a stranger—a matter further complicated by Lamia's surprising admission that she is in love with the Israeli soldier guarding the checkpoint.

August 14: LET THE WIND BLOW

Partho Sen-Gupta, India, 2004

At the height of nuclear tensions between India and Pakistan, Arjun and his best friend, Chabia, weigh their options for the future against the reality of life on the streets of Mumbai.

August 21: LUXURY CAR

Wang Chao, China, 2006

In this emotionally taut narrative, Li Qi Ming travels from his small village to the city of Wuhan, determined to fulfill his wife's last wish of seeing her son. But instead of finding his son, he discovers his daughter working as a karaoke bar escort, forcing him to come to terms with their long-estranged relationship and the tenuous future of his family.

August 28: OPERA JAWA (STARTS 5:30pm)

Garin Nugroho, Indonesia, 2006

Setyo and Siti live a peaceful life as husband and wife, selling earthenware in their village. But when Setyo is called away on business, a flirtatious butcher, Ludiro, takes advantage of Siti's loneliness to seduce her.

Located downtown in an architecturally-significant E. Stewart Williams-designed building, the Palm Springs Art Museum features exciting exhibitions of contemporary, Native American, Western and Pre-Columbian art in spacious galleries. It features two sculpture gardens, stimulating lectures and educational programs for all ages, and offers diverse performances at its Annenberg Theater. The Art Museum is open six days a week; Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission in July and August of 2008 will be free. For more information, call 760.322.4800 or visit www.psmuseum.org.

#

The City of Palm Springs is presenting sponsor for this film series. Additional funding was provided by the James Irvine Foundation.