

Free Foreign Film Series to be Screened at the Palm Springs Art Museum

Global Lens 2011 Films Start Thursdays at 6 p.m. in June



May 17, 2011 (Palm Springs, CA) - The Palm Springs Art Museum will screen the *Global Lens 2011* film series for free on Thursdays in June and July in its Annenberg Theater. Starting June 2, the *Global Lens* series consists of nine award-winning feature films from countries not typically associated with film making, including Argentina, Bosnia, Brazil, China, Georgia, India, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, and Uruguay. Now in its eighth

year, the series premiered in New York in January, 2011 and is now on a yearlong tour of more than twenty-five cities across the United States.

"We continue to be impressed by the excellent films chosen to be in this series," said Robert Brasier, Deputy Director of Education at the museum. "We have screened the series since 2008 and each year it meets with such a positive response from our members and visitors. Featuring films from Central Asia to Latin America, the series is artistically strong and well balanced and is sure to be very popular this summer."

The *Global Lens* film series was launched in 2003 to support the distribution of unique and critically acclaimed cinematic works from around the world. Since its founding, the series has provided a platform for exceptional storytelling and opened a window in the diverse world in which we live. Now in its eighth year, *Global Lens* continues to attract dynamic audiences and discover extraordinary new films, building upon the unique perspectives that have come to define the *Global Film Initiative's* library of films.



Global Lens 2011 films:

June 2, 2011

Belvedere, Director: Ahmed Imamović, Bosnia & Herzegovina, 2010, 90 minutes, Bosnian, with subtitles in English

A widow yearning to forget the tragedy of war spends her days caring for her family and searching for the remains of her husband and son, but her precarious hope is tested when her nephew is selected to participate in a reality show in a former enemy enclave.

June 9, 2011

Dooman River, Director: Zhang Lu, China, 2009, 89 minutes, Korean and Mandarin, with subtitles in English

This compelling story of compassion and strife in an uneasy geopolitical border portrays a Chinese boy in a rural area that befriends a Korean illegal immigrant but must turn on his new friend after his sister is unexpectedly attacked.

June 16, 2011

The Invisible Eye, Director: Diego Lerman, Argentina, 2010, 95 minutes, Spanish, with subtitles in English

A lonely and deeply repressed assistant teacher at an elite Buenos Aires private school accepts unquestioningly the school's rigid code of conduct and proud identification with the nation state. But her head professor's words about the "cancer of subversion" and need for total surveillance soon feed an unhealthy obsession with one of her students, leading to an ensuing spiral of degradation and breakdown in discipline that parallels a popular rebellion beyond the school's ivy-covered walls in Argentina's 1980's uprising.

June 23, 2011

The Light Thief, Aktan Arym Kubat, Kyrgyzstan, 2010, 80 minutes, Kyrgyz, with subtitles in English

In this modern-day parable of good and evil, a humble village electrician devotes his compassion and ingenuity to destitute neighbors in a wind-swept valley of Kyrgyzstan. After striking a bargain with a rich developer running for local office, he encounters a dark cloud of corruption while working for his dream to supply wind-generated electricity to his community.

June 30, 2011

Soul of Sand, Director: Sidharth Srinivasan, India, 2010, 98 minutes, Hindi, with subtitles in English

This eccentric thriller portrays a watchman and his wife living at an abandoned mine who help a pair of lovers fleeing a sinister masked killer dispatched to hunt them down for fleeing from an arranged marriage. A searing take on the politics of caste and money in a rapidly developing economy, the film explores the dark gap between Indian modernity and tradition.

July 7, 2011

Street Days, Director: Levan Koguashvili, Georgia, 2010, 86 minutes, Georgian, with subtitles in English

This humorous yet realistic drama depicts a middle-aged, unemployed heroin-addict who is blackmailed by police into entrapping the son of his wealthy friend. A series of increasing foul-ups unifies the addict and his wife in their deepening moral dilemma and eloquently captures the fate of a generation left behind in Georgia's post-Soviet era.

July 14, 2011

The Tenants, Sérgio Bianchi, Brazil, 2009, 103 minutes, Portuguese, with subtitles in English

In this gripping thriller, a manual laborer and his family in working-class São Paulo must contend with the addition of three young criminals who move in next door. The family discovers they are not the only ones perversely affected by the mounting chaos of a city under siege in a series of stylish sequences that blend reality and fevered imagination

that offer a shrewd portrait of the social and psychological impact of urban violence in a community beset (yet also aroused by) a permeating atmosphere of destruction.

July 21, 2011

A Useful Life, Director: Federico Veiroj, Uruguay, 2010, 63 minutes, Spanish, with subtitles in English

When dwindling attendance and diminishing support force an arthouse cinema to close its doors, its most devoted employee is sent into a world he knows only through the lens of art—and suddenly is forced to discover a new passion that transcends his once-celluloid reality. Stylishly framed in black-and-white with brilliantly understated performances, this sly and loving homage to the soul of cinema is a universally appealing gem and knowing charmer about life after the movies.

July 28, 2011

The White Meadows, Director: Mohammad Rasoulof, Iran, 2009, 93 minutes, Farsi, with subtitles in English



A boatman navigates the increasingly brackish waters of a coastal land, collecting the heartaches and tears of its inhabitants. But he remains powerless against their misguided attempts to appease the gods and make the land green again, whether by offering a bride to the sea or forcibly “treating” the eyes of a painter who sees in different colors.

The *Global Lens* film series is a program of the Global Film Initiative, which was founded with a mission of promoting cross cultural understanding through cinema. The education program presents educational screenings of Global Lens films for students in locations where the touring series is shown, and also publishes free, innovative discussion guides and learning resources that explore social, cultural and historical themes introduced by films. All profits 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.

The Palm Springs Art Museum’s main facility is located in downtown Palm Springs in a 150,000 square foot architecturally-significant building and features compelling exhibitions and a robust permanent collection of modern, contemporary, Western and Native American, Mesoamerican and glass art in 28 spacious galleries and in its two outdoor sculpture gardens. The museum offers educational lectures, films and an assortment of programs and art workshops for all ages. For more information, call 760.322.4800 or visit www.psmuseum.org.

This film series is made possible by generous support from Wells Fargo Bank.

Image credits: Top: *Soul of Sand*
Middle: *Street Days*
Bottom: *White Meadows*

#

NOTE TO MEDIA: High resolution stills from each film are available for print by calling 760.322.4814.