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GLOBAL LENS FILM SERIES CELEBRATES CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING THROUGH CINEMA

MATINEE SCREENINGS CONNECT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH GLOBAL DISCOURSE

From January 8-29, the Walker Art Center partners with the Global Film Initiative to present **Global Lens**, six films promoting cross-cultural understanding. Some of the most demanding and exciting cinematic work is coming from the so-called developing world. Founded in 2002, the Global Film Initiative provides filmmakers with financing and distribution, helping to share the diversity of the world's cultures through cinema. The films presented in Global Lens offer a glimpse into histories and experiences rarely seen in the United States. The program launched at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in November, and will tour selected cities throughout the next year.

Matinee and evening screenings on Free Thursdays kick off on Thursday, January 8, with *Ticket to Jerusalem* at 1 pm, followed by the Tunisian film *Khorma* at 8 pm. The series continues on Thursday, January 15, with *Margarette's Feast* at 1 pm, and *Rachida* at 8 pm. On Thursday, January 22, there will be a 1 pm screening of *Angel on the Right* from Tajikistan. The series concludes on Thursday, January 29, with the Brazilian film *Mango Yellow* at 8 pm.

Matinee Screenings

One goal of the initiative is to connect young people with social studies, foreign language, and media arts curricula and provide deeper student engagement with contemporary film, cultural perspectives, and world events. To this end, the Walker presents matinee screenings geared to high school students and free curriculum resources for teachers. "We at the Initiative believe that the best way to understand other cultures is through the nuance of storytelling," says Global Film

(more)

Initiative Chairwoman Susan Weeks Coulter. "Our films provide insight into human nature and the consequences of human interactions, allowing us a continual comparison and reflection between the characters in the story and our own experience. Global Lens will expose Americans to vantage points other than our own, and we are passionately committed to bringing this program to high school classrooms across the country." For more information or to schedule a teacher preview, call 612.375.7614. Series information is also available online at www.globalfilm.org.

About the Global Film Initiative

The Global Film Initiative is a U.S.-based charitable foundation dedicated to the promotion of cross-cultural understanding through cinema. The Initiative has developed four programs to achieve this goal: the Granting Program, the Acquisitions Program, the Distribution Program, and the Education Program. To date, the Initiative has acquired ten films and given grants to ten films, all of which were selected from applications representing 31 countries.

Free Thursdays are made possible by generous support from The Wallace Foundation.

Screenings are free of charge and take place in the Auditorium. For information, call 612.375.7622.

GLOBAL LENS JANUARY 8-29

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1 AND 8 PM

Ticket to Jerusalem, 1 pm

Directed by Rashid Masharawi

In a Palestinian refugee camp near Ramallah, Jaber runs a mobile cinema, bringing entertainment throughout the disputed territory of the West Bank. Due to the declining situation of the conflict, his mission meets more and more obstacles—too many checkpoints, travel restrictions, permits that are difficult to obtain. When Jaber is encouraged by a schoolteacher to organize a screening in the heart of the Palestinian cause, Jerusalem's old city, his perseverance is put to the test: the house where the film is to be shown has been taken over by Israeli settlers, and the schoolteacher and her mother with it. 2003, Palestine, color, 35mm, in Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles, 85 minutes.

Khorma (Khorma, Enfant du cimetière), 8 pm

Directed by Jilani Saadi

Introduced by Imed Labidi, Doctoral Candidate, Cultural Studies in Discourse and Society, University of Minnesota

In the small village of Bizerte, Khorma's red hair and pale complexion make him stand out. His elderly guardian, the town's official announcer of births, deaths, and marriages, is highly

revered—mourning rituals drive a good deal of the economy (water to be sold at cemeteries, henna to be applied to the dead, mourning songs to be sung). But when the old man mistakenly announces the death of a woman instead of the marriage of her daughter, the village is up in arms. They appoint Khorma to replace his guardian in the high position, but this newfound power proves too tempting for him. Ready to seek revenge for the teasing he endured because of his physical appearance, he uses his position for his own gain. 2002, Tunisia, color, 35mm, in Arabic with English subtitles, 100 minutes.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1 AND 8 PM

Margarette's Feast (A Feste de Margarette), 1 pm

Directed by Renato Falcão

Making dazzling use of Brazilian music, intentionally under-lit photography that superbly evokes the look of early silent films, exuberant acting styles, and a cast of characters spanning the social spectrum that would be the envy of Dickens or Balzac, *Margarette's Feast* tells the incredible story of an Everyman (Hique Gomez) who loses his job and comes into possession of a miraculous suitcase that never runs out of money. At once an homage to a glorious cinematic past and an audacious present that explores narrative and technique, the film plunges the viewer into a dramatic universe that initially seems familiar and then inexorably unsettling. 2002, Brazil, BW, 35mm, 70 minutes.

Rachida, 8 pm

Directed by Yamina Bachir-Chouikh

Introduced by Amy Levine, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota

Presenting a brutal time in Algeria's history when both fundamentalist and government militias perpetuated crimes against the most vulnerable, *Rachida* is a moving story about a community—and, above all, about the women in it—under the threat of terror yet reaching out for hope, courage, and peace. Rachida shows great restraint in her struggle to stop the perpetual flow of violence within Algiers when she is approached to participate in a bombing. Her brave act of refusal puts her at risk for retaliation and alters the rest of her life. 2002, Algeria, color, in Arabic and French with English subtitles, 100 minutes.

This film is also the fourth program in the series War, Peace, and Resistance, which promotes international understanding and tolerance. A discussion follows.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1 PM

Angel on the Right (Farishta y kitfi rost)

Directed by Djamshed Usmonov

After 10 years in Moscow, down-and-out thug Hamro returns to his native village in Tajikistan to tend to his dying mother. Realizing that his debts are long overdue and the townspeople are as tough as the big city crowd he now runs with, he sells her house and belongings as quickly as possible. Tajik society's harsh social and political upheavals are reflected in the relationships between the film's characters. They are at once coarse, ruthless, dishonest, and manipulative, but have almost blind faith in ancestral laws of good and evil and strongly believe that miracles will occur to change their destiny. 2002, Tajikistan, color, 35mm in Tajik with English subtitles, 88 minutes.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 8 PM

Mango Yellow (Amarelo Manga)

Directed by Cláudio Assis

Introduced by Fernando Arenas, Associate Professor of Portuguese, Brazilian, and Lusophone African Studies, University of Minnesota

In the northeastern Brazilian city of Recife, the seedy lives of a group of larger-than-life characters—a bereft barmaid, a flamingly gay chef, a macho butcher, and his born-again wife—mesh as they pursue romantic liaisons, scams, and unrealized dreams. Through their transgressive situations, director Cláudio Assis suggests a general malaise infecting Brazil: as their lives intersect and their destinies are revealed, it becomes apparent that the longing for a spiritual life is lacking throughout the favela. 2002, Brazil, color, 35mm, in Portuguese with English subtitles, 102 minutes. A discussion follows.

GLOBAL LENS REGIONAL SCHEDULE

- New York, NY—MoMA, November 13-30, 2003
- Denver, CO—Denver Film Society (Starz Film Center), November 21-December 14, 2003
- Minneapolis, MN—Walker Art Center, January 8-29, 2004
- San Rafael, CA—California Film Institute (Smith Rafael Film Center), February 1-20, 2004
- Cleveland, OH—Cleveland Art Institute (Cleveland Cinematheque), February 18-29, 2004
- Boston, MA—Museum of Fine Arts, March 3-24, 2004
- Sarasota, FL—Sarasota Film Society (Burns Court Cinemas), March 19-25, 2004
- Madison, WI—UW Madison Arts Institute & Cinematheque (UW Cinematheque and The Orpheum Theater), April 1-17, 2004
- Columbus, OH—The Wexner Center for the Arts, April 7-29, 2004
- Portland, OR—Northwest Film Center (The Guild Theater and The Whitesell Auditorium), May 1-20, 2004
- Los Angeles, CA—California Institute of the Arts (The Disney Music & Art Center), May 21-June 7, 2004
- Chicago, IL—The Gene Siskel Center, September 3-30, 2004
- Houston, TX—Museum of Fine Arts (Brown Auditorium Theater), October 12-27, 2004

**The Walker Art Center is located at 725 Vineland Place,
at Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, one block off Highway I-94.
For public information, call 612.375.7622.
Gallery hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10 am–5 pm;
Thursday, 10 am–9 pm; Sunday, 11 am–5 pm; closed Monday.
<http://www.walkerart.org>**