

**MoMA PRESENTS *GLOBAL LENS, 2008*, THE FIFTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION
OF CINEMA FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

**Lineup Highlights Emerging Filmmakers from Croatia, the Pacific Rim, China,
India, the Middle East, and South America**

***GLOBAL LENS, 2008*
January 10–24, 2008
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters**

NEW YORK, December 18, 2007— The Museum of Modern Art presents ***Global Lens, 2008***, its fifth annual exhibition of world cinema, in collaboration with the Global Film Initiative (GFI), a San Francisco–based organization established to promote cross-cultural understanding through the medium of cinema. As the inaugural venue for the nationally touring film exhibition, MoMA will present *Global Lens, 2008* from January 10 to 24, 2008, in The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters. Eight fiction features from countries with developing and emergent film cultures will be screened. The exhibition is organized by Jytte Jensen, Curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.

Two films in *Global Lens* will each receive a weeklong run at the Museum: *Kubrador* (*The Bet Collector*, 2006), which is presented January 10 through 16, features a powerful performance by famed Filipino actress Gina Pareño in a tale that hovers around the edges of Manila's underworld. Director Jeffrey Jeturian will discuss this film and the broader topic of filmmaking in the Philippines at the January 14 screening at 7:00 p.m. as part of *Modern Mondays*, the Museum's weekly focus on contemporary cinema. Indonesian director Garin Nugroho's 2006 film *Opera Jawa* (January 16–21) is a version of *The Abduction of Sinta*, a highly stylized musical fable, often dramatized in Javanese dance and puppet theatre, in which King Rama and Rahwana fall in love with the goddess Sinta, with tragic consequences. These weeklong runs afford audiences a broader opportunity to acquaint themselves with some of the original new voices from the vibrant independent cinema of Indonesia and the Philippines.

Global Lens, 2008 is a project conceived by the Global Film Initiative to encourage filmmaking in countries with developing film communities. The films presented in this annual collaboration represent a selective survey of contemporary filmmaking from areas where local economic realities make such expensive and technology-driven endeavors a challenge. The eight films selected for the program are thought-provoking, entertaining, and deeply rooted in the social and political realities of the countries in which their directors live and set their stories.

Several films are part of an educational project between GFI and MoMA's Department of Education, and will be screened separately for participating educational institutions and schools in the New York area.

The other films in *Global Lens, 2008* hail from Argentina, China, Croatia, India, Iran, and Lebanon. Their subjects range from the grim realities of daily existence in the post-conflict

Balkans (Antonio Nuiç's *Sve Dĭaba (All for Free)*, 2006) to the repressed life of an Argentinean politician's bodyguard in Rodrigo Moreno's *El Custodio (The Custodian)*, 2006). Societal conflicts in contemporary nations characterize several other titles in the series: Indian director Partho Sen-Gupta's story of prevarication in *Hava Aney Dey (Let the Wind Blow)*, 2004), and familial decay in modern-day China in Wang Chao's *Jiang Cheng Xia Ri (Luxury Car)*, 2006). These same conflicts propel a story of thwarted love in Iranian director Ali Raffi's *Mahiha Ashegh Mishavand (The Fish Fall in Love)*, 2006), while Randa Chahal Sabbag's *Le Cerf-Volant (The Kite)*, 2003), a high-profile release that won prizes at several festivals and represented Lebanon as its Academy Award entry in 2004, tells the story of a young woman married to a stranger in spite of her love for another.

Global Lens, 2008 will tour a variety of art- and community-based venues throughout the United States during the course of the year. Please see www.globalfilm.org for the national schedule.

Global Lens, 2008 is a collaboration between The Global Film Initiative and the Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.

* * * * * **PRESS SCREENINGS** * * * * *

Please join us for the following screenings in the Roy and Niuta Titus 2 Theater:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

10:00 a.m. *Kubrador (The Bet Collector)*. 98 min.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

10:00 a.m. *Opera Jawa*. 120 min.

No. 131

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For downloadable images, please register for your unique user name and password at www.moma.org/press

Public Information:

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019

Hours: Wednesday through Monday: 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Friday: 10:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Closed Tuesday

Museum Adm: \$20 adults; \$16 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D.; \$12 full-time students with current I.D. Free, members and children 16 and under. (Includes admittance to Museum galleries and film programs)
Target Free Friday Nights 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Film Adm: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D.; \$6 full-time students with current I.D. (For admittance to film programs only)

Subway: E or V train to Fifth Avenue/53rd Street

Bus: On Fifth Avenue, take the M1, M2, M3, M4, or M5 to 53rd Street. On Sixth Avenue, take the M5, M6, or M7 to 53rd Street. Or take the M57 and M50 crosstown buses on 57th and 50th Streets.

The public may call (212) 708-9400 for detailed Museum information. Visit us at www.moma.org

SCREENING SCHEDULE

GLOBAL LENS 2007

Thursday, January 10

7:00 *Kubrador (The Bet Collector)*. 2006. Philippines. Directed by Jeffrey Jeturian. With Gina Pareño, Fonz Deza, Soliman Cruz.

Amy, the family matriarch, makes ends meet by running a small convenience store out of her home, but she is forced to supplement her income by working for an illegal numbers game. Her days follow a stressful routine of dodging the police, and her nights are filled with anxiety over the survival of her family, as she counts her meager commissions. The director brilliantly shoots the narrow, crowded streets so that they become part of the psychological portrait of a once-proud woman reduced to working as a petty criminal. Anchoring the film is a luminous, emphatic performance by veteran actress Pareño, who makes vivid not only the daily struggle faced by the Filipino underclass, but also the humor, wit, and charisma her character applies to her unstable profession. In Tagalog; English subtitles. 98 min.

(Introduced by Jeturian; cast and crew present)

Also screening:

Friday, January 11, 8:00

Saturday, January 12, 4:00

Sunday, January 13, 4:00

Monday, January 14, 7:00 (a *Modern Mondays* discussion with Jeturian)

Wednesday, January 16, 8:30

Friday, January 11

6:00 *Sve Džaba (All for Free)*. 2006. Croatia. Directed by Antonio Nuić. With Rakan Rushaidat, Bojan Navojec, Daria Lorenci.

When his friends are killed in a bizarre barroom argument, Goran is left without a sense of belonging. A neighbor offers to buy Goran's house, providing him with the perfect opportunity to realize his dream of buying a truck and converting it into a mobile home and bar. With no particular destination in mind, he comes across a shelled-out town, where he opens his bar and offers drinks to passers-by at no charge, occasioning hostility as well as celebration. Nuić's darkly humorous take on the road movie uncovers the recent wounds of war, but the indomitable optimism of its protagonist also reveals a torn country's shared humanity. In Bosnian-Croatian; English subtitles. 94 min.

8:00 *Kubrador (The Bet Collector)*. See Thursday, January 10, 7:00

Saturday, January 12

4:00 *Kubrador (The Bet Collector)*. See Thursday, January 10, 7:00

6:00 *El Custodio (The Custodian)*. 2006. Argentina. Directed by Rodrigo Moreno. With Julio Chávez, Osmar Núñez, Marcelo D'Andrea.

The remarkable character actor Julio Chávez disappears into the nearly silent role of a middle-aged bodyguard to an important politician. His all-consuming job is that of an

inconspicuous human shield. Cleverly paced and slow-burning, Moreno's masterfully wrought psychological thriller offers a mesmerizing portrait of a man who disappears into his surroundings. The repetitious details of daily routines, the faceless dedication of servitude, the thoughtless humiliations of the bosses, and the tiny, guilty moments of private need and humanity are all captured in a series of long shots and carefully framed compositions. The measured movements of Chávez's alienated Ruben are destined to reach a breaking point, when this shadow can no longer deny his own repressed feelings. In Spanish; English subtitles. 95 min.

Sunday, January 13

2:00 *Mahiha Ashegh Mishavand (The Fish Fall in Love)*. 2006. Iran. Directed by Ali Raffi. With Reza Kianian, Roya Nonahali, Golshifteh Farahani.
In this old-fashioned, seductive tale of thwarted romance, a man returns to his hometown near the Caspian Sea to settle his father's estate. The woman he loved when he was young, who doesn't know why he vanished 20 years ago, now manages a popular restaurant in his old home and she assumes that he will once again crush her dreams by reclaiming the house. Food plays a major role in both the story and the visual appeal of the film (wonderfully shot by the great Iranian cinematographer Mahmoud Kalari) as the woman's daughter, finding herself in a predicament similar to her mother's years ago, schemes to keep the man in the house by feeding him the best of the restaurant's sinfully delicious dishes. Maintaining an easygoing pace throughout, the director reveals a strong sense of community amongst the women with believable, charismatic performances. In Farsi; English subtitles. 96 min.

4:00 *Kubrador (The Bet Collector)*. See Thursday, January 10, 7:00

Monday, January 14

7:00 *Modern Mondays: An evening with Jeffrey Jeturian*
Toward the end of the week-long run of *Kubrador (The Bet Collector)* as part of *Global Lens*, 2008, the director discusses his technique and his work in relation to Filipino cinema.

Wednesday, January 16

6:00 *Opera Jawa*. 2006. Indonesia. Directed by Garin Nugroho. With Artika Sari Devi, Martinus Miroto, Eko Supriyanto.
The operatic opulence of this uniquely exciting and poetic film encompasses all elements of the filmmaking: a musical movie with acrobatic choreography; sets that include multicolored mountains covered in artificial flowers and the densely forested heart of Java and its pristine beaches; costumes and design that reinvent Surrealism; and performances that defy naturalism, not to mention every standard for movie musicals. Part of the commissioned New Crowned Hope project, the movie combines gamelan music, ballet, and eye-feasting visual pageantry in a tale of a village potter's unfaithful wife and his vengeance against her seducer. Based on "The Abduction of Sita," from the Hindu epic *The Ramayana*, *Opera Jawa* is offered by Nugroho as a requiem for the victims of violence and natural disaster. In Bahasa Indonesian; English subtitles. 120 min.

Also screening:

Thursday, January 17, 8:00

Friday, January 18, 8:00

Saturday, January 19, 2:00

Sunday, January 20, 5:00

Monday, January 21, 4:00

8:30 *Kubrador (The Bet Collector)*. See Thursday, January 10, 7:00

Thursday, January 17

6:00 ***Hava Aney Dey (Let the Wind Blow)***. 2004. India/France. Directed by Partho Sen-Gupta. With Aniket Vishwasrao, Nishikant Kamat, Rajshri Thakur.
At the height of nuclear tensions between India and Pakistan, eighteen-year-old student Arjun and his best friend Chabia, a garage mechanic, are restless. Privileged lifestyles are within their sight but out of reach, and the two are tempted to apply for work in the Persian Gulf, where wages are high. Chabia is generally resigned to his fate, but Arjun must weigh the value of finishing college and a cerebral career against the mere pursuit of money. Conflicted over his choices and overwhelmed by the nihilistic atmosphere of the nuclear standoff, Arjun seeks the company of a young privileged woman. Sen-Gupta alludes to the Bhagavad Gita and Krishna's counsel to Arjuna, as Arjun is forced to consider the philosophical, and possibly tragic, ramifications of his indecision. In Hindi, English; English subtitles. 93 min.

8:00 ***Opera Jawa***. See Wednesday, January 16, 6:00

Friday, January 18

6:00 ***Le Cerf-Volant (The Kite)***. 2003. Lebanon/France. Directed by Randa Chahal Sabbag. With Flavia Béchara, Ziad Rahbani, Randa Asmar.
A high-profile release that won prizes at several festivals and represented Lebanon's Academy Award entry in 2004, *The Kite* is rich in subtly rendered comedy and tragedy. With a melancholy mood heightened by its poetic widescreen compositions, the film tells the story of a young woman married to a stranger in spite of her love for another. This family drama is played out on a politically tense, highly public stage—the Druze community in which it takes place is divided by the Lebanon-Israel border, where people on either side communicate by yelling through loud speakers. In Arabic; English subtitles. 80 min.

8:00 ***Opera Jawa***. See Wednesday, January 16, 6:00

Saturday, January 19

2:00 ***Opera Jawa***. See Wednesday, January 16, 6:00

4:30 ***Jiang Cheng Xia Ri (Luxury Car)***. 2006. China. Directed by Wang Chao. With Tian Yuan, Wu You Cai, Huang He.
Li Qi Ming, a father and newly retired teacher, represents one of the thousands of parents in China who have lost contact with their children through rural exodus and political upheaval. He travels from his village to visit his daughter (played by rock singer Tian Yuan) who, unbeknownst to her family, is an escort in a karaoke bar in Wuhan and is pregnant with the older, well-to-do owner's child. Determined to fulfill his dying wife's wish of seeing their son again, her father works with a local—also retiring—policeman to locate the beloved son. Both son and mother are strong off-screen presences, as Wang portrays a nation in which tragic disappearances are all too common and private lives are vulnerable in a society morally adrift. In Mandarin; English subtitles. 88 min.

6:30 ***Le Cerf-Volant (The Kite)***. See Friday, January 18, 6:00

Sunday, January 20

3:00 ***Sve Dĭaba (All for Free)***. See Friday, January 11, 6:00

5:00 ***Opera Jawa***. See Wednesday, January 16, 6:00

Monday, January 21

2:00 *El Custodio (The Custodian)*. See Saturday, January 12, 6:00

4:00 *Opera Jawa*. See Wednesday, January 16, 6:00

Wednesday, January 23

6:00 *Mahiha Ashegh Mishavand (The Fish Fall in Love)*. See Sunday, January 13,
2:00

8:00 *Hava Aney Dey (Let the Wind Blow)*. See Thursday, January 17, 6:00

Thursday, January 24

6:00 *Jiang Cheng Xia Ri (Luxury Car)*. See Saturday, January 19, 4:30