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Global Lens 2013 Premieres at Hartford Public Library

Award-winning world film series presented in partnership with the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Hartford, CT (October 29, 2013) – Hartford Public Library is pleased to announce the return of The Global Film Initiative’s critically acclaimed Global Lens film series for 2013. This year’s series showcases ten award-winning narrative feature films from Brazil, Chile, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Mexico and Serbia. Presented in partnership with the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, the series runs every Sunday at 2:00 p.m. from November 3, 2013 – January 12, 2014. Seven of the films will screen at the Downtown Library’s Center for Contemporary Culture located at 500 Main Street, Hartford; three films from the series will screen at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, 600 Main Street, Hartford. Each film shown at Hartford Public Library will offer a facilitated discussion. All Library films are free and open to the public.

“This year, our tenth year, we went back to our roots,” says Susan Weeks Coulter, Board Chair of the Global Film Initiative. “Bold and unique storytelling by filmmakers unafraid to take risks with their culture and creativity – it’s a beautiful lineup.”

This Sunday, the Bahman Ghobadi-produced **ABOUT 111 GIRLS** (2012 Busan IFF) kicks off the series at the Library. Hartford Public Library CEO Matt Poland will facilitate a discussion on this movie that mixes dreamlike desire with absurdist humor. “We live in a world of contradictions”, said Poland. This movie explains the impact of a place riddled with contradictions with humor and hop.”

The 2013 series also includes Zhang Yuan’s vibrant ode to disaffected Chinese youth, **BEIJING FLICKERS** (2012 Toronto IFF; 2012 Busan IFF), Brazilian director Eduardo Nunes’ lush, chimerical portrait of a life lived in one day, **SOUTHWEST** (Special Jury Prize and FIPRESCI Prize, 2011 Rio IFF), and Mani Haghighi’s wonderfully fresh Iranian Robin Hood-with-a-twist, **MODEST RECEPTION** (NETPAC Prize, 2012 Berlin IFF).

Global Lens also features Sebastián del Amo’s eclectic tribute to vintage Mexican cinema, **THE FANTASTIC WORLD OF JUAN OROL** (Best First Feature, 2012 Guadalajara IFF), Suman Ghosh’s sensitive, cinema-verité Kolkata-chronicle, **SHYAMAL UNCLE TURNS OFF THE LIGHTS** (2012

Busan IFF) and **STUDENT** (*Un Certain Regard, 2012 Cannes FF*), Darezhan Omirbayev's atmospheric riff on the Dostoevsky classic *Crime and Punishment*.

The lineup is rounded out by films that pay homage to the Initiative's long-enduring mission of bringing light to the best undistributed and overlooked films of the world: Chilean auteur Sebastián Silva's darkly comic **LIFE KILLS ME**, and **CAIRO 678** (*2011 New Directors/New Films*), Mohamed Diab's stunning revelation on gender and oppression in contemporary Cairo.

The entire 2013 Global Lens film listing, complete with locations and discussion facilitator information, is below. For more information, please visit us online at www.hplct.org or call the Programming Office at 860-695-6320.

Global Lens Film Series 2013

Presented in partnership with the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art.

[Click here](#) to view the film offerings at The Wadsworth



ABOUT 111 GIRLS (Darbare 111 Dokhtar)- Iraq

Sunday, November 3, 2013, 2:00 p.m.

Center for Contemporary Culture, Downtown Library

Director: Nahid Ghobadi and Bijan Zamanpira

Farsi/Persian and Kurdish, with subtitles in English

Facilitator: Matt Poland, CEO, Hartford Public Library

A government official, carrying a message from Iran's president, travels across Iranian Kurdistan with his driver and a young guide on a mission to stop 111 young Kurdish women from committing suicide in protest against conditions that have left them spinsters. Racing against the clock, they travel into territory simmering with resentment at official neglect and the hardship it has sown among a proud people.

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LIFE KILLS ME (La Vida Me Mata) –Chile

Sunday, November 10, 2013, 2:00 p.m.

Center for Contemporary Culture, Downtown Library

Director: Sebastián Silva

Spanish, with subtitles in English

Facilitator: Robert Kagan, Professor and Department Chair, Humanities Department, Manchester Community College

Life and death come wrapped in a mutual embrace, both absurd and

poignant, in this smart comedy about an unlikely friendship between a grieving cinematographer and a morbidly obsessed drifter. At work on a seriously schlocky, low-budget horror film, Gaspar is still reeling from the untimely death of his beloved older brother when he meets Alvaro at yet another premature funeral. A mildly sociopathic young man with an unyielding curiosity for the dark side.

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CAIRO 678 – Egypt

Sunday, November 17, 2013, 2:00 p.m.

Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Director: Mohamed Diab

Arabic, with subtitles in English

Facilitator: TBA

Three Cairene women from different backgrounds join together in uneasy solidarity to combat the sexual harassment that has impacted each of their lives. Mohamed Diab's deftly braided narrative tells a gripping, timely social tale through its patchwork of interconnected lives and deeds.

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SHYAMAL UNCLE TURNS OFF THE LIGHTS – India

Sunday, November 24, 2013, 2:00 p.m.

Center for Contemporary Culture, Downtown Library

Director: Suman Ghosh

Bengali, with subtitles in English

Facilitator: Rubina Islam, Board Member, SNEHA, Inc.

An 80-year-old Kolkata retiree is on a mission to get his neighborhood streetlights turned off after sunrise after he notices they stay on all day as well. Shyamal Uncle finds his sense of propriety upset by this wasteful expense of electricity. But finding someone to take him seriously proves a battle against an indifferent bureaucracy and a complacent status quo.

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THE PARADE (Parada) – Serbia

Sunday, December 1, 2013, 2:00 p.m.

Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Director: Srdjan Dragojević

Serbo-Croatian, with subtitles in English
Facilitator: TBA

In exchange for some wedding-planning expertise, a macho Serbian crime boss recruits a ragtag group of Balkan war-buddies to provide protection for a Pride march in this rollicking yet poignant comedy inspired by real events.

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BEIJING FLICKERS (You-Zhong) – China

Sunday, December 8, 2013, 2:00 p.m.

Center for Contemporary Culture, Downtown Library

Director: Zhang Yuan

Mandarin, with subtitles in English

Facilitator: Christina Reardon, University of Connecticut History/East Asian Studies professor

San Bao is a young man left behind by Beijing's fabulous new wealth, having just lost his job, his apartment and the woman he loves (who's left him for a richer man). Even Happiness, his dog, has run away from him. Lovelorn, self-destructive and desperately aimless, San Bao nevertheless has moments of euphoria amid his own despair, as he roams the sleek, shifting city with other soulful, cash-poor dreamers and misfits.

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SOUTHWEST (Sudoeste) – Brazil

Sunday, December 15, 2013, 2:00 p.m.

Center for Contemporary Culture, Downtown Library

Director: Eduardo Nunes

Portuguese, with subtitles in English

Facilitator: TBA

In this gorgeously dreamlike and mysterious tale, a young woman named Clarice gives birth on her deathbed to a baby girl also christened Clarice by the bruxa (or witch) attending the nearly simultaneous moments of death and birth. Spirited away to a remote lakeside village, baby Clarice lives her whole life in the span of twenty-four hours, and yet (as the film's vast, black-and-white panoramas suggest) even so compressed a lifetime remains impossible to fully grasp or contain.

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STUDENT – Kazakhstan

Sunday, December 22, 2013, 2:00 p.m.

Center for Contemporary Culture, Downtown Library

Director: Darezhan Omirbayev

Kazakh and Russian, with subtitles in English

Facilitator: TBA

A solitary philosophy student steers his directionless life toward the commission of a violent crime, spurred on by postmodern musings and a post-Soviet order characterized by growing inequality, institutional corruption and a ruthless ethic of “eat or be eaten.” Inspired by Dostoevsky’s *Crime and Punishment*, director Darezhan Omirbayev roots his nameless student in the losing segment of Kazakhstan’s new capitalist era, whose population watches the rich rise above common legal proscriptions and old-fashioned communal values.

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THE FANTASTIC WORLD OF JUAN OROL (El Fantástico Mundo De Juan Orol) - Mexico

Sunday, December 29 , 2013, 2:00 p.m.

Center for Contemporary Culture, Downtown Library

Director: Sebastián del Amo

Spanish, with subtitles in English

Facilitator: Debbie Gaudet, Curator Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Move over Ed Wood! Mexico’s half-forgotten B-movie master, “involuntary surrealist” Juan Orol, receives a pitch-perfect tribute in this irresistible love letter to a self-made man of showbiz, whose career spanned nearly sixty films. In a glorious black-and-white flashback mingling movie-tainted memories of his Galician childhood, forced exile to Cuba and arrival in Mexico, intrepid “Juanito” pursues failed careers as baseball player, boxer, bullfighter and gangster before landing in the movies—where failure kind of works for him.

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MODEST RECEPTION (Paziraie Sadeh) – Iran

Sunday, January 12, 2013, 2:00 p.m.

Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Director: Mani Haghighi

Farsi/Persian, with subtitles in English

Facilitator: TBA

Leila and Kaveh are a mysterious pair from Tehran, traveling the mountainous countryside in their Lexus coupe to push big bags of money on the locals. This turns out to be not so easy, but fascinating to watch, as the cagey couple invent increasingly brazen stratagems to place cash in the hands of the wary, proud or indifferent. Will they push things too far? Are they losing sight of their mission? What exactly *is* their mission? Led by riveting performances from Taraneh Alidoosti and writer-director Mani Haghighi, this bold comedy-drama unfurls with unexpected force amid subtle themes of power, privilege and corruption.

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About [Hartford Public Library](#)

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations and a Library-on-Wheels in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit hplct.org and the library's new blog at blogs.hplct.org

About the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is America's first public art museum, founded in 1842. The museum is located at 600 Main St., Hartford, Connecticut and is open Wednesdays to Fridays, 11 am – 5 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am – 5 pm, and the first Thursday of every month 11 am – 8 pm. Please visit www.wadsworthatheneum.org for more information.

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