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ITVS INTERNATIONAL LAUNCHES NEW SERIES, *GLOBAL VOICES* ON PBS WORLD CHANNEL ON SUNDAY, MARCH 30, AT 10:00 PM

(*San Francisco, CA*)—Independent Television Service (ITVS) today announced the launch of *Global Voices*, a new series produced by ITVS International to air on the PBS WORLD digital channel beginning Sunday, March 30, 2008, at 10:00 PM (check local listings). The first original series to launch on PBS WORLD, the 26-week series will bring to a national audience internationally themed documentaries made by U.S.-based and international filmmakers. *Global Voices* will feature the U.S. premieres of five documentaries funded by ITVS International as well as encore broadcasts of other acclaimed ITVS programs. Encore presentations include the Academy Award nominee **DAUGHTER FROM DANANG**, the Emmy Award winner **A LION'S TRAIL** and the Independent Spirit Award Winner and Emmy Nominee **LOST BOYS OF SUDAN**. In addition to the PBS WORLD broadcast, the content of the series will later be available via online distribution platforms, such as Joost, You Tube, BitTorrent and Vuze.

“The launch of this new series is another major step in fulfilling the pledge of ITVS International and our Global Perspectives Project to bring untold stories from every corner of the world to the broadest possible U.S audience. Having this new series air on PBS’s WORLD Channel underscores ITVS’s commitment to public media and our long-standing relationship with PBS,” said ITVS president and CEO Sally Fifer.

From sumo wrestling to the fall of the Berlin wall, from Chinese child acrobats to students of a small schoolhouse in rural Colombia to exploring the musical worlds of South Africa, America and Cambodia, *Global Voices* presents intimate and resilient human stories revealing the complexities of our world and its inhabitants.

“PBS has a commitment to bring diverse voices with new perspectives to American audiences, and we are delighted to expand the programming on PBS WORLD with the wealth of international content provided by the *Global Voices* series,” said John F. Wilson, PBS senior vice president and chief television programming executive.

The series debuts with the U.S. broadcast premiere of **CIRCUS SCHOOL**, a story about competition and survival that reveals the challenges faced by a group of Chinese children on their journey to becoming acrobats. Other premieres include **BRIDGE OVER THE WADI**, which follows 50 Arab and 50 Jewish children as they attend a binational and bilingual grade school in Wadi Ara village in Israel for the first time. *-More-*

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The film depicts how fragile it is to create an environment of a unified existence against the backdrop of a complicated reality. Told through the eyes of the children who live there, **ABC COLOMBIA** is an intimate portrait of a small rural Colombian community controlled by paramilitary forces. **OVERBOOKED** profiles two men from two different cultures as they try to manage a diverse group of people traveling from Torino, Italy, to Morocco. **FOR GOD, TSAR AND FATHERLAND**, winner of the 2008 Sundance Film Festival World Cinema Directing Award, explores what happens when residents of Durakovo (“village of fools”), a small village southwest of Moscow, abandon all their former rights and agree to obey Russian patriot, good Christian, successful businessman and village owner Mikhail Morozov.

PBS WORLD is a new channel featuring documentary, public affairs and news programming from public television’s award-winning signature series and acclaimed independent filmmakers. Produced and distributed by PBS, WGBH Boston and Thirteen/WNET New York, in association with American Public Television (APT) and the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA), PBS WORLD launched on 55 stations across the country, representing 24 licensees and reaching more than 27 percent of U.S. households. In most markets, PBS WORLD programming will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“We are pleased to have the new *Global Voices* series on the PBS World Channel,” said Ron Bachman, director of programming at WGBH Boston. “The addition of these programs will bring an expanded portfolio of high-quality content to our viewers across the country.”

Programming on PBS WORLD includes popular and critically acclaimed series such as, *American Experience*, *Frontline*, *History Detectives*, *Nature*, *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, *Nova*, *Scientific American Frontiers* and *The Tavis Smiley Show*.

For more information about *Global Voices*, visit pbs.org/globalvoices/.

About ITVS International

ITVS International is a division of Independent Television Service that promotes an international exchange of documentary films made by independent producers, bringing international voices to U.S. audiences and American stories to audiences abroad. Through a unique public-private partnership called the Global Perspectives Project, ITVS International administers the International Media Development Fund (IMDF) and *True Stories: Life in the USA*. The IMDF funds international producers and supports the American broadcast of their programs. *True Stories: Life in the USA* promotes a series of American independent films to audiences around the world. ITVS created the Global Perspectives Project in 2005 with support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the U.S. Department of State. More information is available online at itvs.org/international.

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About WGBH Boston

WGBH Boston is America's preeminent public broadcaster, producing such celebrated national PBS series as *Masterpiece*, *Antiques Roadshow*, *Frontline*, *Nova*, *American Experience*, *Arthur* and more than a dozen other award-winning primetime, lifestyle and children's series. WGBH is also Boston's last remaining independent television station. Its local productions, which include *Greater Boston*, *Basic Black* and *Maria Hinojosa One-on-One*, focus on the region's diverse community. WGBH 89.7 FM is Boston's NPR Arts and Culture station, offering a rich menu of classical, jazz, blues, news programming and more. In addition, WGBH is the leading producer of online content for pbs.org—one of the most-visited dot-org sites on the Internet—and a major producer for public radio. It is also a pioneer in developing educational multimedia and new technologies that make media accessible for people with disabilities. For its efforts, WGBH has been recognized with hundreds of honors, including Oscars, Emmys, Peabodys and duPont-Columbia Journalism Awards. Visit WGBH on the Web at **wgbh.org**.

About PBS

PBS is a media enterprise that serves 354 public noncommercial television stations and reaches almost 90 million people each week through on-air and online content. Bringing diverse viewpoints to television and the Internet, PBS provides high-quality documentary and dramatic entertainment and consistently dominates the most prestigious award competitions. PBS is a leading provider of educational materials for K–12 teachers and offers a broad array of other educational services. PBS's premier kids TV programming and kids Web site, PBS KIDS Online (pbskids.org), continue to be parents' and teachers' most trusted learning environments for children. More information about PBS is available at **pbs.org**, one of the leading dot-org Web sites on the Internet.

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