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ITVS and WORLD Channel Announce Season Six Premiere of International Documentary Series *Global Voices*

Critically Acclaimed 18-Week Series Introduces U.S Audiences to Their Global Neighbors, Offering Unique Perspectives Into Unfamiliar Lives, Experiences and Stories from Around the World

Season premieres Sunday, June 2 at 10 PM ET on the WORLD channel (Check local listings) and available online at worldchannel.org

(Wednesday, May 22, 2013. San Francisco, CA)— **Independent Television Service** (<u>ITVS</u>) and the <u>WORLD</u> **channel** announced today the lineup for season six of <u>Global</u> <u>Voices</u>, the critically acclaimed international documentary television series premiering on the WORLD channel (Check local listings). The first original series to launch on WORLD, *Global Voices* was included in the *New York Times' Mike Hale's list of* "Favorite TV shows of 2012". This season will set out to present even more compelling stories often overlooked by American media, by offering a unique lineup of programming, introducing U.S. audiences to their global neighbors and opening a window into unfamiliar lives, experiences, and perspectives from around the world.

Slated for Sunday nights at 10pm ET, from the beginning of June through the end of September, this weekly series premieres **Sunday, June 2**, followed by a repeat broadcast of the entire season for an additional 18 weeks. The series will present the U.S premieres of nine documentaries funded by ITVS, as well as encore presentations of other acclaimed ITVS programs. In addition to the WORLD channel broadcast, each episode will be available online, post airdate, beginning the following day for 21- 30 days at worldchannel.org. All full-length episodes are free and available online anytime during the allotted timeframe.

This season's *Global Voices* spans the globe and offers rare insights into the lives of people in countries as far away as Indonesia, India, El Salvador, Iraq, Tanzania, Japan and Ethiopia, providing a global perspective and diverse viewpoints about our global world community.

The season opens in Indonesia, with the U.S Premiere of *Where Heaven Meets Hell (Air Date: June 2)*, by Sasha Friedlander. Deep in the rain forests of Eastern Java, Indonesia, lies the active volcano, Kawah Ijen, where 500 sulfur miners carrying backbreaking loads, traverse treacherous terrain amidst spectacular vistas and toxic gases. Friedlander relays the stories of four of these miners, who risk their lives and health daily in an industry we rely on for sugar, matches and cosmetics. This visually stunning and intimate film chronicles their attempts to escape the endemic poverty and lack of education that haunts their community. Drawing strength from their families and Muslim faith, these miners inspire us as they search for meaning in their daily struggles and triumphs.

In the next U.S Premiere, *When Hari Got Married (Air Date: June 16)*, directed by Ritu Sarin and Tenzing Sonam, we meet Hari a 30-year old taxi driver in the Indian Himalayas. He is getting married to a girl he has never met, but has fallen in love with her over the mobile phone.

Hundreds –possibly thousands – of children disappeared from El Salvador in the midst of the country's civil war in the 1980s. Niños de la Memoria (*Air Date: June 30*), directed by María Teresa Rodríguez, follows three of those children as they return to their native country in search of identity and answers.

Invoking Justice (Air Date: July 14), Deepa Dhanraj's film, explores the lives of Muslim women from a small town in South India, who set out to deliver justice in their own courts, posing a radical challenge to their traditional Muslim community and clergy.

Other premiere programming highlights include *The Lost Dream (Air Date: July 28),* directed by Jehan S. Harney. Nazar and Salam helped the coalition forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom and were forced to flee their homes. As they begin their new lives in the United States, they wonder if their sacrifice was worth the costs. *In the Shadow of the Sun (Air Date: August 11),* directed by Harry Freeland, is an intimate story about two very different members of a remote island's albino community in Tanzania, as a wave of brutal killings targeting people with albinism sweeps their country. *The List (Air Date: September 8),* directed by Beth Murphy, introduces us to a modern-day Oskar Schindler story, about Kirk Johnson, a 26-year old American aid worker, fighting to save thousands of Iraqis whose lives are in danger because they worked for the United States to help build Iraq.

The season concludes with two films about family and identity. Directed by Kaspar Astrup Schröder, *Rent a Family, Inc. (Air Date: September 22)* follows Ryuichi, a Japanese businessman, who owns a company that rents out fake family members and friends, but his own family doesn't know. The season finale *Girl, Adopted (Air Date: September 29)*, directed by Susan Motamed and Melanie Judd, spans four years in the life of one irrepressible girl. The film offers an intimate look at the struggle to create identity in the aftermath of adoption across race and culture.

In addition to the nine programs making their U.S. broadcast premiere, the series will also include nine award-wining programs, many in which have previously premiered on PBS's *Independent Lens* series. These films include: *Garbage Dreams*, directed by Mai Iskander; *Unmistaken Child*, directed by Nati Baratz; *Bolinao 52*, by Duc Nguyen; *Behind the Rainbow*, directed by Jihan El Tahri; *Blessed is the Match*, directed by Roberta Grossman; *Taking Root*, directed by Lisa Merton and Alan Dater; *A Village Called Versailles*, directed by S. Leo Chiang; *Journals of a Wily School*, directed by Sudeshna Bose; *Egalité for All: Toussaint Louverture and the Haitian Revolution*, directed by Pat Aste.

> For a complete lineup of Global Voices films and schedule, please visit: worldchannel.org

ABOUT ITVS

About ITVS Independent Television Service (ITVS) funds, presents, and promotes award-winning documentaries and dramas on public television, innovative new media projects on the web, and the Emmy® Award-winning weekly series Independent Lens on Monday nights at 10 PM on PBS. Mandated by Congress in 1988 and funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, ITVS has brought more than 1,000 independently produced programs to American audiences to date. For more information about ITVS, visit itys.org

ABOUT WORLD CHANNEL

WORLD is distributed by American Public Television (APT) and is available to more than half of American TV households, and 14 of the top 25 markets, including New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Dallas, Boston and Atlanta. WORLD features nonfiction content including PBS signature series, FRONTLINE, *Nature*, P.O.V. and *Independent Lens*, as well as original co-productions like *Global Voices*, *America ReFramed* and *Aspen Institute Presents*. Funding for the WORLD channel is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

For more information, press materials and downloadable images please visit: <u>*http://www.itvs.org/series/global-voices</u>*</u>

To view the trailers please visit: http://www.youtube.com/user/GlobalVoicesPBS