



VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FILM FOUNDATION

**CELEBRATING 30 YEARS: 1985 - 2015**

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**Winooski Global Roots Festival in March Explore Films From Home Countries of New Americans**

Winooski, VT: (Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015): The Vermont International Film Foundation is pleased to announce the *2015 Global Roots Festival*, taking place in March 2015 in Winooski, Vermont. Film screenings are free and open to the public, and take place at Community College of Vermont at 1 Abenaki Way in Winooski, and the O'Brien Community Center at 32 Mallets Bay Avenue. *Global Roots* is a concept launched by VTIFF in 2013 as a means of bringing great films from the countries of many of the New American communities in Vermont, to foster a greater understanding of our diverse cultures. In 2015 it is expanding to encompass other types of films made by the mosaic of cultures and persuasions we live in.

The *2015 Global Roots Festival* is sponsored by The Vermont Community Fund, Community College of Vermont, and the O'Brien Community Center.

**Films & Schedule:**

**Highway**

Directed by Deepak Rauniyar

Nepal | Drama | Nepali w/ English subtitles | 2012 | 75 min.

Monday, March 2, at 6:30 at The Community College of Vermont

Friday, March 20, at 6:30 at The O'Brien Community Center

All aboard the bus to Kathmandu! As if the mountain terrain weren't challenging enough, the bus is repeatedly stopped by *bandhs*—spontaneous civil disobedience blockades—a frequent phenomenon since the end of the civil war. Meanwhile, a young woman can't decide between her boyfriend and the fiancé arriving to marry her; a gay man hopes to reunite with his estranged lover; a soldier rushes to his wife in time to try out a fertility potion he's swallowed (not knowing she's kept some secrets from him); and the bus driver knows the woman he loves may be forced back into prostitution if he doesn't show up with money for her sick child. Deepak Rauniyar's debut feature has provoked a tumultuous response from Nepali audiences with its realistic characters and their taboo-shrouded issues. Rendered in an improvised cinematic style that heightens an already wild ride, *Highway* is being called the harbinger of a new era in Nepali filmmaking.

### **Zarafa**

Directed by Rémi Bezançon & Jean-Christophe Lie  
Sudan/France | Animated | In French w/ English subtitles | 2012 | 78 min.

Friday, March 13, at 6:30 at The O'Brien Community Center

In this family-friendly, historically-based animated adventure tale that begins under a baobab tree. An old man tells a story to the children around him: The story of the everlasting friendship between Maki, a little boy aged 10, and Zarafa, an orphaned giraffe, a gift from the Pasha of Egypt to the King of France. Charles X. Hassan, Prince of the Desert, is instructed by the Pasha to deliver Zarafa to France, but Maki has made up his mind to do everything in his power to stop Hassan from fulfilling his mission and to bring the giraffe back to its native land – even if it means risking his own life – because he must fulfill his promise to Zarafa's late mother. During an epic journey that takes them from Sudan to Paris, passing on the way through Alexandria, Marseille, and the snow-capped Alps, they have many adventures, crossing paths with the aviator Malaterre, a pair of unusual twin cows called Mounh and Sounh, and the pirate queen Bouboulina.

### **Grey Matter**

Directed by Kivu Ruhorahoza  
Rwanda | Drama | Kinyarwanda w/ English subtitles | 2011 | 100 min

Monday, March 23, at 6:30 at The Community College of Vermont

Set in modern-day Kigali, Rwanda's capital, this radiant, unapologetically self-referential film-within-a-film describes the process and vision of an astute, determined filmmaker named Balthazar hustling for funds for his first feature, *The Cycle of the Cockroach*. But the themes of his haunted and trenchant drama, about the aftermath of genocide on a brother and sister, find no support from agencies interested in funding upbeat policy-related films detailing HIV prevention or gender-based violence. As Balthazar presses ahead, borrowing recklessly from a loan shark, two extended parts of the *Cycle* play out on the

screen, measuring with profound subtlety the horror and systematic madness of events whose fundamental characteristics are anything but unique to Rwanda and whose aftermath is ongoing. Powerful, beautiful and passionately aware filmmaking from Rwandan director Kivu Ruhorahoza makes Grey Matter much more than a “message film,” while offering bracing insight into the nature of political violence.

**The Vermont International Film Foundation (VTIFF)** is a cultural non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich the community through film. VTIFF operates year-round and showcases community film screenings, supports programming like the Global Roots Series, the Burlington Film Society and VTIFF For Schools, as well as supporting Vermont filmmakers. VTIFF celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. The largest program of the Foundation is the annual Vermont International Film Festival, best known for featuring groundbreaking and independent films from around the world and Vermont. The festival also includes the Vermont Filmmakers’ Showcase™, the largest juried selection of Vermont-made films. The 2015 festival runs October 23<sup>rd</sup> -November 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, and The BCA Center. More information at [www.vtiff.org](http://www.vtiff.org).

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