

AFI Project: 20/20 FAQ

What is AFI Project: 20/20?

AFI Project: 20/20 is a program designed to enhance cultural exchange, understanding and collaboration through filmmakers and their films from the US and abroad. By sharing their work with audiences here and overseas, AFI Project: 20/20 filmmakers will seek to foster cross-cultural understanding, promote appreciation of shared values and diverse perspectives and underscore the importance of free expression.



Who are the partners in AFI Project: 20/20?

The program is an unprecedented collaboration between the American Film Institute, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, the US Department of State, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Drawing on the joint resources and expertise of these partners, AFI Project: 20/20 connects audiences here and abroad with American and international artists through one of this country's most popular art forms, movies.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS
A great nation
deserves great art.

How does AFI Project: 20/20 contribute to cultural diplomacy?

Film provides an excellent vehicle for cultural diplomacy, engaging and connecting with diverse audiences in the US and abroad. The selected films in AFI Project: 20/20 share an interest in reaching beyond generations, language, education and borders to engage audiences, revealing both a respect for differences and a shared humanity among cultures.

What is cultural diplomacy?

Cultural diplomacy brings together artists of different backgrounds, across the spectrum of race, religion and gender, who espouse diverse artistic and political views, to foster artistic excellence and promote mutual understanding and respect for other cultures and traditions. AFI Project: 20/20 in its first year included artists from Iran, Israel, India, China, Venezuela, Japan, South Africa, United Kingdom and the US.



How did AFI Project: 20/20 come about?

Announced in September, 2006, at the White House by First Lady Laura Bush as a component of the Global Cultural Initiative, AFI Project: 20/20 was an outgrowth of the President's Committee's "Symposium on Film, Television, Digital Media and Popular Culture," which was held in May 2006. By design, AFI Project: 20/20 uses film's unique ability to tell stories illustrating the common values people share.



Who are the filmmakers in AFI Project: 20/20

Participants in AFI Project: 20/20 are selected from among the filmmakers invited to AFI FEST presented by Audi. Participation in AFI Project: 20/20 is by invitation, based on an artist's filmmaking excellence and his or her potential for positively interrelating with film

professionals, filmmaking peers, cultural officials and audiences, particularly in foreign countries.

What is AFI FEST 2007?

The American Film Institute's AFI FEST 2007 presented by Audi, November 1-11, features international competitions of new films from emerging filmmakers, and a global showcase of the latest work from the great film masters and gala premieres. Last year, AFI FEST featured 35 countries represented by 522 filmmakers and guests, with more 60,000 people attending the festival. AFI FEST provides AFI Project: 20/20 participant's professional development opportunities, a showcase for their work and a forum to engage with diverse US audiences, including K-12 students.

Where will AFI Project: 20/20 take place?

American and international filmmakers in AFI Project: 20/20 will travel in pairs or small groups to screen their films for audiences at universities, film archives, libraries or other institutions here and abroad. In 2006-2007, 15 of the 19 filmmakers traveled to Tucson; San Francisco; Chicago; Silver Spring, MD; St. Louis; Athens, OH; Salt Lake City; and Seattle. Following this domestic tour, AFI Project: 20/20 went abroad for programs in Kuwait and South Africa, with more visits planned to Israel, China, Turkey, Azerbaijan, South Korea and Malaysia.

How can I get more information?

Please visit AFI FEST 2007 Website: <http://www.afi.com/afifest>

Notable Quotes:

"One of the best ways we can deepen our friendships with the people of all countries is for us to better understand each other's cultures by enjoying each other's literature, music, films and visual arts."

--First Lady Mrs. Laura Bush, announcing the Global Cultural Initiative, September 2006