

27 October 2005

05/80

**BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES WINNER OF THE TIMES *bfi* LONDON  
FILM FESTIVAL GRIERSON AWARD**

*Workingman's Death* by acclaimed director Michael Glawogger, is this year's winner of The Times *bfi* London Film Festival Grierson Award.

New to the festival this year, The Times *bfi* London Film Festival Grierson Award is given to the director of the best feature-length documentary shown at the Festival.

The director Michael Glawogger will be presented with the award at a special screening of the documentary at 6.15pm, Tues 1 Nov in NFT2, National Film Theatre.

"A harrowing and visually stunning excursion into the brutal realities of life for manual labourers across the world," explained Sandra Hebron, artistic director of the festival, "This is a truly original and thought-provoking documentary and a deserving winner of our inaugural presentation of The Times *bfi* London Film Festival Grierson Award ."

Austrian documentary maker Michael Glawogger maps out heavy manual labour in all its magnificence and brutality, asking what it means for workers around the world. In *Heroes*, he introduces Ukrainian miners, illegally digging for coal in abandoned seams in the snowy Donetsk valley; *Ghosts* find him amongst sulphur mines in Indonesia; a hellish slaughterhouse in Nigeria is the location for *Lions*; The *Brothers* are the Gaddani shipbreakers, who perform their dangerous work with perfectly choreographed co-ordination; in China, he greets a bright *Future* in the steelworks of Angang; Meanwhile in Germany, a former smelting works has been turned into a leisure centre.

The Times *bfi* London Film Festival Grierson Award given by The Grierson Trust, commemorates the pioneering Scottish documentary maker John Grierson (1898 – 1972), famous for *Drifters* and *Night Mail* and the man widely regarded as the father

of the British documentary. The Grierson Trust through its own annual awards – The British Documentary Awards – has a long-standing tradition of recognising outstanding films that demonstrate integrity, originality and technical excellence, and social or cultural significance.

The Times *bfi* London Film Festival Grierson Award was judged this year by Grierson Trustees, Jean Young and Larry Chrisfield, and from The Times *bfi* London Film Festival artistic director Sandra Hebron and programmer Michael Hayden.

## THE GRIERSON TRUST

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### **Notes to Editors:**

- The Times *bfi* London Film Festival Grierson Award is for the best feature-length documentary shown at the festival. The winner is selected by a jury with an expertise in, and passion for cinema from both The Grierson Trust and The Times *bfi* London Film Festival.
- The 49<sup>th</sup> Times *bfi* London Film Festival marks the first year for the presentation of The Times *bfi* London Film Festival Grierson Award.
- The 10 films shortlisted for this year's award are:  
Crossing the Bridge: The Sound of Istanbul- dir. Fatih Akin  
Estamira- dir. Marcos Prado  
Murderball- dirs. Henry Alex Rubin, Dana Adam Shapiro  
Not Really Ours- dir. Ramiro Longo  
Sisters in Law- dirs. Kim Longinotto, Florence Ayisi  
The Hillers- dir. Sharon Attias  
The Sky Turns- dir. Mercedes Alvarez  
Twist of Faith- dir. Kirby Dick  
Workingman's Death- dir. Michael Glawogger  
You're Gonna Miss Me- dir. Keven McAlester
- The British Film Institute's purpose is to champion moving image culture in all its richness and diversity across the UK, for the benefit of as wide an audience as possible, and to create and encourage debate. It does this by developing opportunities for all UK citizens to engage with film, TV and media heritage and culture. The *bfi* also works closely with national and regional partners to provide a focus for the diversity of UK moving image culture, while playing a key role in influencing the national and international agenda.

- Established in 1933, the *bfi* provides a wide range of services, including: *bfi* National Film Theatre (NFT), *bfi* London IMAX Cinema (Britain's largest screen), *bfi* National Library (the world's leading specialist film & television library), *bfi* National Film & Television Archive (NFTVA, one of the world's oldest and largest culturally significant film & TV archives), The Times *bfi* London Film Festival, *bfi* London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, *bfi* Distribution (making a wealth of world cinema available for theatrical screening across the UK), the renowned *bfi* DVD & Video catalogue of world and historic cinema, a wide range of award-winning *bfi* publications and *bfi* education materials, film footage, film stills, and research services for the commercial media industry, and the highly-respected Sight & Sound film magazine.