

SUBJECT: Young People's Favorite LUCKY has Italian Premiere at Giffoni Film Festival

BODY:

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****Screeners available on request**

**LUCKY,
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY AVIE LUTHRA
HAS ITS ITALIAN PREMIERE AT 2012 GIFFONI FILM FESTIVAL**

"A simple but profoundly moving portrait of humanity" - BBC

"An emotionally resonant portrait of contemporary South Africa...delicate and real...extraordinarily touching" - Variety

Sihle Dlamini undercuts his beguiling innocence with riveting gravitas - Macleans

"Upholds human kindness and faith amidst a racist society" - The Times of India

WINNER – Best Film – Bengaluru International Film Festival

WINNER – Best Actress – Jayashree Basavaraj, Abu Dhabi Film Festival

WINNER – Best Crossover Film – London Asian Film Festival

WINNER – Gold Remi Award – Family and Children – Worldfest Houston

WINNER – Special Mention Award – Cape Winelands Film Festival

Giffoni Valle Piana, July 2, 2012.

How could a recently orphaned, 10-year old homeless South African boy ever be called Lucky?

After playing to packed audiences at Toronto, Busan, Bangalore, Abu Dhabi, Hong Kong and at children's festivals in Belgium, Sweden, and Switzerland, *LUCKY* will have its Italian premiere at the 2012 Giffoni Film Festival, competing in Generator +13.

The story: Over the grave of his dead mother, Lucky promises to make something of himself. He travels to the city with the hope of going to school, but is turned away by his good-for-nothing uncle. Homeless but determined, Lucky arrives at the door of a bigoted elderly Indian woman, who takes him in as she would a stray dog. Together, despite a racial divide and language barrier, they develop an unlikely bond and try to find Lucky a new life and family.

Through an odyssey marked by greed, violence, and ultimately, belonging, LUCKY shows how a child's spirit can bring out decency, humility and even love in adults struggling to survive in the new South Africa.

Written and directed by Avie Luthra (*Mad, Sad and Bad*), LUCKY is based upon the 2006 short, which was nominated for 43 international awards and short-listed for an Oscar. LUCKY introduces Sihle Dlamini as the tenacious *Lucky*, stars accomplished Indian actress Jayashree Basavaraj (Best Actress – 2011 Abu Dhabi Film Festival), and co-stars James Ngcobo, Vusi Kunene (*The First Grader*) and Brenda Ngxoli. The film is in Zulu and Hindi with English subtitles and stands out as the first ever crossover Indian-South African film.

LUCKY is a How Town Film Productions/ Out of Africa Entertainment production, with Christopher J. Wilmot (*Revenge for Jolly, Jam, Lost*) and Lance Samuels (*Bang Bang Club, Africa United*) serving as Producers and Wilmot as Executive Producer. Cinematography by Willie Nel (*Hopeville, White Wedding*), edited by Josh Levinsky, production design by Chantel Carter (*Crimes that Shook the World*), and costume design by Zureta Schulz with the music score by Philip Miller (*Catch a Fire, Bang Bang Club*).

SCREENINGS:

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Downloadable [press kit](#), [images](#) available

View [trailer](#)

View [listing on Giffoni Experience](#)

Press Kit: <http://www.luckythemovie2011.com/files/LuckytheMoviePressKit2012.pdf>

Trailer: <http://luckythemovie2011.com/LuckyMovieTrailer.html>

Images: <http://luckythemovie2011.com/LuckytheMoviePhotoStills.html>

Giffoni Listing: <http://www.giffonifilmfestival.it/en/film-selected-for-gff-2012/official-competition/generator-13-official-competition/item/10-lucky.html>

LUCKY Official Website: <http://www.luckythemovie2011.com/index.html>

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