



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

**FOR THE FIRST TIME**

**TO PRESENT A SPECIAL EVENING WITH MIRA NAIR  
TO BENEFIT MAISHA FILM LAB**

**FEATURING THE US PREMIERE OF**

**“8”**

**100% of the proceeds from the screening to go to MAISHA,  
Mira Nair’s non-profit East African Film Lab  
which empowers emerging artists in the region**

East Hampton, NY – September 23, 2009 - The Hamptons International Film Festival is proud to present a special benefit screening and US premiere of the film '8', an unprecedented collection of short films by 8 World-renowned directors (including Mira Nair, Wim Wenders, Jane Campion and Gus Van Sant) each taking on one of the 8 “Millennium Development Goals” for 2015, adopted by 191 countries.

Director Mira Nair (*Monsoon Wedding, The Namesake, Vanity Fair*) will be at the Festival to present the film and share the work of MAISHA, her non-profit African Film Lab established to empower emerging artists in the region.

"Maisha's mission of providing a voice to the next generation of filmmakers is such a valuable goal, and we're thrilled to be a part of this benefit, says Executive Director Karen Arikian. “With Mira Nair to represent this prestigious collection of short films, our audiences will have a chance to hear from one of cinema's most talented and generous voices.”

Quote Mira Nair: "'How Can It Be', my segment for 8, is based on a true story of a woman and the difficult choices she made. I've always been drawn to films of worlds that are rarely seen or heard on screen, which is the reason I founded Maisha, our film school in East Africa. I'm

honored that the Hamptons International Film Festival has given us a platform to bring these two projects together."

This premiere screening with Mira Nair and moderated by Rajendra Roy, Chief Curator of Film at MoMA will take place on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm at Guild Hall.

100% of the proceeds for this evening will be donated to Maisha Film Lab.

Maisha (which means 'life' in Kiswahili) is a groundbreaking filmmakers' training program founded by acclaimed director Mira Nair and based in Kampala, Uganda. Maisha's mission is to nurture and support emerging film professionals from East Africa by offering intensives in screenwriting, directing, producing, cinematography, editing, sound, and acting. Our motto is: "if we don't tell our own stories, no one else will."

The 2009 Hamptons International Film Festival takes place Thursday to Monday, October 8th – 12th, which includes Columbus Day Weekend.

The Hamptons International Film Festival is supported by American Airlines, Altour and c/o The Maidstone Hotel.

#### **ABOUT THE HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

The Hamptons International Film Festival was founded to celebrate the Independent film - long, short, fiction and documentary - and to introduce a unique, varied spectrum of international films and filmmakers to the public. The Festival is committed to exhibiting films that express fresh voices and differing global perspectives, with the hope that these programs will enlighten audiences, provide invaluable exposure for filmmakers and present inspired entertainment for all.

For more information about the Festival, [and to become a member](#), please visit our website at [www.hamptonsfilmfest.org](http://www.hamptonsfilmfest.org).

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