

PRESS RELEASE
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SOUTH AFRICA PICKS 'FOUR CORNERS' FOR OSCAR CONTENDER

As current as this week's headlines, local feature film *Four Corners* is now making its own headlines with its selection as South Africa's official 2014 foreign-language Academy Award contender. The film is the first 'foreign language' entry to blend Sabela (the coded prison language of the Number gangs) Tsotsi-taal, Cape Afrikaans and English.

Set in the Cape ganglands, the coming of age crime thriller, directed by **Ian Gabriel**, tells the story of a young chess prodigy who must defy the odds and stay one move ahead of the gangs in a game where losing can be the difference between life or death. The film plays out aspects of the war fought and reported daily on the streets of the Cape Flats, home to the Number Gang factions in the ghetto dune area outside Cape Town.

The film's producers Cindy Gabriel and Genevieve Hofmeyr expressed their excitement at *Four Corners* 'first steps into the outside world. The film's themes of fatherhood, family and coming of age are universal and will appeal to a world audience and especially to a savvy youth audience, who will love the music, performances and story telling that reach deep into the vibrant life of the often forgotten and unknown world on the Flats.' The film is scored by **Markus Wormstorm** and features a range of South African music from Khula Chani and Felix la Band to Khyle Shepherd, Hemelbesem and others.

The Oscar selection panel singled out "outstanding and extremely believable performances". Director Ian Gabriel commented that 'several of the players were first-time actors and non-actors, all of whom deliver great performances, many of which were created by teaming established talent with 'real people' performers, enabling both to reach deep into shared and individual experiences. The result is performances that clearly access the passion, emotion and conviction required for the broad palette of the characters and their roles in the film'.

Lead actors **Brendon Daniels** and **Lindiwe Matshikiza** and **Irshaad Ally** deliver electrifying performances, as does newcomer **Jezriel Skei** who plays 13 year old Ricardo, the leading role in the film.

The selection committee's unanimous decision in favor of *Four Corners* lauded the great production values in the film, making particular mention of the authenticity and believability of the film, where "the line between fiction and reality is often blurred". The recommendation concluded by commenting that it was "refreshing to see a film boldly tackling a part of our life not usually explored".

Ian Gabriel's previous film **Forgiveness** was a Golden Leopard nominee at Locarno and was listed by CNN's African Voices as one of the top ten African films of the last decade.

Four Corners is currently on limited release at The Bioscope Independent Cinema in Johannesburg. The general release of the film is scheduled for later in the year. *Four Corners* is distributed by Indigenous Films in South Africa and has already been picked up by worldwide sales company, The Little Film Company in LA.

The film is produced by Giant Films and Moonlighting Films and is funded by Giant Films, The Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa, The National Film and

Video Foundation and the DTI.