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Picks
Movies: Festival

As some critics say Cannes is taking a narrow focus, U.S. venues try a global approach

By **NATE HERPICH**
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With some criticizing next week's Cannes international film festival for a less international lineup than usual, a proliferation of festivals in the U.S. this summer are offering new competition in the global film scene.

This year, most films chosen for the "in competition" category at Cannes come from the U.S., France, Italy or Latin America, with little representation for Asia, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. But from three Polish film festivals in the last three weeks -- in New York, L.A. and Seattle -- to Turkish film festivals in both Boston and Atlanta last month, U.S. festivals are emerging as some of the biggest venues for international films. Below, three U.S. festivals in the coming weeks featuring countries passed over for Cannes competition.


Silk Screen Film Festival, Pittsburgh

May 12-20

The lineup of more than 20 feature films from Asia this year includes the South Korean comedy "Mapado." The film tells the story of two men, one a gangster and the other a corrupt cop, who wind up trapped on an island with five elderly women who haven't laid eyes on a man in years.


Seattle International Film Festival

May 25-June 18


Danish directors such as Lars Von Trier have been frequent winners at Cannes, but this year Denmark is absent from the competition. This Seattle festival, however, will feature a special Danish program of 12 features, including the U.S. premiere of "1:1" by Annette Olesen. The film focuses on relations between the Danish and Arab Muslim immigrants in Denmark.


Brooklyn International Film Festival

June 2-11

A selection of films from Iraq, Iran and Israel, as well as Europe and Asia, will be showing in Brooklyn, N.Y., this year. Making its world premiere will be "The Last Queen of the Earth," from Iranian director Mohammad Reza Arab. The main character is a young Afghan working in Iran and attempting to return to his family in Afghanistan before a military attack.

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