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LINEUP ANNOUNCED FOR THIS YEAR'S CHILDREN'S FILMFEST AT THE MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL

**"Circus Dreams" the theme for program of films from around the world
made for families and children, including clown workshops and
parades with stilt walkers, clowns, and jugglers**

SAN RAFAEL, CA (August 4, 2011) – The annual Children's FilmFest, now in its 17th year, features a superb selection of children's international features and shorts, along with kids' workshops and a costume parade that will be led by a jazz band. Presented by the California Film Institute (CFI) as part of the 34th Mill Valley Film Festival, October 6–16, the four films chosen for this year's Children's FilmFest are **BEING ELMO: A PUPPETEER'S JOURNEY**, **CIRCUS DREAMS**, **LIGHT OF THE RIVER** and **MAGIC SILVER**. Two of the four films are in foreign languages, but will be shown with live English translation on headphones in some theaters. Tickets for Children's FilmFest programs are \$10 general admission, for both kids and adults.

Making its California premiere at the MVFF Children's FilmFest, the documentary **BEING ELMO: A PUPPETEER'S JOURNEY** tells the story of Kevin Clash, the man behind Elmo, Narrated by Whoopi Goldberg, this film looks deep into the world of *Sesame Street* and the Jim Henson Workshop.

In the world of traveling circus groups, there is only one in the United States made up of performers between the ages of 12 and 18, Circus Smirkus. **CIRCUS DREAMS** is a feature-length documentary that takes viewers into a world many only think about as a kid: the circus. The film reveals the inner workings and culture of a traveling circus group and gives perspective on life as an American teenager and the connection to an art made popular in the 18th century.

Immediately following the first San Rafael screening of **CIRCUS DREAMS**, directed by Signe Taylor, children and parents can join a circus-themed parade with stilt walkers, clowns, jugglers and horse- and bareback riders marching on a route around the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center in downtown San Rafael. Children will receive free ice cream, balloons and other goodies, and everyone is encouraged to attend the screening and parade dressed in circus-themed costumes.

In the Japanese animated adventure **LIGHT OF THE RIVER**, viewers follow a family of rats who are forced to move to the city after their riverbank home is destroyed by a construction project. The family now has to make new friends, learn the unfamiliar territory and fight off numerous dangers as they search to find a home.

In the Norwegian live-action film **MAGIC SILVER**, a young gnome named Princess Bluerose, living deep in the Norwegian mountains, must go on an adventure to find the stolen magic silver — which gnomes use to transition between day and night. Princess Bluerose must go out on a journey to save the world from eternal darkness.

Children's FilmFest Flex Pass

Tickets for Children's FilmFest programs are \$10 general admission, for both kids and adults. This year the MVFF Children's FilmFest again offers the popular Children's FilmFest Flex Pass, which gives filmgoers four admissions to Children's FilmFest programs and admission to the children's party on the second weekend of the FilmFest for only \$25.

About the California Film Institute (CFI)

The non-profit California Film Institute celebrates and promotes film as art and education through the presentation of the Mill Valley Film Festival and year-round exhibitions at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, film distribution by CFI Releasing and building the next generation of filmmakers and audiences through the CFI Education program. For more information visit cafilm.org or call 415.383.5256.

For Calendar Editors:

THE 34th MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL

One of the nation's top-10 film festivals, celebrating the best of independent and world cinema

Marin County, California

Thursday, October 6–Sunday, October 16, 2011

mvff.com

Full schedule of films to be announced Tuesday, September 13, 2011

On-Sale Dates

Wednesday, September 14, 2011: advance tickets available to CFI members

Monday, September 19, 2011: tickets on sale to general public

MVFF34 press materials available at cafilm.org/press/MVFF_2011/