



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts

Karen Larsen, Larsen & Associates
415.957.1205; larsenassc@aol.com

Kevin Heverin, MVFF/CFI
415.526.5845; kheverin@cafilm.org

Stephanie Clark, Hamilton Ink PR
steph@hamiltoninkpr.com

Prominent Fall Film Festival Returns for Its 34th Year

Mill Valley Film Festival Announces Eleven Days of Premieres and Exclusive Events Celebrating the Best of Independent and World Cinema

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (September 13, 2011) — The internationally acclaimed **Mill Valley Film Festival**, greatly anticipated by cinema fans and film industry veterans alike, offers a high-profile, prestigious, noncompetitive environment that is perfect for celebrating the best of independent and world cinema. Considered by many to be a launching pad for the Oscar® campaign, this year's film festival promises to be no exception.

Opening and Closing Night Galas

This year's MVFF opens on **Thursday, October 6** with two films that are favored to be among the top major independent releases of 2011. **ALBERT NOBBS**, starring **Glenn Close**, who is expected to attend, will be screened at the **Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center at 7 p.m.** **ALBERT NOBBS** tells the story of a woman avoiding poverty in mid-19th-century Ireland by dressing and working as a man. **JEFF WHO LIVES AT HOME** will be screened at the **CinéArts@Sequoia in Mill Valley at 7 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.** **JEFF WHO LIVES AT HOME** is the story of a 30-year old unemployed stoner on a collision course with destiny in a funny, sincere, and rousing exploration of life's Big Questions. The film stars **Jason Segel, Susan Sarandon, Ed Helms** and **Judy Greer**. Directed by **Jay and Mark Duplass**, who will also be in attendance, this marks the film's **US premiere**. After the screenings, the **Opening Night Gala kicks off at the Mill Valley Community Center at 9 p.m.**

Continued over...

Closing Night at the Festival will feature a special screening of **THE ARTIST** starring **Jean Dujardin, John Goodman, James Cromwell, Penelope Ann Miller** and **Missi Pyle**. Directed by **Michael Hazanavicius**, who is expected to be in attendance, **THE ARTIST** is the story of a silent-film star resisting the transition to sound set in 1927 Hollywood. After the film, the **Closing Night Party** will take place at **Albert Park/San Rafael Community Center from 7-10 p.m.**

Spotlight, Centerpiece & Tribute Events

MVFF is proud to announce these very special events with special guests in attendance. A Tribute to to Oscar®-nominated actress **Glenn Close** and her stellar career will happen on **Friday, October 7 at 8:00 p.m.** at the Smith Rafael Film Center. The event will include career clips and onstage interview. A reception at Piatti Ristorante & Bar in Mill Valley will follow. On **Saturday, October 8 at 7:30 p.m.** a **Spotlight** honoring actress **Michelle Yeoh** will take place at the **Smith Rafael Film Center** with a Q&A and screening of her latest film, **THE LADY**, a profound and epic love story chronicling the life of prodemocracy activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi. Yeoh attends MVFF with **Luc Besson**, the internationally esteemed director and producer of **THE LADY**. After the program, the evening will continue with dinner at Frantoio Ristorante & Olive Oil Co. in Mill Valley. The first weekend of the Festival culminates on **Sunday, October 9 at 4:30 p.m.**, with an MVFF **Tribute** to West African director **Gaston Kaboré** honoring his remarkable career and contribution to African film including an onstage conversation and rare screening of his classic **WEND KUUNI (GOD'S GIFT)**. Afterwards the evening continues with dinner at Acqua Mill Valley, catered by Delicious! Catering.

The new film by British director Simon Curtis, **MY WEEK WITH MARILYN**, starring **Michelle Williams** as Marilyn Monroe and **Kenneth Branagh** as Laurence Olivier, will be screened as the **Centerpiece** event at the **Smith Rafael Film Center on Tuesday, October 11 at 6:45 p.m.** A slate of hot, amazing young talent in standout performances is very noticeable in the Festival this year and MVFF will be putting a Spotlight on two of these up and coming actors. On **Thursday, October 13 at 7:30 p.m.** a **Spotlight** honoring actor **Ezra Miller** will take place at the **Smith Rafael Film Center** with an onstage interview and **US Premiere** of his new film **WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN**. While on **Saturday, October 15 at 8 p.m.** MVFF presents the film **MARTHA MARCY MAY MARLENE** as part of a Spotlight program and conversation with **Elizabeth Olsen**.

The **North American premiere** of **A FEW BEST MEN**, starring **Xavier Samuel** (*Twilight*) as a young British husband-to-be and **Olivia Newton John** as his Australian future mother-in-law, will

Continued next...

take place on **Friday, October 14 at 8:30 p.m. at the Smith Rafael Film Center**. The film's director **Stephan Elliott** (*The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*) will attend this special premiere screening and celebration along with surprise guests! Following onstage conversation/Q&A with noted guests, a reception follows at the Donna Seager Gallery.

Live Music Event

MVFF and Steep Productions, Inc. will present a live concert on **Saturday, October 15, 7:30 p.m. at 142 Throckmorton Theatre in Mill Valley** honoring the great Indian musician and teacher, Ali Akbar Khan. The subject of the new documentary *Play Like a Lion: The Legacy of Maestro Ali Akbar Khan*, who was greatly revered by many fellow musicians, including **Mickey Hart, Zakir Hussain, Carlos Santana** and **Derek Trucks**— all of whom are featured in the film. This concert will showcase a diverse set of musicians inspired by inspired and influenced by the maestro. They will be celebrating the man, his family, and the filmmakers as well as performing with Khan's son, **Alam Khan**, and other master musicians from the Ali Akbar Khan College of Music, along with surprise guests.

Children's FilmFest

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 as part of the 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 a live English translation with headphones for children in some theaters. Tickets for Children's FilmFest programs are \$10 general admission, both kids and adults. the Children's FilmFest is offering the **Children's FilmFest Flex Pass** that allows filmgoers to enjoy four admissions plus the Children's FilmFest Opening Party Extravaganza, all for only \$25.

Active Cinema: Putting Ideas Into Action

The Mill Valley Film Festival's Active Cinema program is once again presenting compelling films that will inspire audiences to put ideas into action. Featuring both documentary and fiction, national and international, all are united in their commitment to **explore** the world and its issues; to **engage** audiences; and to **transform** society. On **Sunday, October 9, 2:00 pm at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center**, director **Luc Besson**, (*The Lady, The Fifth Element, La Femme Nikita*), actress **Michelle Yeoh**, (*The Lady; Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Tomorrow Never Dies*), and director **Pamela Yates** (*When the Mountains Tremble, Granito: How*

Continued over...

to *Nail A Dictator*), will participate in a panel discussion entitled “**Can a Film Make the Difference?**” about the innovative ways, means and resources they’ve employed in getting their work seen, heard and acted upon. Also, on **Sunday, October 9, 4:45 pm, at 142 Throckmorton Theatre** will be **ALL IN THE THUMBS: SMARTPHONES AND EDUCATION** a panel that will immediately follow the Festival screening of the documentary **THUMBS** (panel included with admission to film). Academy Award winning director **Bill Couturié**, TV series producer **Michael Tollin**, **Caroline Knorr**, parenting editor at Common Sense Media, and **Ingrid Hu-Dahl**, Director of Next Gen programs, Bay Area Video Coalition will debate the value of multi-platform Smartphone devices and whether they offer a benefit or pose a threat to the educator. In conjunction with the screening of **VOICES FROM THE SHADOWS** at the Festival, a discussion of the controversies and myths surrounding ME/CFS, an extreme form of chronic fatigue, “**Mystery, Myth or Madness?**” on **Saturday, October 8, 2:00 pm, Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center** featuring **David Tuller**, Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley lecturer and frequent contributor to the *New York Times*, **Natalie Boulton**, filmmaker, *Voices From The Shadows*, and **Dr. Jose Montoya**, associate professor, Stanford School of Medicine.

Also, additional panels taking place at this year’s MVFF as part of the **NEW MOVIES LAB** section are **THE STATE OF THE (INDEPENDENT FILM) INDUSTRY** with distributor **Ed Arentz**, **Music Box Films**, producer **Ron Yerxa**, **Bona Fide Productions**, **Annie Roney** founder of **ro*co films** along with other panelists to be announced on **Saturday, October 15, 12 p.m. at the Smith Rafael Film Center** (panel ticket includes reception immediately following). On **Saturday, October 8, 11 a.m. at the Smith Rafael Film Center** will be **MEET THE EXPERTS: THE BUSINESS OF FILM** with **Peter Belsito** and **Sydney Levine** of **Film Finders** who will discuss strategies on topics ranging from financing to co-production.

34th Mill Valley Film Festival

Presented by the California Film Institute, the 34th Mill Valley Film Festival runs October 6-16, 2011 at the CinéArts@Sequoia (25 Throckmorton Avenue, Mill Valley), Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center (1118 Fourth Street, San Rafael) and other venues throughout the Bay Area. **Tickets are \$13.50 (CFI Members, \$11), unless otherwise noted and are available for purchase starting on September 14 for Director’s Circle, Premier Patron and Cinema Benefactors only, September 17 for all CFI Members only, and starting on September 19 for the general public.** Regular tickets may be purchased online at mvff.com. For additional information, please visit mvff.com or call 877.874.MVFF (6833)

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 www.cafilm.org or call (415) 383-5256.

Continued next...

Sponsors

As a nonprofit arts organization, MVFF relies on the generosity of its community to sustain not only the Festival, but also the year-round programs of the California Film Institute. The invaluable support of our sponsors, foundations, and individual donors ensures our continued success as we celebrate our 34th year. CFI is once again proud to acknowledge the leadership support of Christopher B. and Jeannie Meg Smith, and the continued major support of Jennifer Coslett MacCready, The Bernard Osher Foundation, the Gruber Family Foundation, the Marin Community Foundation, the Christine Zecca Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation and the Major Industry Support of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences. We are also fortunate to have the continued contributions of the following Major Sponsors of the Mill Valley Film Festival: Wells Fargo, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Maroevich, O'Shea & Coghlan Insurance Services, Frantoio Ristorante and Olive Oil Co., Zaentz Media Center/A Wareham Development, Bellam Self Storage & Boxes and LRG Capital Real Estate.

MVFF press materials are available at <http://filmmakers.mvff.com>.

Username: pr Password: 34mvff

###