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**MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES  
2016 FESTIVAL DATES AND CALL FOR ENTRIES**

SAN RAFAEL, CA (February 17, 2016) – Mark Fishkin, California Film Institute (CFI) Executive Director and Founder, announced today the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF39) will be held Thursday, October 6 – Sunday, October 16, 2016.

MVFF's programming team, led by Zoë Elton, Director of Programming, also announced the Festival's Call for Entries for feature length films (50 + minutes) and short films in the following categories: Narrative, Documentary, Animation, Children and Family, Experimental and Youth Produced. Festival sections include Official Premieres, World Cinema, US Cinema, Valley of the Docs, Children's FilmFest, and the popular "5@5" shorts programs.

MVFF's regular submission period begins Tuesday, March 1 and ends June 17, 2016.

The Mill Valley Film Festival entry form will be available for download at [www.mvff.com](http://www.mvff.com). Preview formats for submissions are DVD (NTSC: Region 1 or Region 0). MVFF will also accept online submissions through Film Freeway, [www.filmfreeway.com](http://www.filmfreeway.com), and WithoutABox, [www.withoutabox.com](http://www.withoutabox.com) as an economical, eco-friendly, and secure alternative to traditional hard-copy DVD submissions. Presentation formats for films accepted to MVFF are 35mm and DCP.

Designated as one of the "20 Film Festivals Worth the Entry Fee" by Moviemaker magazine, the Mill Valley Film Festival offers a high profile, prestigious, non-competitive environment perfect for celebrating the best in independent and world cinema.

With a reputation for launching new films and creating awards season buzz, MVFF has a knack for spotting emerging talent as well as drawing legendary artists. Known as the "filmmaker's festival", MVFF welcomes more than 200 filmmakers and guests from around the world and in the past three years alone has hosted such luminaries as Sir Ian McKellen, Brie Larson, Tom McCarthy, Tom Hooper, Catherine Hardwicke, Carey Mulligan, Marcel Ophuls, JC Chandor,

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Damien Chazelle, Geoffrey Rush, Steve McQueen, Ben Stiller, Jared Leto, Jason Reitman, Eddie Redmayne, Hilary Swank, and Laura Dern, among many others.

Last year, the festival featured over 270 screenings of 185 films, representing 50 countries, with 41 official premieres and more than 68,000 audience members present.

**About the Mill Valley Film Festival**

Presented by the California Film Institute, the 39<sup>th</sup> Festival runs October 6 – 16, 2016. Locations this year include: CinéArts@Sequoia (Mill Valley), Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center (San Rafael), Lark Theatre (Larkspur) and other theatres throughout the Bay Area. With a reputation for launching new films and creating awards season buzz, MVFF has earned a reputation as a “filmmakers’ festival” by celebrating the best in American independent and world cinema alongside high profile and prestigious award contenders.

**About the California Film Institute**

The non-profit California Film Institute celebrates and promotes film as art and education through year-round programming at the non-profit Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, presentation of the acclaimed Mill Valley Film Festival and cultivation of the next generation of filmmakers and audiences through CFI Education programs. For more information, visit [www.cafilm.org](http://www.cafilm.org) or call (415) 383-5256