



Media Contacts

**Shelley Spicer, Mill Valley Film Festival**

415.526.5845; [sspicer@cafilm.org](mailto:sspicer@cafilm.org)

**Karen Larsen, Larsen Associates**

415.957.1205; [Karen@larsenassoc.com](mailto:Karen@larsenassoc.com)

**Stephanie Clarke, Hamilton Ink PR**

415.381.8198; [steph@hamiltoninkpr.com](mailto:steph@hamiltoninkpr.com)

*(Above numbers and emails are not for publication)*

**For Immediate Release**

38th Mill Valley Film Festival, October 8 – 18, 2015  
Celebrating the Best in Independent and World Cinema

**BEHIND THE SCREENS  
PANELS, MASTER CLASSES, AND CONVERSATIONS  
AT THE 38TH MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL**

**SAN RAFAEL, CA.** (September 9, 2015) –The California Film Institute is pleased to present the following panels, master classes and conversations as part of the BEHIND THE SCREENS program at the 38th Mill Valley Film Festival.

**Master Class | BOBBY ROTH: A DIRECTOR PREPARES**

BOBBY ROTH has directed more than 80 episodes of television (*Lost, Grey's Anatomy, Revenge*), 25 television movies and 13 feature films, and has been teaching film seminars around the world for the last ten years. This master class demystifies the craft of directing, handing over the tools to aspiring filmmakers so they feel comfortable walking on a set and calling "action!"

***Saturday, October 10 at 10AM at Sweetwater Music Hall; Sunday, October 11 at 10AM at Sweetwater Music Hall***

**Active Cinema Hike | NETWORKING IN NATURE**

Filmmakers and festival guests can join the MVFF staff on this free hike, exchanging ideas while getting fresh air on the Tennessee Valley Trail.

***Saturday, October 10 at 10AM at Tennessee Valley Trail***

**Panel + Reception | GIVE US A BREAK!**

Sponsored by LUNAFEST, this panel aims to answer the questions many women face in the film business. How do you find opportunity in the film industry? Is there such a thing as a "lucky break"? How do women make and sustain viable careers in film? The following panelists will share their experiences, answering these questions and many others.

- JUDY BECKER, production designer (*Carol, American Hustle, Silver Linings Playbook*)
- JENA MALONE, actress (*Angelica, The Hunger Games, Into The Wild*)
- STACY L. SMITH, PhD Associate Professor at USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, director of research-driven initiative on Media, Diversity, and Social Change
- VALERIE WEISS, director (*A Light Beneath Their Feet, Losing Control, Dance by Design*)
- Moderator: MELISSA SILVERSTEIN, writer; speaker; founder, Women and Hollywood

***Saturday, October 10 at 11AM at Throckmorton Theater***

**Active Cinema Film Screening + Panel | OPEN YOUR EYES**

Join the Mill Valley Film Festival for the world premiere of the short documentary *Open Your Eyes*, about an elderly Nepalese couple who receive life-changing cataract surgery, followed by a

post-film discussion on what it takes to make films that rock the world. Can documentaries elevate the social agenda? Join a group of game-changers whose commitment to the power of storytelling in film is helping to open hearts and minds and raise awareness on the compelling issues of the day. Screening and panel followed by *Sing Out for Sight*, a benefit concert for Seva Foundation at the Sweetwater Music Hall. Invited guests include:

- IRENE TAYLOR-BRODSKY, Director, *Open Your Eyes*
- SARA BERNSTEIN, senior vice president, HBO Documentary Films (Bernstein oversees the production and development of documentary and non-fiction films for HBO, including award winning films like *The Case Against 8* and *The Crash Reel*.)
- SANDY HERZ, Director of Global Partnerships, Skoll Foundation
- Moderator: LARRY BRILLIANT, MD, MPH, Chairman, Skoll Global Threats Fund; Co-Founder, Seva Foundation; producer (*Open Your Eyes*)

**Saturday, October 10 at 5:30PM at CinéArts Sequoia**

#### **Master Class | A CONVERSATION WITH CATHERINE HARDWICKE**

MVFF38 Tributee CATHERINE HARDWICKE will discuss her career from her roots as a production designer to her films including *Twilight*, *Thirteen* and *Tank Girl*. Hardwicke has proven over the course of her career that it is possible to sustain a viable creative life in the film industry. Writer, speaker and founder of Women and Hollywood, MELISSA SILVERSTEIN will join Hardwicke on stage.

**Sunday, October 11 at 12:30PM at Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center**

#### **Master Class | THE HEROINE'S JOURNEY: WRITING AND SELLING THE FEMALE DRIVEN SCREENPLAY**

Screenwriter PAMELA GRAY (*A Walk on the Moon*, *Music of the Heart*, *Conviction*) and story consultant TOM SCHLESINGER (*Prom Night in Mississippi*, *Nowhere in Africa*, *A Small Act*) will guide audiences through the process of writing authentic female characters and the difference between the character arcs of female and male protagonists.

**Saturday, October 17 at 11AM at Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center**

#### **Panel + Reception | MVFF STATE OF THE INDUSTRY CONVERSATION**

As new technologies and DIY distribution models continue to emerge, filmmakers are left with a series of questions including: how can you connect with your audience in an increasingly crowded entertainment landscape and how do these new technologies affect independent filmmakers? The annual MVFF STATE OF THE INDUSTRY CONVERSATION will look to answer these questions and explore new sustainable business models that enable filmmakers to thrive. Invited guests include:

- RUSS COLLINS, director, State & Michigan Theaters, Ann Arbor, MI; founder/director, Art House Convergence; artistic director/founder, Cinetopia Festival Detroit
- IRA DEUTCHMAN, president, Deutchman Company Inc.; marketing and distribution consultant; producer (*Kiss Me*, *Guido*, *54*)
- BOUS DE JONG, producer, Daniel Film (*How To Change the World*, *BBC's Classic Albums Series*)
- KOMAL MINHAS, producer, writer, investor (*Dream*, *Girl*; *Without Love It Ain't Much*)
- Moderator: MARK FISHKIN, founder/director, Mill Valley Film Festival

**Saturday, October 17 at 1PM at Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center; Reception at Vin Antico to follow**

#### **Variety Contenders Conversation | THE MAKERS OF SUFFRAGETTE**

The powerhouse trio behind the MVFF38 Closing Night film, *Suffragette*, discusses its genesis, creation, and journey to the screen. This *Variety Contenders' Conversation* is a case study where the director, screenwriter and producer will offer insights into the process behind the production. Invited guests include:

- SARAH GARVON, director (*Suffragette*, *Brick Lane*, *Village at the End of the World*)

- ABI MORGAN, screenwriter (*Suffragette*, *The Hour*, *The Iron Lady*, *Shame* (with Steve McQueen), *Brick Lane*)
- FAYE WARD, producer (*Suffragette*, *Jane Eyre*, *Toast*, *The Other Boleyn Girl*)
- Moderator: *Variety* representative, to be announced

**Saturday, October 17 at 2PM at Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center**

#### **Film Screening + Panel | CODE: DEBUGGING THE GENDER GAP**

Following the October 17 screening of *CODE: Debugging the Gender Gap*, teens, and their friends and family are encouraged to join a discussion about gender and diversity gaps in the tech industry. This event is sponsored by Glassdoor. Invited guests include:

- CEDRIC BROWN, chief of community engagement, The Kapor Center
- TRACY CHOU, software engineer, Pinterest
- DANIELLE FEINBERG, director of photography for lighting, Pixar
- MARC HEDLUND, advisor and former VP of Engineering, Stripe; director, *Code: 2040*
- JULIE ANN HORVATH, founder, Passions Projects
- ROBIN HAUSER REYNOLDS, director (*CODE: Debugging the Gender Gap*, *Running for Jim*)
- BLAKE IRVING, CEO, GoDaddy
- Moderator: MARCO R. DELLA CAVA, technology and culture writer, USA Today

**Saturday, October 17 at 2PM at Throckmorton Theater**

#### **Panel | THE FUTURE OF FILM AND TECHNOLOGY**

Join the festival for a lively discussion using history, film, and technology to address questions such as: What have we lost in the transition from celluloid film to digital, and where do we go from here? Sponsored by InVisage Technologies, panelists will discuss how innovations in technology are opening up new paths for the art of film. Invited guests include:

- CHRISTOPHER COPPOLA, director (*Sacred Blood, Creature of the Sunnyside Up Trailer Park*); founder/chairman, Project Accessible Hollywood (PAH)
- JESS LEE, president/CEO, InVisage Technologies
- EMMANUEL LUBEZKI, cinematographer (*Birdman, Gravity*)
- TIFFANY SHLAIN, founder, Webby Awards; co-founder, International Academy of Digital Arts & Sciences, filmmaker (*Connected: An Autobiography About Love, Death & Technology*)
- Moderator: TBD

**Sunday, October 18 at 2PM at Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center**

#### **About the 38th Mill Valley Film Festival**

Presented by the California Film Institute, the 38th Mill Valley Film Festival runs October 8-18, 2015 at the CinéArts Sequoia (25 Throckmorton Ave., Mill Valley), Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center (1118 Fourth Street, San Rafael), and other venues 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. MVFF welcomes more than 200 filmmakers representing more than 50 countries.

#### **About the California Film Institute**

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](http://www.cafilm.org) or call (415) 383-5256.

#### **For Calendar Editors**

**The 38th Mill Valley Film Festival**

Mill Valley Film Festival – *Behind the Screens: Panels, Master Classes and Conversations*  
October 8 – 18, 2015

One of the Nation's Top 10 Film Festivals, celebrating the Best of Independent and World  
Cinema  
Marin County, California

**Thursday, October 8 through Sunday, October 18, 2015**

**On-Sale Date**

For CFI Members: Starts Sunday, September 13, 2015 (dates vary by level)

For the General Public: Saturday, September 19, 2015

[www.MVFF.com](http://www.MVFF.com), [www.CAFilm.org](http://www.CAFilm.org)

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