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For Immediate Release

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

**SIR IAN MCKELLEN
HONORED WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT TRIBUTE
AT THE 38TH MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL**

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (September 24, 2015) –The Mill Valley Film Festival announces today, Sir Ian McKellen will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Tribute, Sunday, October 11, 7:30pm in San Rafael. The evening will feature an on-stage conversation, special showing of clips from his tremendous body of work and presentation of the MVFF Award.

"This tribute couldn't be more timely," notes Director of Programming, Zoë Elton. "While a whole new generation has been turned on to his genius seeing him as Gandalf, Ian McKellen's current performance in *Mr. Holmes* adds another jewel in the crown of an incredible career. It's such beautiful work—and, of course, it brings him back together with director Bill Condon of *Gods and Monsters* fame, the film that garnered McKellen a Best Actor Oscar nomination. We're honoring his whole career. I'll never forget his extraordinary debut on the London stage in the early 70s. And, really, everything he's done since, on stage, screen and TV. What London knew then, the world knows now: he's brilliant."

IAN MCKELLEN

Ian McKellen has made more than 50 films since his feature debut in 1969. In 1996, he co-produced, co-scripted and starred in his screen adaptation of Shakespeare's *Richard III*. After Bryan Singer's *Apt Pupil* in 1998, he received his first Oscar nomination as film director James Whale in *Gods and Monsters*, directed by Bill Condon. A young generation of moviegoers discovered him as the mutant Magneto in the *X-Men* films and as the wizard Gandalf, his Oscar-nominated performance in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. 2015's *Mr. Holmes* (Miramax/Roadside Attractions), in which he plays the world's favorite sleuth Sherlock Holmes in his twilight years, earned McKellen unanimous critical raves ("a gratifyingly but unsurprisingly wonderful performance," A.O. Scott, NY Times) and is one of the most successful independent films of the year.

McKellen has been honored with more than 50 international awards for his performances on screen and stage. Born in 1939 and raised in the industrial north of England of Northern Irish stock, he started acting professionally in 1961. After attending Cambridge University and completing a three-year apprenticeship with regional theatre companies in the UK, he was soon recognized in London as a prominent actor of his generation in Shakespeare and other classical plays.

His youthful performances as Shakespeare's *Richard II* and Marlowe's *Edward II* stormed the 1969 Edinburgh Festival, played two seasons in London, toured Europe and were televised. In pursuit of the ideal theatre ensemble, he was a founder-member of the touring Actors' Company. As leading man for the Royal Shakespeare Company, he has played Macbeth with Judi Dench and Iago with Willard White, and starred in a score of modern plays in London, many for the National Theatre under its first director Laurence Olivier and his successors.

McKellen has been an eloquent advocate for gay rights since he came out in 1988 and co-founded Stonewall, the UK charity which lobbies for legal and social equality for gay people. The following year, he was knighted for his contribution to the performing arts. In 2007, The Queen appointed him Companion of Honour “for services to Drama and Equality”.

McKellen's upcoming projects continue to showcase his versatility -- the wildly popular UK sitcom "Vicious," co-starring Derek Jacobi, airs in the U.S. on PBS; "The Dresser," based on the play and co-starring Anthony Hopkins airs on BBC Television this fall; and his third pairing with director Bill Condon finds him playing Cogsworth the Clock in the Disney live action re-telling of *Beauty and the Beast*.

About the Tribute

An onstage conversation with Sir Ian McKellen featuring assorted clips from his body of work, culminating in the presentation of the MVFF Award. Program is anticipated to run 90 minutes, followed by a reception at Il Fornaio.

Sunday, October 11 at 7:30PM at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center

Tickets:

Conversation w/party (non-member): \$85

Conversation w/party (member): \$75

Conversation alone (non-member): \$45

Conversation alone (member): \$40

About the MVFF Award

Since 2008, the Mill Valley Film Festival has presented the MVFF Award, an elegant bronze statue created by Mill Valley artist Alice Corning, given in recognition of exceptional work in film at our Tribute and Spotlight programs.

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 or call (415) 383-5256.

For Calendar Editors

The 38th 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 8 through Sunday, October 18, 2015

Tickets and Information: mvff.com

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