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(Above numbers and emails are not for publication)

**For Immediate Release**

**The Mill Valley Film Festival Returns for its 38th Year  
Celebrating the Best in Independent and World Cinema  
October 8 – 18, 2015**

**SPOTLIGHT ON SARAH SILVERMAN**

**SAN RAFAEL, Calif.** (August 7, 2015) - The California Film Institute is pleased to announce the following **Spotlight on Sarah Silverman** at the 38<sup>th</sup> Mill Valley Film Festival. The complete schedule will be announced and available online at [www.MVFF.com](http://www.MVFF.com) on Tuesday, September 15, 2015.

**Spotlight on Sarah Silverman for MVFF38:**

Two-time Emmy winner Sarah Silverman is as versatile of a performer as they come. Her repertoire includes everything from film and television, stand-up comedy, to iconic online videos, and she added author to this list when she released a book in 2010, the *New York Times* Bestseller, *The Bedwetter: Stories of Courage, Redemption, and Pee*. Silverman debuted an hour-long stand-up special, "We are Miracles," on HBO in 2013. She was awarded a 2014 Primetime Emmy in the Outstanding Writing for a Variety Special category. The special was also nominated for Outstanding Variety Special, and Silverman recently received a WGA nomination as well. An album of the special was recently released through Sub Pop Records, which earned her a 2015 Grammy nomination for Best Comedy Album. Silverman will next be seen in the drama feature, *I Smile Back*, a film adaptation of a novel by Amy Koppelman in which she plays the lead role. The film premiered at Sundance. She also has wrapped production on *Ashby* opposite Mickey Rourke and Emma Roberts and recently had a recurring role on season 2 of the Golden Globe nominated series "Masters of Sex."

Silverman grew up in New Hampshire and attended New York University. In 1993 she joined "Saturday Night Live" as a writer and feature performer and has not stopped working since.

**About *I Smile Back*:**

Laney is an attractive, intelligent suburban wife and devoted mother of two adorable children. She has the perfect husband who plays basketball with the kids in the driveway, a pristine house, and a shiny SUV for carting the children to their next activity. However, just beneath the façade lie depression and disillusionment that send her careening into a secret world of reckless compulsion. Only very real danger will force her to face the painful root of her destructiveness and its crumbling effect on those she loves.

At the core of *I Smile Back's* power is an indelible performance. Sarah Silverman reinvents herself as a dramatic actress in the career-defining, intensely layered, and heartbreaking role of Laney. Deftly directed by Adam Salky (*Dare*, 2009 Sundance Film Festival), *I Smile Back* is at times darkly humorous but also harrowing and unflinching as an authentic, humanizing portrait that offers no easy resolution for a damaged woman struggling to come to terms with herself.

The complete schedule for the 38th Mill Valley Film Festival will be announced and available online at [www.MVFF.com](http://www.MVFF.com) on Tuesday, September 15, 2015.

**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.

Tickets are \$15.00 (CFI Members, \$12.50), unless otherwise noted and are available for purchase by the general public on September 20, 2015.

CFI members have an opportunity to purchase tickets prior to the general on-sale date by level beginning on the following dates:

- September 13 – Premier Patron Members and above
- September 14 – Director’s Circle Members and above
- September 15 – Gold Star Members and above
- September 17 – Film Fan and Associate Members and above

For tickets and additional information, please visit [www.mvff.com](http://www.mvff.com) or call 877.874.MVFF (6833).

**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**

**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: Sunday, September 20, 2015

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

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