



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES  
DIRECTORS' NIGHT IN MILL VALLEY  
SCREENINGS OF MOONLIGHT AND A MONSTER CALLS  
OCTOBER 10, 2016**

SAN RAFAEL, CA (October 4, 2016) – The Mill Valley Film Festival (October 6 – 16, 2016), presented by the California Film Institute, is pleased to present Directors' Night in Mill Valley with screenings of Barry Jenkins' *MOONLIGHT* and J.A. Bayona's *A MONSTER CALLS*. Both filmmakers will be in attendance for the screenings on Monday, October 10 at the CinéArts@Sequoia in Mill Valley.

**About BARRY JENKINS**

Barry Jenkins was born and raised in Miami, FL. After graduating from Florida State University, he relocated to Los Angeles where he worked as an assistant to director Darnell Martin on Harpo Films' *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. His feature film debut, *Medicine for Melancholy*, was released in theaters by IFC Films and hailed as one of the ten best films of 2009 by A.O. Scott of The New York Times. In 2010, Jenkins co-founded the commercial collective Strike Anywhere Films. *Moonlight* is his second feature film.

**About MOONLIGHT**

US 2016, 110 min

Director Barry Jenkins

Writer-director Barry Jenkins' long-awaited return to the big screen after his critically acclaimed San Francisco-set debut *Medicine for Melancholy* is also a return to his home state of Florida. Based on Tarell Alvin McCraney's play *In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue*, Jenkins' gritty yet poignant inner city drama presents a young life in three acts. Coming of age in Reagan-era Miami amidst the crack epidemic, young Chiron endures relentless bullying at school and stinging neglect at home. Visibly yearning for a male role model, he continually chases the elusive myth of masculinity while struggling to understand his own sexuality and his place in a harsh, unsympathetic world. Jenkins delivers both intensity and subtlety, supported by an ensemble of powerful performances, including Trevante Rhodes as the adult Chiron along with Naomie Harris (*Spectre*), André Holland (*The Knick*), Oakland native Mahershala Ali (*House of Cards*), and singer Janelle Monáe in her film debut.

**Monday, October 10 at 7:45PM at the CinéArts@Sequoia**

**Additional screening Thursday, October 13 at 11:30AM at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center**

**Tickets for *MOONLIGHT***

General Admission: \$15

CFI Members: \$12.50

**About J.A. BAYONA**

J.A. Bayona's most recent feature film as director was *The Impossible*, starring Naomi Watts, Ewan McGregor, and Tom Holland; it was based on the powerful true story of a family's survival of the tragic Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004. *The Impossible* grossed more than \$180 million at the worldwide box office and brought Ms. Watts Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild, and Academy Award nominations. Mr. Holland received honors including an Empire Award for Best Newcomer. *The Impossible* won five Goya Awards, which are Spain's Oscars equivalent, including Best Director; and six Gaudí Awards, including Best Director.

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### Directors' Night

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#### **About A MONSTER CALLS**

US/Spain 2016, 108 min

Director J.A. Bayona

Wise, beguiling, and darkly funny, J. A. Bayona's (*The Orphanage*) film melds extraordinary visuals with heart-wrenching performances in this tale of loss and healing. Thirteen-year-old Connor has a recurring nightmare: A vast chasm appears in the landscape near his house, and his mother slips from his grasp. In his real life, Connor's Mum (Felicity Jones, *Like Crazy*, MVFF 2011) is indeed slipping deeper into illness, leaning increasingly on rather prickly Grandma (Sigourney Weaver) to fill the maternal void. So it's little surprise when a monster calls on him, in the shape of a wild, elemental creature that emerges from a huge elm tree—a tree known for its healing properties. Lewis MacDougall is terrific as Connor, alternately punchy, brave, and overwhelmed—yet nonplussed in dealing with his gravelly-voiced monster (Liam Neeson). In a story that seamlessly melds everyday reality and fantasy, truth will out—paradoxes, messiness, and all.

**Monday, October 10 at 7:30PM at the CinéArts@Sequoia**

**Additional screening Friday, October 14 at 3:45PM at Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center**

#### **Tickets for A MONSTER CALLS**

General Admission: \$15

CFI Members: \$12.50

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

For nearly four decades, the world-renowned Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF) has maintained its position as a vital showcase of the global film community, attracting iconic red-carpet talent, burgeoning filmmakers, passionate audiences, and astutely curated premieres. An in-demand destination for film lovers, drawn by unmatched locale and a diverse program of mainstream studio features and new visions from independent voices from around the world, MVFF also hosts an exciting array of filmmaker and industry conversations, panels, parties, and live music performances, featuring the most acclaimed emerging and veteran actors, filmmakers, and musicians of our time. A destination event for cinephiles everywhere, and known for launching new films and creating awards season buzz, MVFF has earned a deserved reputation as a "filmmaker's festival" by celebrating the best in American, independent, and world cinema alongside high profile and prestigious award contenders. Presented by the California Film Institute, this year's Festival runs October 6 – 16, 2016. Opening Night Gala will be held at Marin Country Mart and Closing Night Party will be held at Cavallo Point.

Screening locations include: CinéArts@Sequoia and The Sweetwater Music Hall (Mill Valley), Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center (San Rafael), Cinemark Century Larkspur Landing and Lark Theatre (Larkspur), and Cinemark Century Cinema Corte Madera (Corte Madera).

#### **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 independent theatre, 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 <http://www.cafilm.org> or call (415) 383-5256.

#### **Supporters**

As a nonprofit arts organization, CFI relies on the generosity of its community to sustain not only the Festival, but also the year-round programs of the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center and CFI Education. The invaluable support of our sponsors, foundations, and individual donors ensures our continued success as we celebrate our 39<sup>th</sup> year.

CFI is once again proud to acknowledge the leadership support of Christopher B. and Jeannie Meg Smith and Jennifer Coslett MacCready, and the continued major support of Ken and Jackie Broad

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Family Fund, Drusie and Jim Davis - Drusie Davis Family Fund, The Bernard Osher Foundation, The Gruber Family Foundation, Michael and Susan Schwartz Fund, Marin Community Foundation and The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation. We are also fortunate to have the contributions of the following Signature and Major Sponsors of the Mill Valley Film Festival: Wells Fargo, Jackson Square Partners, Lucasfilm, Ltd., Maroevich, O'Shea & Coghlan Insurance Services, Zaentz Media Center/A Wareham and Development, Bellam Self Storage and Boxes, Delta Air Lines and San Francisco Chronicle and Government Support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

#### **Social Media**

#MVFF39

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#### **For Calendar Editors**

**The 39<sup>th</sup> 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 6 through Sunday, October 16, 2016**

**Tickets & information: [mvff.com](http://mvff.com)**