



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

39th Mill Valley Film Festival, October 6 – 16, 2016
Celebrating the Best in Independent and World Cinema

39TH MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL CONCLUDES IN STYLE WITH JEFF NICHOLS, JOEL EDGERTON, AND RUTH NEGGA FOR BAY AREA PREMIERE OF *LOVING*

OVERALL AUDIENCE AWARD FAVORITE: *LION*
Full List Of Audience Favorites Below

SAN RAFAEL, CA (October 17, 2016) – The Mill Valley Film Festival concluded its 39th year last night with the Bay Area premiere of Jeff Nichols’ acclaimed historical drama **LOVING**. Nichols was in attendance for the screening along with actor Joel Edgerton and actress Ruth Negga, with special guest Alice Walker in the audience. The screening was a fitting end for the annual autumn showcase of films, panels, parties, and musical performances. The Festival drew over 74,000 attendees who flocked to Marin County to get an early glimpse at the Academy Award® contenders, discover some of the best films from around the globe and celebrate the many talented local filmmakers in the Bay Area.

“As we close the 39th Mill Valley Film Festival, I am continually amazed by our audiences’ response to our film program - and of course - the incredible support we have (year after year) from filmmakers, sales agents and distributors. Without their recognition that the MVFF is one of the most significant non-competitive film festivals in the US, it would be impossible to present the most highly anticipated award season films, cutting edge American indies, thought-provoking documentaries, and remarkable international films”, said Mark Fishkin, Founder/Director of the Mill Valley Film Festival. “We are proud of our continuing ability to serve our mission of celebrating and promoting film as art and education in new and exciting ways, and being a festival that filmmakers, both local and international, return to year after year to present their new works. The breadth and depth of the programming truly shined this year.”

MVFF Director of Programming, Zoë Elton, adds “between MIND THE GAP, MVFF’s women’s initiative, and what seems to be lining up as a powerful year for African American cinema, this year’s lineup underscores MVFF’s place in the vanguard of festivals that are proactively addressing the need for inclusion both onscreen and behind the scenes. Our exploration of women, film, and tech inspired 20th Century Fox to create a behind-the-scenes panel for their highly anticipated **HIDDEN FIGURES**; and inspired Walt Disney Animation Studios to create a panel for MVFF on women techies and creators, Disney Technistas, that included exclusive never-before-seen footage of **MOANA**, and was moderated by Steven Gaydos of Variety. Celebrating Julie Dash’s career with a Tribute on the occasion of her digitally restored classic **DAUGHTERS OF THE DUST** was a treat, and seeing MVFF Award alumnae Annette Bening and Elle Fanning onstage together with director Mike Mills and co-star Lucas Jade Zumann were definite highlights this year.”

The Festival opened October 6 with the Bay Area premieres of **LA LA LAND** and **ARRIVAL**. **Emma Stone**, **Damien Chazelle**, and **Justin Hurwitz** were in attendance for the premiere of **LA LA LAND** and **Amy Adams** was on hand to represent **ARRIVAL**.

During the 11 days, the Festival presented Academy Award® winning actress **Nicole Kidman** with a special Tribute for her performance in Garth Davis' **LION** and acclaimed filmmaker **Julie Dash** with a Tribute to her career, featuring a special anniversary screening of the newly restored digital print of her groundbreaking film **DAUGHTERS OF THE DUST**.

The Festival also presented Spotlight programs on actor **Ewan McGregor** for his directorial debut **AMERICAN PASTORAL**, actor and director **Gael García Bernal** for his performance in Pablo Larraín's **NERUDA** and actor **Aaron Eckhart** for his supporting work alongside Miles Teller in Ben Younger's **BLEED FOR THIS**.

Mike Mills' **20TH CENTURY WOMEN** served as the Festival Centerpiece, receiving the first ever MVFF Ensemble Spotlight Award. **Mike Mills** was in attendance to accept the award on behalf of the entire cast, and was joined on stage by **Annette Bening**, **Elle Fanning**, and newcomer **Lucas Jade Zumann**.

Festival Highlights

The Festival program consisted of 113 feature films, 88 short films, with 60 premieres from 37 countries and 336 visiting filmmakers, panelists, and performers from all over the world. Notable guests at the Festival included Academy Award® winning filmmaker **Asghar Farhadi** in attendance for the Bay Area premiere of his Cannes' Film Festival winning drama **THE SALESMAN**; breakout actor **Lucas Hedges** in attendance for Kenneth Lonergan's acclaimed Sundance drama **MANCHESTER BY THE SEA**; filmmakers **Barry Jenkins** and **J.A. Bayona** in attendance for the Bay Area premieres of **MOONLIGHT** and **A MONSTER CALLS**, respectively, for the Festival's Directors' Night in Mill Valley; **Edward James Olmos** and the entire cast and crew of **MONDAY NIGHTS AT SEVEN** present for the World Premiere of **Marty Sader's** drama; **Wayne Roberts** in attendance for the US Premiere of his directorial debut, **KATIE SAYS GOODBYE**; acclaimed filmmaker **Kelly Reichardt** in attendance for the Bay Area premiere of her film **CERTAIN WOMEN**; **Gianfranco Rosi** in attendance for two screenings of his Golden Bear winning documentary **FIRE AT SEA**; **James Franco** and newcomer **Lola Sultan** present for the US Premiere of Franco's latest directorial effort **IN DUBIOUS BATTLE**; **Eleanor Coppola** in attendance for the premiere of her first feature, **PARIS CAN WAIT**, with special guest Tom Waits in the audience; director **Rob Nilsson** premiered his latest film **LOVE TWICE**, with actor/musician **John Cale** and actor **Carl Lumbly** in attendance; actor **Bruce Davison** in attendance for his short film **I REMEMBER YOU**, programmed alongside brothers **Christian** and **Justin Long's** short film **ABE & IKE**; actress **Katee Sackhoff** on hand to support her latest film **GIRL FLU**; Metallica's **Lars Ulrich** hosted a Q&A for **Jonathan Parker's** **THE ARCHITECT**, which he produced; Iron & Wine's **Sam Beam** came out in support of poet **Michele Poulos's** feature debut **A LATE STYLE OF FIRE: LARRY LEVIS, AMERICAN POET**; director **Pablo Larraín** was presented with Variety Magazine's International Director of the Year Award by Vice President and Executive Editor **Steve Gaydos** in advance of a screening of Larraín's highly acclaimed new film **JACKIE**; actors **Raza Jaffrey**, actress **Stana Konic**, and director **Amin Matalqa** attended the world premiere of their film **THE RENDEZVOUS**; actress and director **Amber Tamblyn** attended the screenings of her feature debut **PAINT IT BLACK**; Wildfilm Panda Award winner **Ryan Patrick Killacky** with the World Premiere of his film **YASUNI MAN**; actress **Kate Micucci** and director **Finn Taylor** supported both screenings of their locally shot film **UNLEASHED**; and actress **Connie Nielson** provided an introduction in support of her film **THE CONFESSIONS**.

Several filmmaker guests traveled from overseas to attend the Festival, including Iranian director **Mohammed Rahmanian** (*Bench Cinema*), German actor **Bjarne Madel** (*24 Weeks*), Finnish director and writer **Saara Cantell** and actress **Elin Petersdottir** (*Devil's Bride*), Italian director **Gianfranco Rosi** (*Fire At Sea*), Canadian director **Benoit Pilon** (*Iqaluit*), Ethiopian director **Yared Zeleke** (*Lamb*), French actors **Dominique** and **Matteo Leborne** (*Land Legs*), actor **Diego Velazquez** (*The Long Night of Francisco Sanctis*), French director **Rachel Lang** (*Baden Baden*), UK director **Emily Harris** (*Love is Thicker Than Water*), Mexican director **Rodrigo Reyes** and actors **Daniel** and **Ana Muratalla** (*Lupe Under the Sun*), French and British husband and wife directing/writing/acting team **Dominique Abel** and **Fiona Gordon** (*Lost in Paris*), Hungarian director **Ibolya Fekete** (*Mom and Other Loonies in the Family*), French director **Marc Fitoussi** (*Mum is Wrong*), Swedish actress **Karin Franz Karlof** (*A Serious Game*), Chinese producer **Du Jainha**

(*What's in the Darkness*), Mexican director **Katina Medina Mora** (*You Will Know What to do With Me*) and Mexican director **Roberto Sneider** (*You're Killing Me, Susana*).

Local filmmakers were well represented at the Festival, totaling almost fifty in the program, with many attending their films including **Nicole Opper** (*Visitor's Day*), **Wendy Slick** (*A Love Poem to My Friend Ethel*), **Will Parinello**, **John Antonelli** and **Tom Dusenbery** (*The New Environmentalists*), **Steve Okazaki** (*Mifune: The Last Samurai*), **Bob Sarles** (*Bang! The Bert Berns Story*), **Doug Nichol** (*California Typewriter*), **Jesse Block** (*Basic Human Needs*), **Lorenzo Pisoni** (*Circus Kid*), **Ariana Garfinkel** (*Best and Most Beautiful Things*), **Deborah Kaufman** and **Alan Snitow** (*Company Town*), **Catherine Ryan** and **Gary Weimberg** (*My Love Affair with the Brain*), **Nicole Boxer** (*The Dean Scream*), **Joe Garrity** (*Twinsburg*), **Katy Grannan** (*The Nine*), **Dana Nachman** (*Washed Away*), **Cynthia Pepper** (*Polka Dott*), **Kathleen Quillian** (*Stardust Serenade*), **Dan McHale** (*Splotch*), **Ben Burt** (*Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*), **Jonathan Parker** (*The Architect*), **Joshua Dylan Mellars** (*Stolen Youth*), **Carrie Lozano** (*The Ballad of Fred Hersch*), **Nora Poggi** and **Insiyah Saaed** (*She Started It*), **Andrew Coats** and **Lou Hamou-Lhadj** (*Borrowed Time*), **Mickey Lemle** (*The Last Dalai Lama?*), **Kristy Guevara-Flanagan** (*What Happened to Her*), **Amy Glazer** (*Kepler's Dream*), **George Rosenfeld** (*Strings Attached*), **John Goddard** (*Hi De Ho Show*), **Tommie Dell Smith** (*The Groove is Not Trivial*), **Robert Bloomberg** (*The 3D Sideshow*), **Siciliana Trevino** (*New Mo' Cut*), **Joshua Moore** (*Oddball*), **Ryon Baxter** (*Green is Gold*), **Vincent Cortez** (*Finding Justice*), **Will Agee** (*Crescite*), **Kiel Murray** and **Phil Lorin** (*Green Thumb*), **Lydia Tenaglia** (*Jeremiah Tower: The Last Magnificent*), **Brian Applegarth** (*The Secret Story*), **Alan Barillaro** (*Piper*), and **John Sanborn** (*I Don't Care*)

Special Focuses at the Festival included SMOKE SCREENS: CANNABIS, a full day of programming featuring mind-expanding films and conversations about cannabis, CULINARY CINEMA, a delicious selection of mouth-watering films that celebrate the creatives of cuisine, and KINOWERKS, gutsy and original stories from Germany, with an emphasis on female characters and creators.

Initiatives at the Festival included ACTIVE CINEMA, programming which unites film in their commitment to explore the world and its issues, engage audiences, and transform society; MIND THE GAP: WOMEN | FILM | TECH, festival-wide programming exploring three aspects of the film and tech worlds: innovation/entrepreneurism, creativity, and gender representation; and VIVA EL CINE, a survey of the best Spanish-language and Latin American films of 2016, including a new series of Mexican films.

The MVFF39 Behind The Screens Panels, ten in total, covered a broad range of topics, from women in film and tech, in keeping with the Mind the Gap Initiative, to issues involving cannabis legislation, storytelling in virtual reality, documentary filmmaking, animation, and the annual State of the Industry Conversation.

The 2nd Annual MVFF Music program paired films with performances (**THE GROOVE IS NOT TRIVIAL** with a concert featuring subject Celtic fiddler Alasdair Fraser; **THE BALLAD OF FRED HERSCH** with a concert featuring subject jazz pianist Fred Hersch; **BANG! THE BERT BURNS STORY** with a Tribute to Bert Berns featuring the Flamin' Groovies, Shana Morrison, Tracy Nelson, Betty Harris and many more) and brought accomplished musicians to the stage at Sweetwater Music Hall for nine nights of packed houses grooving to the eclectic line-up of Thao Nguyen, Trevor Hall, Erika Wennerstorm, Alejandro Escovedo Trio, Prezident Brown and The Itals, and the Great Mill Valley Gospel Show.

Other Special "Only in Mill Valley" Moments

MVFF's long standing Active Cinema hike once again brought filmmakers and film lovers together for a morning exploring the beauty of Mill Valley's scenic redwood lined ocean views while discussing ideas for positive change.

Many filmmakers checked out the Samsung sponsored Virtual Reality Experience demos in our Filmmaker Lounges in San Rafael and Mill Valley, and attended themed receptions for the Swiss Consulate, Viva El Cine, Active Cinema, and Mind The Gap, among others. Networking

opportunities abounded at two Filmmaker Brunches held at Marin Art and Garden Center, two Filmmaker Parties at Pizza Antica and Seager Gray Gallery, and four post-screening mini-receptions held for visiting filmmakers at Taste Kitchen & Table, Theresa & Johnny's and Lavier Latin Cuisine.

Our **STAR WARS** day featured a triple whammy of original trilogy screenings, featuring a presentation from sound designer (and 'voice' of R2D2) Ben Burtt, a costume contest, prizes, and trivia quiz for a full day of family fun and Jedi geek-a-thon.

MY LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE BRAIN co-director Gary Weimberg impressed by proudly wearing an MVFF 1995 t-shirt to our first Filmmaker Brunch, displaying over 20 years of involvement with the Festival.

Hugs abounded at the Fest, with audience members freely embracing directors Mickey Lemle and Mohammed Rahmanian at their respective screenings.

Fiddlers and their fiddles filled the house for the world premiere of **THE GROOVE IS NOT TRIVIAL**, after which, all paraded to the Sweetwater Music Hall and formed a line wrapping around the block for a live Celtic fiddle and cello musical performance from film subjects Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas.

Director Peter Svatek discussed his Culinary Cinema documentary, **THEATER OF LIFE**, following the US Premiere and shared the words of master chef and film subject Massimo Bottera: "A shared meal is our most ancient social gathering".

Gael García Bernal and MVFF Director Mark Fishkin during the post-screening conversation following **NERUDA** discussed how to define the film (anti-biopic?), the rehearsal process (or lack thereof) and Neruda's enduring political and artistic legacy.

LAMB director Yared Zeleke, discussed his location scouting process in Ethiopia with Director of Programming Zoe Elton, as well as his auditioning of 6,000 boys for the leading role.

At screenings of both **LAND LEGS** and **THE LONG NIGHT OF FRANCISCO SANCTIS** which featured visiting actors from France and Argentina, audience members asked questions in French and Spanish, creating bilingual Q&As facilitated by our adept translators.

Post-screening conversation for **DO NOT RESIST** with San Francisco Chronicle reporter Otis R. Taylor, Jr.: "What's missing is a dialogue - between civilians and police, people and government".

Mike Mills, Annette Bening, Elle Fanning and Lucas Jade Zumann discussed **20TH CENTURY WOMEN** - their favorite costumes, Skype dance-a-thons, the sexual politics of the 70s, and how they bonded as a cast and team.

At her Tribute, honoree Julie Dash spoke about the use of memory in storytelling: "Memory is often a character in my films."

Alejandro Escodevo spun as many tales as songs at his show at the Sweetwater, including road stories of opening for the Sex Pistols and sharing crumpets with Sid Vicious.

Bjarne Madel, actor in **24 WEEKS**, discussed acting with real midwives, how every time he sees the film he is moved in a new way, and how he came to the project.

Ibolya Feteke, director of **MOM AND OTHER LOONIES IN THE FAMILY** discussed how she drew from over 100 years of historical footage when creating her film - the authenticity of the film in both a historical context and within her own experience. "Many of the stories told in this movie were prohibited from being told for 40-50 years, for whatever reason - communism, etc. People remember these stories."

Pablo Larrain discussed the process of bringing Jackie Kennedy's story to the screen in his film **JACKIE**, particularly his work with actress Natalie Portman, without whose participation he would not have made the film. Larrain also revealed that due to Portman's performance, one third of the film was shot in one take!

LOVING director Jeff Nichols quoted at Closing Night: "This is not a political story. Their marriage was not an act of defiance it was an act of love."

CFI EDUCATION AT MVFF and FILMMAKERS GO TO SCHOOL

Throughout the entire run of the Festival, CFI Education hosts screenings for public, private, and home-schooled Bay Area students from as far away as Fremont and as close as San Rafael, totalling 2,175 students across 13 screenings. Through the support of CFI Members, donors, and patrons, CFI Education continues to serve its mission of providing Bay Area students of all ages with opportunities to learn about themselves and the world through the art of film.

CFI Education Screenings at MVFF39 Include:

Kepler's Dream with star *Isabella Blake-Thomas*, director *Amy Glazer* and producer *Sedge Thomson*; **Oddball**; **5@5: Harmony** with shorts filmmakers *Cynthia Pepper*, *George Rosenfeld*, *Harris Cohen*, as well as star of *Polka Dott*, *Talya Satkin*; **Company Town** with directors *Deborah Kaufman* and *Alan Snitow*; **Circus Kid & short New Mo Cut** with directors *Lorenzo Pisoni* and *Siciliana Trevina*; **Lamb** with director *Yared Zeleke*; **She Started It** with co-director *Nora Poggi*; **Visitor's Day & short Finding Justice** with directors *Nicole Opper* and *Vincent Cortez*, as well as subject of short doc, *Don Carney*; **My Love Affair With the Brain & short A Love Poem to my Friend Ethel** with directors *Catherine Ryan*, *Gary Weimberg*, and *Wendy Slick*; **Maya Angelou And Still I Rise**

In addition to the multiple **FILMMAKERS GO TO SCHOOL** (FGTS) presentations scheduled throughout the year, many local and international directors visiting during the Mill Valley Film Festival take advantage of the opportunity to visit classrooms all around the Bay Area at participating schools through this unique CFI Education program. This year's FGTS program served over 700 students across eleven schools in eleven different towns.

Isabella Blake-Thomas, lead actress, *Sedge Thompson*, producer, and *Amy Glazer*, director, of *Kepler's Dream* all went to the GATE School in San Rafael to speak to students about the technology of filmmaking as well as the acting and directing of this beautiful film adapted from Juliet Bell's well-loved children's book. Nine-year-old *Talya Satkin* accompanied director *Cynthia Pepper* with their short children's film *Polka Dott* to two schools. *Nora Poggi* (*She Started It*), *Rodrigo Reyes* (*Lupe Under the Sun*), *John Antonelli* and *Will Parinello* (*The New Environmentalists*), *Harris Cohen* (*Strings Attached*), *Gabriel Diani* and *Etta Devine* (*Diani and Devine Meet the Apocalypse*), and *Leonora Pitts* (*Step 9*) all hit the road for school appearances that won the praise of teachers and students alike.

"We had another amazing time today viewing *She Started It!* As a teacher, I feel so fortunate that we have such an amazing resource locally that helps me extend the learning of my students." -- *Chris Case*, Miller Creek

"Again, on behalf of our TL Innovation Lab and Terra Linda High School, I want to express our appreciation for your generosity in hosting us, as our school does not have the resources like many other schools in Marin to offer such enriched learning experiences." - *Maya Bartolf*, founder TL Innovation Lab

Audience Award Winners 2016

OVERALL FAVORITE

The MVFF Audience Favorite 2016

LION

Garth Davis

US CINEMA

Audience Favorite - US Cinema

Gold Award

MOONLIGHT

Barry Jenkins

Audience Favorite - US Cinema

Silver Award

LOVING

Jeff Nichols

Audience Favorite - US Cinema Indie

Gold Award

UNLEASHED

Finn Taylor

Audience Favorite - US Cinema Indie

Silver Award

DIANI AND DEVINE MEET THE APOCALYPSE

Etta Devine, Gabriel Diani

WORLD CINEMA

Audience Favorite - World Cinema

Gold Award

A MAN CALLED OVE

Hannes Holm

Audience Favorite - World Cinema

Silver Award

LAND OF MINE

Martin Zandvliet

Audience Favorite - World Cinema Indie

Gold Award

FUKUSHIMA, MON AMOUR

Doris Dörrie

Audience Favorite - World Cinema Indie

Silver Award

LAND LEGS

Samuel Collardey

VALLEY OF THE DOCS

Audience Favorite - Valley of the Docs

Gold Award

MAYA ANGELOU: AND STILL I RISE

Bob Hercules, Rita Coburn Whack

and

THE EAGLE HUNTRESS

Otto Bell

Audience Favorite - Valley of the Docs
Silver Award
YASUNI MAN
Ryan Patrick Killackey

FAMILY FILMS

Audience Favorite – Family Films
Gold Award
ODDBALL
Stuart McDonald

Audience Favorite – Family Films
Silver Award
KEPLER'S DREAM
Amy Glazer

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 39th 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 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.

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