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For Immediate Release

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

**IAN MCKELLEN REMEMBERS
“WOMEN I’VE FILMED WITH”
ONLY AT THE 38TH MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL**

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (October 1, 2015) – The Mill Valley Film Festival is proud to announce a special on-stage conversation with Ian McKellen, “Women I’ve Filmed With”, a companion piece to his MVFF Tribute presentation.

IAN MCKELLEN REMEMBERS

Share in the passion and enthusiasm of this prolific actor as he recalls his favorite moments working with some of cinema’s most legendary actresses. From Ava Gardner and Meryl Streep to Mrs. Harold Pinter (Vivien Merchant) and Laura Linney, McKellan has worked with the best on-screen. McKellen proposed this presentation specifically for MVFF, a unique event, never to be repeated.

Monday, October 12 at 12PM at Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center

About SIR 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 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.

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 38th 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, The Christine Zecca 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 Airlines and San Francisco Chronicle.

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: Saturday, September 19, 2015

www.MVFF.com, www.CAFilm.org