

**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS**

Showcasing the Best in Independent and World Cinema  
Thursday, October 5 – 15, 2017

Acclaimed Festival Films From Around the World  
And New Offerings from Bay Area Filmmakers Highlight  
First Slate of Films Announced at 40th Mill Valley Film Festival

SAN RAFAEL, CA (August 30, 2017) – The Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF), presented by the California Film Institute, is pleased to announce the first set of films to premiere at the 40th edition of the Festival, returning to Marin County October 5-15, 2017. The Festival will present the Bay Area premiere of many acclaimed films from the 2017 Cannes Film Festival, the 2017 Sundance Film Festival and the 2017 Berlin International Film Festival. Additionally, MVFF will launch many acclaimed Bay Area filmmakers' latest films as part of the Festival's effort to showcase the many established and emerging filmmakers in the Bay Area.

Early Confirmed films from the **2017 Cannes Film Festival** at MVFF40:

The Festival is thrilled to present a diverse offering of films from the 2017 Cannes Film Festival including the top three jury prize winners (Palme D'or, Grand Prix and the Jury Prize): Ruben Östlund's Palme D'Or Winner and Swedish Oscar Submission **THE SQUARE**, a poignant satirical drama about the art world; Robin Campillo's Grand Prix, FIPRESCI Prize and Queer Palm winner **120 BPM**, a stirring look at the passionate HIV/AIDS activist working with the Paris chapter of ACT UP; acclaimed Russian director Andrey Zvyagintsev's **LOVELESS**, winner of the Jury Prize, which follows a couple going through divorce who must team up to find their missing son; **IN THE FADE**, Fatih Akin's look at a woman mourning the death of her husband and son following a terrorist attack, which won Diana Kruger the Best Actress award at Cannes and is the German Oscar Submission; From writer/director Noah Baumbach, **THE MEYEROWITZ STORIES (NEW AND SELECTED)** is the emotional and comic intergenerational tale of adult siblings (Adam Sandler, Ben Stiller and Elizabeth Marvel) contending with the long shadow their strong-willed father (Dustin Hoffman) has cast over their lives; Todd Haynes' **WONDERSTRUCK**, about a young boy and a young girl from a different era who share a mysterious connection; acclaimed Japanese filmmaker Naomi Kawase's new film **RADIANCE**; Agnes Varda's Golden Eye winner **FACES, PLACES**; Cecilia Atan's **THE DESERT BRIDE** about a woman forced to uproot her life; and Sean Baker's look at childhood innocence **THE FLORIDA PROJECT** starring Willem Defoe.

Early Confirmed films from the **2017 Sundance Film Festival** at MVFF40:

Luca Guadagnino's acclaimed romance **CALL ME BY YOUR NAME** about the affair between an Italian American teenager and the American student who comes to live with him based on the André Aciman novel, starring Armie Hammer, Timothée Chalamet and Michael Stuhlbarg; and **MUDBOUND**, Dee Rees' drama about two men who return home from World War II and struggle to deal with racism and adjusting to life in rural Mississippi, starring Garrett Hedlund, Carey Mulligan, Jason Mitchell, Jason Clarke and Mary J. Blige.

Early Confirmed films from the **2017 Berlin International Film Festival** at MVFF40:

Sebastián Lelio's Silver Bear Winner for Best Screenplay, **A FANTASTIC WOMAN**, follows a young transgender woman who is forced to confront her lover's family and society following his death; the Audience Award winner in the Panorama section **IN SYRIA** follows a mother's attempts to keep her family safe as war rages on and a sniper lies in wait outside her home; winner of the Silver Bear for Best Actress (Min-hee Kim), **ON THE BEACH AT NIGHT ALONE** is director Sang-soo Hong's latest, about an actress wandering around a seaside town, pondering her relationship with a married man; **VAZANTE**, director Daniela Thomas' period piece set in

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Brazil in 1821 follows a slave trader who returns to the farmhouse he inherited to discover his wife has died in childbirth; winner of the Best First Feature **SUMMER OF 1993** looks at six-year-old Frida, who is sent to live with her uncle following the death of her mother; Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki's (winner of the Silver Bear for Best Director) latest film **THE OTHER SIDE OF HOPE** tells the story of a poker-playing restaurateur and former traveling salesman who befriends a group of refugees who arrive in Finland; and Alain Gomis' **FELICITE**, winner of the Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize Winner, which tells the story of Félicité who sings in a bar in Kinshasa and must go on a frantic search when her 14-year-old son has a motorcycle accident.

Early Confirmed films from **Local Bay Area Films and Filmmakers** at MVFF40:

**ALPHAGO** (Documentary Feature, Director Greg Kohs) The game Go is among the most complex in the world, mastered only by players with finely tuned instincts and intuition. A five-game series pits Korean Go champion Lee Sedol against a computer program created to challenge the world's best players.

**ANDRÉ: THE VOICE OF WINE** (Documentary Feature, Director Mark Tchelistcheff) Andre Tchelistcheff, the "dean of American wine," was a Russian émigré who unexpectedly revolutionized the California wine industry. Director Mark Tchelistcheff, Andre's grandnephew, captures this epic journey from the Russian revolution to a career of uncompromising passion that influenced the world's most important winemakers.

**ARRANGIARSI: PIZZA... & THE ART OF LIVING** (Documentary Feature, Director Matteo Troncone) When Matteo's life falls apart, he moves into a 1985 VW van, traces his roots to Naples, birthplace of pizza, and discovers "arrangiarsi," the art of making something from nothing. He realizes he's not only "living the film," but needs to master *arrangiarsi* to survive.

**CITY OF JOY** (Documentary Feature, Director Madeleine Gavin) This enthralling documentary follows Jane, a Congolese woman who lives at a sanctuary for female victims of sexualized violence in a country long devastated by war. Jane embodies the City of Joy's co-founders' hard-fought—and extremely risky—vision for the future of women who reclaim their bodies and make them engines of change.

**THE CORRIDOR** (Documentary Feature, Directors Annelise Wunderlich & Richard O'Connell) Local filmmakers Richard O'Connell and Annelise Wunderlich's documentary follows the San Francisco Sheriff Department's innovative program to help inmates earn their GEDs, blending observational footage with astute reflections from students and teachers.

**THE DEEP SKY** (Narrative Feature, Director Frazer Bradshaw) Opening a romantic relationship is usually a delicate exercise, but Lenora and Arlan navigate the decision with thoughtful intentionality. But when Nina comes into their lives, they are nevertheless surprised when they begin to imagine life as a triad in this rumination on the complexities of love that transcends two people.

**EARTH WISDOM FOR A WORLD IN CRISIS** (Documentary Feature, Director Stephen Olsson) At this urgent time of climate change, indigenous people hold untapped wisdom and experience in human adaptation for survival. Emmy-winning local filmmaker Stephen Olsson focuses on tribal representatives who know how to restore balance to the world. Will international leaders heed our native brothers and sisters and learn how to live sustainably before it's too late?

**FOURTH MOVEMENT** (Narrative Feature, Director Rob Nilsson) Rob Nilsson returns to his artistic roots in this audiovisual love poem to San Francisco's historic and historically misunderstood Tenderloin district. In a story masterfully crafted to emphasize the Tenderloin's cross-section of cultures, relationships come together and fall apart on the 21st century's "Eve of Destruction": Election Night 2016.

**HAPPENING: A CLEAN ENERGY REVOLUTION** (Documentary Feature, Director James Redford) Are we living at the dawn of a clean energy revolution, or will politicians and utility companies keep that sun from rising? Filmmaker James Redford embarks on a rambling road trip, seeking hopeful answers from the everyday activists and entrepreneurs who are making sure that revolution happens.

**HORN FROM THE HEART: THE PAUL BUTTERFIELD STORY** (Documentary Feature, Director John Anderson) "What happens when a white teenager from Chicago's Hyde Park befriends Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf and Little Walter?" This documentary explores the life of Paul Butterfield, who some call the greatest blues harmonica player who ever lived.

**JUST ONE DROP** (Documentary Feature, Director Laurel Chiten) Homeopathy is controversial, pitting patients with abundant anecdotal evidence against well-funded, organized skeptics out to discredit it as "quackery." This timely examination of legitimacy and access to holistic healthcare proves the best medicine is open curiosity and more scientific research.

**KIM SWIMS** (Documentary Feature, Director Kate Webber) Despite the danger, swimmer Kim Chambers is determined to become the first woman to cross the 30 treacherous miles from the shark-infested Farallon Islands to the Golden Gate Bridge in the frigid San Francisco Bay. This film depicts the journey of an athlete ready to push her body beyond its limits in pursuit of her goal.

**THE LAST ANIMALS** (Documentary Feature, Director Kate Brooks) War photographer Kate Brooks documents the illegal ivory trade versus the anti-poaching rangers, scientists and activists dedicated to protecting and preventing the extinction of rhinoceroses and elephants. Brooks' film is the epitome of advocacy filmmaking, an urgent call to reverse a tragic criminal enterprise.

**THE LONG SHADOW** (Documentary Feature, Director Frances Causey) Of all the divisions in America, none is as insidious and tenacious as racism. In this documentary, journalist and activist Frances Causey seeks the roots of our current racial conflicts. Haunted by slavery's legacy, Causey seeks the untold stories that reveal how the sins of yesterday feed modern prejudice.

**THE MAD HANNANS** (Documentary Feature, Director Martin Shore) Local band *The Mad Hannans* has had its share of creative differences and personal tragedy over the years. This tribute to the soulful, fraternal music group is not only a love letter to Marin County but a testament to the strength that can be found in self-expression.

**MANKILLER** (Documentary Feature, Director Valerie Red-Horse Mohl) This profile in courage illuminates the life and times of Wilma Mankiller, first woman chief of the Cherokee Nation. Her inspiring story springs to vivid life through rare archival footage of Mankiller and interviews with her family, friends and collaborators. At a time of women marching and leading, Wilma Mankiller's story is essential.

**MARY JANES: THE WOMEN OF WEED** (Documentary Feature, Director Windy Borman) From farms to labs to dispensaries and beyond, this documentary sheds light on the female researchers and entrepreneurs blazing a trail in today's legalized marijuana industry. In her meetings with scientists, activists and other proud tokespeople, filmmaker Windy Borman explores how cannabis is not only an industry, but also a movement of dedicated, pioneering "Puffragettes™".

**METAMORPHOSIS: JUNIOR YEAR** (Documentary Feature, Director Palo Alto High students & Elysium Bandini Studios) Created by Palo Alto High School students in collaboration with James Franco and based on a Young Adult novel by Betsy Franco, this coming-of-age tale takes on the themes that define youth: identity, sex, purpose, drugs, self-image. Haunted by the death of his sister and plagued by his parent's expectations, young artist Ovid uses mythology and drawings to understand the world around him while his friends become our window into current high school life.

**THE NEW ENVIRONMENTALISTS** (Documentary Short, Director Mill Valley Film Group: Will Parinello, John Antonelli, Tom Dusenbery) The New Environmentalists share a common goal: safeguarding the Earth's natural resources from exploitation and pollution, while fighting for justice in their own communities. These are true environmental heroes who have placed themselves squarely in harm's way to battle intimidating adversaries while building strong grassroots support.

**ON THE SLY: IN SEARCH OF THE FAMILY STONE** (Documentary Feature, Director Michael Rubenstone) Part amateur sleuthing adventure, part chronicle of a legendary artist, *On the Sly: In Search of the Family Stone* documents one man's quest to discover what happened to the reclusive Sly Stone. Interviews with former bandmates, label execs and music historians detail the story of Sly and the Family Stone and its once-charismatic, now-mysterious leader.

**QUEST** (Narrative Feature, Director Santiago Rizzo) The streets of Berkeley come alive in this intense, lyrical coming-of-age story based on real events. It's 1995, and middle-school graffiti artist Mills is already on the road to nowhere—until he meets a teacher who connects with the lost youth. With passionate performances, this turbulent tale mixes penetrating scenes of heartbreak with funny, real moments of human connection.

**A SIBLING MYSTERY** (Narrative Feature, Directors Rachel Wortell and Dan Erickson) A brother and sister become consumed with investigating a mysterious woman they suspect has stolen their winning lottery ticket, endangering their summer party plans. The film's original score was composed by Bay Area-based composer Ben Goldberg and his group Invisible Guy, and was recorded in Oakland, CA.

**THIRD MIND BLUES** (Documentary Feature, Director William Tyler Smith) The final creative partnership in the career of The Doors' keyboardist Ray Manzarek was this wonderful study in contrasts with blues guitarist and Bay Area musician Roy Rogers. Don't miss this special behind-the-scenes look at their playful, philosophical collaboration that invoked the SF beat poets and decades of music history.

**TORCH** (Narrative Feature, Director Christopher Coppola) A fragile young woman returns to her childhood home in Belize where it becomes apparent that the lush rain forest provides excellent cover for supernatural forces, menacing jaguars and bandits. Exquisite cinematography and use of a local cast add a layer of authenticity to a tangled thriller, in which only the jungle paradise knows the secrets that loom within.

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

Presented by the California Film Institute, the 40<sup>th</sup> Festival runs October 5-15, 2017. Locations this year include: CinéArts@Sequoia (Mill Valley), Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center (San Rafael), Lark Theatre (Larkspur), Cinema Corte Madera and other theatres 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.

#### **About the California Film Institute**

The non-profit California Film Institute (CFI) celebrates and promotes film by presenting the annual Mill Valley Film Festival and DocLands Documentary Film Festival, exhibiting film year-round at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, and building the next generation of filmmakers and audiences through CFI Education. CFI relies on the generosity of its community to sustain these core programs. The invaluable support of our sponsors, foundations, and individual donors ensures our continued success as we celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> year. For more information please visit [www.cafilm.org](http://www.cafilm.org).

#### **Supporters**

CFI is once again proud to acknowledge the leadership support of Christopher B. and Jeannie Meg Smith and Jennifer Coslett MacCreedy, and the continued major support of The Bernard Osher Foundation, The Gruber Family Foundation, The EACH Foundation and The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation. We are also

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