

**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS**

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

**MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES  
TRIBUTE TO ACCLAIMED ACTOR & DIRECTOR SEAN PENN  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2017**

SAN RAFAEL, CA (August 31, 2017) – The Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF) recognizes outstanding actors and filmmakers for their accomplished bodies of work. This year, MVFF is proud to honor acclaimed actor and director Sean Penn with a Tribute, featuring an onstage conversation, clips from his films and presentation of the MVFF Award in recognition of a career that exemplifies the art of great acting and directing.

**Tribute to Sean Penn**

Sean Penn has become an American film icon in a career spanning over three decades. As an actor, Penn has been nominated five times for an Academy Award® as Best Actor for *Dead Man Walking*, *Sweet and Lowdown*, *I Am Sam* and won his first Oscar® in 2003 for his searing performance in Clint Eastwood's *Mystic River* and his second in 2009 for Gus Van Sant's *Milk*. Penn received Best Actor awards at the Cannes (*She's So Lovely*) and Berlin (*Dead Man Walking*) film festivals, as well as being a two-time winner of Best Actor honors at the Venice Film Festival (*Hurlyburly*, *21 Grams*). His unparalleled acting career also includes performances in *Taps*, *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, *At Close Range*, *State of Grace*, *Carlito's Way*, *The Assassination of Richard Nixon*, and *The Tree of Life*. As a director, Penn has crafted powerful dramas such as *The Indian Runner*, *The Pledge* and *Into the Wild*, which garnered Penn nominations from the DGA and WGA. Additionally, Penn wrote and directed the United States' contribution to the compilation film *11'09'01*. MVFF welcomes back long-time guest and friend Sean Penn for the 40<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival.

Saturday, October 7, 2017

Complete Press Materials are available at:  
[MVFF40 Marketing Materials](#)

**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).

**MVFF40****Supporters**

CFI is once again proud to acknowledge the leadership support of Christopher B. and Jeannie Meg Smith, Jennifer Coslett MacCready and the Ken and Jackie Broad Family Foundation, and the continued major support of Marin Community Foundation and The Bernard Osher Foundation, The Gruber Family Foundation, The EACH 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, Wareham Development, Bellam Self Storage and Boxes, Ghilotti Construction Company, Project No. 9 | Truckstop Media and San Francisco Chronicle.

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