

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

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

MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL TO HONOR

**KRISTIN SCOTT THOMAS, HOLLY HUNTER, SEAN PENN, DEE REES,
TODD HAYNES, ANDREW GARFIELD AND GRETA GERWIG**

SAN RAFAEL, CA (September 12, 2017) – The Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF) is pleased to announce Tributes and Spotlights for the 40th edition of the Festival, including Kristin Scott Thomas, Sean Penn, Dee Rees, Holly Hunter, Todd Haynes, Andrew Garfield and Greta Gerwig.

TRIBUTE TO KRISTIN SCOTT THOMAS – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6th

Dame Kristin Scott Thomas has ignited the screen and stage for decades, infusing sleek sophistication and refined intelligence into enduring roles in *Bitter Moon*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *The English Patient* (for which she received an Oscar® nomination), *The Horse Whisperer*, and *Gosford Park*, to name a few. She has been nominated for 44 international awards, winning 26 of them. On stage, she has capably handled Chekhov, Pinter, and Sophocles, winning accolades and awards across the board. Her latest work opposite Gary Oldman in *Darkest Hour* continues a remarkable career of memorable and transcendent performances.

Our Tribute program will feature an onstage conversation with Kristin Scott Thomas, a screening of *Darkest Hour*, and the presentation of the MVFF Award

TRIBUTE TO SEAN PENN – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7th

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 40th edition of the Festival.

Our Tribute program will feature an onstage conversation with Sean Penn, a clip reel of his work, and the presentation of the MVFF Award.

SPOTLIGHT ON DEE REES – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

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Powerhouse director and screenwriter Dee Rees exploded onto the American independent film scene in 2011 with her feature film *Pariah*, garnering mass critical acclaim, seven NAACP Image Awards nominations and multiple awards at the Independent Spirit Awards, Gotham Awards and GLAAD Media Awards. In 2015, she wrote and directed the Emmy-Award winning HBO film *Bessie*, which received 12 Emmy nominations and four Critics' Choice Awards, in addition to Directing Awards from the DGA and NAACP. Her latest film to set critics abuzz, *Mudbound*, premiered at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival and makes its Bay Area bow at MVFF40.

Our Spotlight program will feature an onstage conversation with Dee Rees, a screening of *Mudbound*, and the presentation of the MVFF Award.

TRIBUTE TO HOLLY HUNTER – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

Holly Hunter has been bringing her sassy, bright and memorable characters to stages and screens since the early 1980s, winning recognition for her earthy performances in *Raising Arizona*, *Broadcast News*, *Miss Firecracker*, *Always*, and *Roe vs. Wade*—and picking up an Oscar® for her beguiling and accomplished work in Jane Campion's *The Piano*. She's charted a refreshingly candid career in a variety of film and television roles, including *Home for the Holidays*, *Living Out Loud*, *Crash*, *Saving Grace*, and *Thirteen*, reteaming with Campion for a vividly realized turn in *Top of the Lake*, and most recently standing out in 2017's *The Big Sick*. MVFF is proud to honor the distinctly openhearted spirit of Ms. Hunter's contributions to the art of acting.

Our Tribute program will feature an onstage conversation with Holly Hunter, a clip reel of her work, and the presentation of the MVFF Award.

TRIBUTE TO TODD HAYNES – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

Considered a pioneer of the New Queer Cinema movement and auteur of outstanding American independent films, celebrated director, producer and screenwriter Todd Haynes has contributed uniquely beautiful, provocative and empathetic films to the cinematic canon, including *Poison*, *Safe*, *Velvet Goldmine*, *Far from Heaven*, *I'm Not There* (MVFF 2007), *Mildred Pierce*, and *Carol* (MVFF 2015), all of which have garnered widespread critical acclaim and multiple nominations and awards. Nominated for the Palme d'Or at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival, Haynes' latest feature film, *Wonderstruck*, makes its California premiere at MVFF40.

Our Tribute program will feature an onstage conversation with Todd Haynes, a screening of *Wonderstruck*, and the presentation of the MVFF Award.

SPOTLIGHT ON ANDREW GARFIELD – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

Andrew Garfield is an Academy Award®-nominated actor who captivates global audiences with his transformative performances spanning feature films and notable theater productions. He continues to evolve his body of work in powerful roles and compelling narratives. His acclaimed performances can be seen in *Hacksaw Ridge*, *Silence*, *Angels in America*, *The Amazing Spider-Man*, *The Social Network*, *99 Homes*, *Never Let Me Go* and, most recently, in David Robert Mitchell's *Under the Silver Lake* and Andy Serkis' *Breathe*.

Our Spotlight program will feature an onstage conversation with Andrew Garfield, a screening of *Breathe*, and the presentation of the MVFF Award.

SPOTLIGHT ON GRETA GERWIG – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

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You've seen Sacramento native Greta Gerwig in a number of films: initially working with filmmaker Joe Swanberg in several early 'mumblecore' films based out of the Austin film scene. This early work translated into higher profile roles in *Greenberg*, *No Strings Attached*, *Lola Versus*, *Frances Ha*, *Mistress America*, *Maggie's Plan* and last year's MVFF Centerpiece film *20th Century Women*. Gerwig makes her feature film directorial debut with *Lady Bird*, a portrait of a young woman set in her California hometown.

Our Closing Night Spotlight program will feature an onstage conversation with Greta Gerwig, a screening of *Lady Bird*, and the presentation of the MVFF Award.

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

About the Mill Valley Film Festival

Presented by the California Film Institute, the 40th 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 40th year. For more information please visit www.cafilm.org.

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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