



*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**CELEBRATING 41 YEARS**

Showcasing the Best in Independent and World Cinema  
Thursday, October 4 – 14, 2018

**MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES  
KANNAPOLIS: A MOVING PORTRAIT  
FILM AND LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE WITH  
JENNY SCHEINMAN, ROBBIE FULKS, AND ROBBIE GJERSOE  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2018**

SAN RAFAEL, CA (August 14, 2018) – The Mill Valley Film Festival is proud to announce the program **KANNAPOLIS: A MOVING PORTRAIT**, an engaging look at life in the Southeast during a period of unprecedented change - from the Great Depression through the post WWII manufacturing boom, as seen through the eyes of photographer and filmmaker H. Lee Waters. The film featuring live musical accompaniment with Jenny Scheinman, Robbie Fulks, and Robbie Gjersoe will screen Wednesday, October 10 followed by an onstage conversation with director Finn Taylor (*The Darwin Awards*, *Unleashed*).

Program: \$20 CFI Members | \$25 General Public

Tickets On Sale: Thursday, August 16 for CFI Members | Friday, August 17 for General Public

*"A beautifully coordinated melding of music and film... a vivid image of small-town life, morphing back and forth almost imperceptibly between black-and-white and color." - The Washington Post*

*"Scheinman [has] a distinctive vision of American music, suffused with plainspoken beauty and fortified all at once by country, gospel, and melting-pot folk, along with jazz and the blues." - The New York Times*

**About Kannapolis: A Moving Portrait:**

In this new live music and film piece, acclaimed musician Jenny Scheinman invites us into the captivating visual world of H. Lee Waters, who documented over 118 small towns in the southeast between 1936-42. Waters's films are of regular people going about their lives – mill workers streaming out of factories, a mother and daughter dancing on a dirt road, an old man reading a war-time headline, children racing in slow motion toward a huge wooden teeter totter. Scheinman and filmmaker Finn Taylor have re-edited these iconic images to Scheinman's music, and created a new movie that speaks to any community as much as to the towns where it was filmed.

"These are America's home movies. They contain a clue to our nature, an imprint of our ancestry. They were shot before Americans had sophisticated understanding of film, and capture truthfulness that one is hard-pressed to find in this day and age now that we are immersed in a world of social media, video, and photography. These people can dance. Girls catapult each other off seesaws and teenage boys hang on each other's arms. Toothless men play resonator guitars on street corners, and toddlers push strollers through empty fields. They remind us of our resilience and of our immense capacity for joy even in the hardest of times." - Jenny Scheinman

**About Jenny Scheinman:**

Jenny Scheinman is a violinist, fiddler, singer, and writer of songs with and without words. She grew up on a homestead in Northern California and has been performing since she was a teenager. She has worked extensively with some of the most innovative jazz artists in the world

such as Bill Frisell, Jason Moran, Brian Blade, Nels Cline and Marc Ribot. She has also toured and recorded with numerous American songwriting legends such as Lucinda Williams, Bruce Cockburn, Rodney Crowell, Lou Reed and Ani DiFranco. In March of 2015 she premiered a multi-media performance at Duke University entitled *Kannapolis: A Moving Portrait* which she continues to present in theaters around the country. She has released eight albums of original music: *Here On Earth*, *The Littlest Prisoner*, *Mischief & Mayhem*, *Jenny Scheinman*, *Crossing The Field*, *12 Songs*, *Shalagaster*, *The Rabbi's Lover*, and *Live At Yoshi's*.

#### **About Robbie Fulks and Robbie Gjersoe:**

Guitarist and singer/songwriter Robbi Fulks, a mainstay of the Chicago folk scene, has released 10 solo records on the Bloodshot, Geffen, Boondoggle (self), and Yep Roc labels. He's made multiple appearances on NPR's "Fresh Air," "Mountain Stage," and "World Cafe", PBS's *Austin City Limits*; NBC's *Today*, *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, and *30 Rock*. Film use of his music includes *True Blood* and *My Name Is Earl*. From 2004 to 2008 he hosted an hour-long performance/interview program for XM satellite radio, "Robbie's Secret Country." His compositions have been covered by Sam Bush, Kelly Hogan, Sally Timms, Rosie Flores, John Cowan, and Old 97s. As an instrumentalist, he has accompanied everyone from the Irish fiddle master Liz Carroll to New Orleans pianist Dr. John.

Robbie Gjersoe is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, songwriter & occasional engineer and producer who has worked on a variety of musical projects wide-ranging in style and content for the last 30 years. He plays guitar, bottleneck slide, resonator, dobro, baritone ukulele, mandolin, nylon string, cavaquinho, viole, 12-string, lap steel, pedal steel, and bass. With Screen Door Music, which he co-created, he has composed and performed soundtracks for many films including *Grand Champion*, *Robbing Peter*, and *Vanishing Of The Bees*. His music was used in the movie *The Hot Flashes* and the TV show *The Mentalist*.

#### **About Finn Taylor:**

Finn Taylor wrote and directed *Dream With The Fishes* (Sony Classics), *Cherish* (Fine Line), *The Darwin Awards* (Fox and Icon Entertainment) and *Unleashed* (Level 33 and Voltage Entertainment) and co-wrote *Pontiac Moon*, produced by Paramount Pictures. A three-time Sundance alum and native to the SF Bay Area, his recent feature documentary, *Kannapolis: A Moving Portrait*, premiered at the National Gallery at the Smithsonian and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY and is continuing to tour throughout the country through 2019. His most recent feature film, *Unleashed*, won six audience awards, at festivals across the country, including MVFF39, and was picked up for US distribution by Level 33 and foreign distribution by Voltage Entertainment. *Variety*, in its 50th Anniversary edition, selected Finn Taylor for its prestigious list of "The Top 20 Creatives to Watch."

**Kannapolis** Press Materials are available at:

[MVFF41 Marketing Materials](#)

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

Presented by the California Film Institute, the 41<sup>st</sup> Festival runs October 4 – 14, 2018. Locations this year include: CinéArts@Sequoia (Mill Valley), Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center (San Rafael), Lark Theatre (Larkspur), 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 Marin Community Foundation, The

Bernard Osher Foundation and The Gruber Family 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, Project No. 9 | Truckstop Media, Lucasfilm, Ltd., Delta Air Lines, Netflix, Wareham Development, Bellam Self Storage and Boxes, and the San Francisco Chronicle.

**Social Media**

#MVFF41, #MVFF

Twitter: @MVFFilmFest

Instagram: @millvalleyfilmfest

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MillValleyFilmFestival>