



CELEBRATING 41 YEARS
Showcasing the Best in Independent and World Cinema
Thursday, October 4 – 14, 2018

**MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
FIRST MVFF AWARD of 2018
SPOTLIGHT ON WILDLIFE AND
ON STAGE CONVERSATION WITH
PAUL DANO AND CAREY MULLIGAN
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2018**

SAN RAFAEL, CA (August 9, 2018) – The Mill Valley Film Festival is proud to announce the first MVFF Award of 2018, a Spotlight presentation on IFC Films' **WILDLIFE**, featuring an onstage conversation with writer/director PAUL DANO and star CAREY MULLIGAN. The MVFF award is being presented in acknowledgement of the creative collaboration between Dano and Mulligan.

The conversation will explore the director-actor relationship, and how they work together to distill the anatomy of the creative process that leads to great onscreen performances.

About Wildlife:

WILDLIFE, the directorial debut of Paul Dano (THERE WILL BE BLOOD, LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE), co-written along with Zoe Kazan (THE BIG SICK). Elegantly adapted from Richard Ford's novel of the same name, Carey Mulligan (MUDBOUND, AN EDUCATION) delivers one of her finest performances to date as Jeanette, a complex woman whose self-determination and self-involvement disrupts the values and expectations of a 1960s nuclear family. Fourteen-year-old Joe played by newcomer Ed Oxenbould, is the only child of Jeanette (Mulligan) and Jerry (Jake Gyllenhaal)—a housewife and a golf pro—in a small town in 1960s Montana. Nearby, an uncontrolled forest fire rages close to the Canadian border, and when Jerry loses his job—and his sense of purpose—he decides to join the cause of fighting the fire, leaving his wife and son to fend for themselves. Suddenly forced into the role of an adult, Joe witnesses his mother's struggle as she tries to keep her head above water. With precise details and textures of its specific time and place, WILDLIFE commits to the viewpoint of a teenage boy observing the gradual dissolution of his parents' marriage.

Wildlife will open in theatres Friday, October 19th.

About Carey Mulligan:

Carey Mulligan exploded onto the independent film scene in 2009 with her unforgettable performance in Lone Sherfig's *An Education*, and her career has gathered momentum ever since. A constantly in-demand actress, her work in the films *Drive*, *Shame*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Mudbound*, and *Suffragette* has won praise from audiences and critics alike, a trend sure to continue with her latest film, *Wildlife*.

About Paul Dano:

Paul Dano is the true Hollywood mutli-hyphenate: actor/director/screenwriter/producer/musician. The extraordinarily talented Dano started out strong on the Broadway stage and won the 2002 Independent Spirit Award for Best Debut Performance in *L.I.E.* His burgeoning career skyrocketed in 2007 with back-to-back acclaimed performances in *Little Miss Sunshine* and *There Will Be Blood*. Dano's career continued to receive accolades for his performances in *12 Years a Slave*, *Love & Mercy*, *Swiss Army Man*, and *Okja*, among many others. Based on the Robert Ford novel, *Wildlife*, adapted with life and work partner Zoe Kazan, marks Dano's auspicious directorial debut.

Additional 2018 MVFF Awards to be announced in the coming weeks.

Wildlife Press Materials are available at:

[MVFF41 Marketing Materials](#)

About the Mill Valley Film Festival

Presented by the California Film Institute, the 41st 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 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 and Jennifer Coslett MacCready, 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.

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