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**CELEBRATING 41 YEARS**

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

**A PRIVATE WAR  
TO OPEN THE 2018 MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2018**

**SAN RAFAEL, CA.** (August 23, 2018) – Returning for its 41<sup>st</sup> year, the Mill Valley Film Festival announced today the first of two official Opening Night films for 2018, Aviron Pictures' ***A Private War***, based on the extraordinary life of Marie Colvin (Rosamund Pike), one of the most celebrated war correspondents of our era. Attending the Opening Night festivities will be Academy Award nominee and critically acclaimed director Matthew Heineman and Academy Award nominee Rosamund Pike.

**A Private War**

In a world where journalism is under attack, Marie Colvin (Rosamund Pike) is one of the most celebrated war correspondents of our time. Colvin is an utterly fearless and rebellious spirit, driven to the frontlines of conflicts across the globe to give voice to the voiceless, while constantly testing the limits between bravery and bravado. After being hit by a grenade in Sri Lanka, she wears a distinctive eye patch and is still as comfortable sipping martinis with London's elite as she is confronting dictators. Colvin sacrifices loving relationships, and over time, her personal life starts to unravel as the trauma she's witnessed takes its toll. Yet, her mission to show the true cost of war leads her along with renowned war photographer Paul Conroy (Jamie Dornan) to embark on the most dangerous assignment of their lives in the besieged Syrian city of Homs. Based on the extraordinary life of Marie Colvin, *A Private War* is brought to the screen by Academy Award-nominee and critically acclaimed documentary filmmaker Matthew Heineman in his pulse-pounding narrative feature debut.

**Matthew Heineman**

Matthew Heineman is an Academy Award-nominated and Emmy Award-winning filmmaker who has twice won the Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Documentary Award from the Directors Guild of America, one of only three directors to win the prestigious honor twice.

Heineman recently directed and executive produced *The Trade*, a five-part docu-series, that premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival before airing on Showtime. The critically acclaimed series chronicles the opioid crisis through the eyes of those most affected--growers, cartel members, users, and law enforcement.

His last film, the documentary feature *City Of Ghosts* that follows a group of citizen-journalists exposing the horrors of ISIS premiered at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival and was distributed worldwide by Amazon Studios before having its broadcast premiere on A&E. Heineman won the Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Documentary Award from the Directors Guild of America for the film, having previously won for his 2015 film *Cartel Land*. *City Of Ghosts* also won the Courage Under Fire Award from the International Documentary Association "in recognition of conspicuous bravery in the pursuit of truth" and was listed on over 20 critic and year-end lists for Best Documentary of 2017. The film was also nominated for a BAFTA Award, PGA Award, and IDA Award for Best Documentary Feature.

Heineman's first narrative feature, *A Private War*, about legendary war reporter Marie Colvin, stars Oscar® nominees Rosamund Pike and Stanley Tucci as well as Jamie Dornan and Tom Hollander. Shot with three-time Academy Award-winning cinematographer Robert Richardson, the film will be released by Aviron Pictures in November 2018.

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### **Rosamund Pike**

Academy Award and BAFTA nominee Rosamund Pike has earned international acclaim for both her stage and film roles. Perhaps best known for her lead role in the hugely successful *Gone Girl*, Rosamund has most recently been seen in Scott Cooper's *Hostiles*, José Padilha's *Entebbe*, and Brad Anderson's *Beirut*.

*Hostiles* sees Rosamund play a widow, who accompanies Christian Bale's legendary Army captain who is escorting a Cheyenne chief and family through dangerous territory. In *Entebbe*, Rosamund plays a German revolutionary who hijacks an airplane and forces it to land in Entebbe, Uganda, in an effort to free Palestinians jailed in Israel. The film is based on the hijacking of Air France 139 in 1976. Rosamund plays a CIA field agent based in 1970s Beirut in political thriller *Beirut*, opposite Jon Hamm.

Rosamund recently wrapped *Radioactive*, playing Marie Curie. The film, explores the life of the iconic scientist. The Working Title production directed by Marjane Satrapi (*Persepolis*) is based on an adaptation of Jack Thorne's novel "Radioactive: Marie & Pierre Curie: A Tale of Love and Fallout".

Following the two films, MVFF41 kicks off this year's festivities with an Opening Night Gala, celebrating the glamor of cinema and our beautiful home in Marin County, at the Marin Country Mart. Enjoy fabulous food provided by Belcampo, Big Jim's BBQ, Fiorello's Artisan Gelato, Johnny Doughnuts, Pizza Antica, El Huarache Loco, Farmshop, Wise Sons Bagelry, Fisher's Cheese & Wine, and Sol Food, refreshing beverages provided by BevMo, Bartenders Unlimited, Lagunitas Brewing Company and Equator Coffee, and dance the night away to live music from Notorious, DJ Rich Factor and the Crackerjack DJs. Commemorate the fun in Buzz Photo Booths! Opening Night sponsored by Wells Fargo.

**Thursday, October 4 at 9:00pm – 12:00 Midnight at Marin Country Mart**

### **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), Cinemark's Century Theater Larkspur, 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 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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