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CELEBRATING 41 YEARS

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

**CALIFORNIA FILM INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES LINEUP FOR
41ST ANNUAL MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2018**

Highlights include U.S. Premieres of *GREEN BOOK*, *A PRIVATE WAR*

SAN RAFAEL, CA. (September 6, 2018) – The Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF), presented annually by the California Film Institute (CFI), announced today the complete lineup of films, special guests, tributes & spotlights, special events, MVFF Music, and much more for the 41st edition of the festival. The Festival will showcase the finest cinema around Marin County October 4-14, 2018 with a diverse lineup of acclaimed films, filmmakers and special events.

The Festival will screen 204 films, representing 46 countries and will include 24 premieres, 108 features, 96 shorts, and 45% of all films across the 2018 Festival are directed by women.

Opening Night – U.S. Premieres of *A PRIVATE WAR* and *GREEN BOOK*

Opening night kicks off Thursday, October 4 with the U.S. Premiere of Aviron Pictures' *A Private War*, starring Rosamund Pike as Marie Colvin, one of the most celebrated war correspondents of our era, and Universal Pictures' *Green Book*, a sharply observed drama, inspired by real-life events, featuring Mahershala Ali as a classically trained Black jazz piano prodigy Dr. Don Shirley on a 1962 concert tour of the American South. Director Matthew Heineman and Rosamund Pike will be in attendance for *A Private War* and Oscar® winner Mahershala Ali and director Peter Farrelly for *Green Book*. Following both films, the Opening Night Gala will be held at Marin Country Mart in Larkspur.

Centerpiece Presentation – *ROMA*

MVFF's 2018 Centerpiece presentation, *ROMA*, is the most personal project to date from Academy Award®-winning director and writer Alfonso Cuarón (*Children of Men*, *Gravity*). *ROMA* follows Cleo (Yalitza Aparicio), a young domestic worker for a family in the middle-class neighborhood of Roma in Mexico City. Delivering an artful love letter to the women who raised him, Cuarón draws on his own childhood to create a vivid and emotional portrait of domestic strife and social hierarchy amidst political turmoil of the 1970s. Attending will be director/writer Alfonso Cuarón.

Closing Night – *IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK*

MVFF41 will close with the Bay Area premiere of *IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK*, Barry Jenkins' much anticipated follow up to his Oscar winning *MOONLIGHT* (MVFF39). Jenkins will be present for the screening. The film, based on James Baldwin's novel of the same name, was

adapted by Jenkins', and follows a pregnant African-American who sets out to clear her fiancé's name after he is falsely imprisoned. The Closing Night Party following the film will be held at Elks Lodge in San Rafael.

Spotlights

MVFF41 will bestow a number of Spotlights throughout the Festival including: honoring rising star Amandla Stenberg for her work in ***The Hate U Give***; Joel Edgerton for his work directing and co-starring in ***Boy Erased***; Karyn Kusama for her directorial effort ***Destroyer***; esteemed actor Richard E. Grant for his performance in ***Can You Ever Forgive Me?***; acclaimed actress Maggie Gyllenhaal for ***The Kindergarten Teacher***; and acknowledge Paul Dano and Carey Mulligan for their creative collaboration on ***Wildlife***.

Tribute – Pawel Pawlikowski

Academy Award winning Polish director Pawel Pawlikowski (*Ida*) will receive a special Tribute from the Festival to celebrate his latest film ***Cold War***, a star-crossed romance set during 1950s Cold War in Poland. Pawlikowski will be present for the awards presentation and an onstage conversation following the film.

Special Presentation – BEAUTIFUL BOY

The Festival will present a Special Presentation screening of ***Beautiful Boy*** with Academy Award nominated actor Timothée Chalamet (*Call Me By Your Name*), Academy Award Nominated actress Amy Ryan (*Gone Baby Gone*), and Academy Award nominated Belgian director Felix van Groeningen (*The Broken Circle Breakdown*).

Behind the Screens – Panels | Master Classes | Workshops

The Festival will present another strong slate of Panels, Master Classes, and Workshops to supplement the outstanding film programming and to continue the discussion for Festival attendees. They include: back for a second year, the **Mind The Gap Summit** will again feature an extraordinary lineup of thought leaders and creatives in film and tech for a full day intensive to help work and share ideas as the Festival advocates gender equity in film; the annual **State of the Industry** panel will feature leaders of the independent film world to talk about the current pulse of the independent film community; the **From Scene to Screen For Teens** workshop, facilitated by Tom Franco and Iris Torres, will allow teenage participants the chance to workshop scenes from Gerrard Conley's memoir *Boy Erased*; the **Crowdfunding to Build Independence** workshop teaches filmmakers the essentials for engaging their audience at every stage of their project; Tom Schlesinger will facilitate the workshop **The Heroine's Journey Onscreen Dramedy**, a dive into utilizing the Heroine's Journey for storytelling; the **Medical Marijuana** panel, following a screening of *Weed the People* will focus on the medical uses of marijuana and the many benefits to utilizing cannabis to treat a host of ailments; **420: Welcome The Waldos** will illuminate the story behind the origins of the term 420; and finally, **Graphic Novel Writing for Teens**, is a hands-on workshop following the screening of the film *Virus Tropical*, and will introduce students to the work of several cartoonists and guide them through the process.

MVFF Music

MVFF Music returns for a fourth year with a diverse series of concerts at the Sweetwater Music Hall. Nine nights of live music include performances by artists featured in MVFF films, as well as local, national, and international musicians. Musicians include: Freddy Jones Band, Jarvis Cocker introducing Jarv is..., Holly Near with Tammy Hall and Jan Martinelli, Michael Franti, Black Zeppelin, the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, Half Pint, and Honus Honus.

¡VIVA EL CINE!

MVFF's ¡Viva El Cine! Initiative showcases prize-winning Spanish Language and Latin American

films that seek to engage and embrace our Spanish speaking and loving audiences. Highlights in this section include: Alfonso Cuarón's **Roma** from Mexico, **Birds of Passage** from Columbia, **El Ángel** from Argentina, Richard Levien's **Collisions** featuring Mexican American characters, **Ernesto** from Cuba, **Too Late to Die Young** from Chile, and **The Silence of Others** from Spain.

Active Cinema

Once again the MVFF's Active Cinema initiative will showcase film's power to inspire people to take action to create positive change. Screenings throughout the Festival support the grassroots activism of the filmmakers and engage with the work of the special guests, co-presenters and partners. Highlights include: **Charm City** in association with Ritter Center; **From Baghdad to the Bay** in association with the international Rescue Committee, Horizons Foundation, LGBT Asylum Project and Human Rights Watch; **Harvest Season** in association with La Luz Center; **Stay Human** in association with Do It For The Love; **Time For Ilhan** in association with Marin County Young Democrats; **Who Killed Lt. Van Dorn?** In association with Investigative Reporting Program at the Graduate School of Journalism, UC Berkeley and the Center for Investigative Reporting; **Wild DaZe** in association with Wildlife Works; and the **Active Cinema Hike**, a free networking in nature event.

Mind The Gap Award – Stacy L. Smith

Mind The Gap, MVFF's gender equity initiative, amplifies and champions work by women filmmakers, who are changing the narrative that shapes the culture. The Festival is committed to programming 50/50 by 2020 – 50% women directors across all Festival sections by 2020. As part of Mind The Gap this year, the Festival will give Stacy L. Smith the Mind the Gap Award for Visionary Leadership. Smith is a visionary leader in the movement towards gender equity in the film industry. She is an associate professor at USC Annenberg and Founder and Director of the USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, the leading think tank globally studying issues of inequality in entertainment. Smith will receive the Mind the Gap Award during the Mind the Gap Summit on Saturday, October 6 where she will also present some of her most recent work.

Focus | Black Is

MVFF's Focus Black Is will showcase emotionally and socially resonant films that explore what it means to be Black in the contemporary world. Films in this Focus include: the co-opening night film **Green Book**; **The Hate U Give**; the Closing Night film **If Beale Street Could Talk**; **Little Woods**; **Long Time Coming: A 1955 Baseball Story**; and **Obey**.

Focus | Teens & 20's

The Festival's Focus Teens & 20's, is a focus on young adult films about that defining – and sometimes challenging – post-adolescent/pre-adult time of life. Films in this Focus include: the short program **5@5 The Way It Is**; **Angst**; the Special Presentation **Beautiful Boy**; **Ben is Back**; **The Hate U Give**; **Rafiki**; **The Silent Revolution**; **Too Late to Die Young**; and **Virus Tropical**.

Focus | Queer-ish

Diverse stories of queer representation found in a wide, genre-twisting array of films will be showcased in the Festival's Focus Queer-ish. Films in this Focus include: **Alifu The Prince/ss**; **El Ángel**; **Border**; Joel Edgerton's Spotlight presentation film **Boy Erased**; Richard E. Grant's Spotlight presentation film **Can You Ever Forgive Me?**; **The Favorite**; **From Baghdad to the Bay**; **Holly Near: Singing For Our Lives**; **The Parting Glass**; and **Rafiki**.

Focus | Animation Nation

An assemblage of gorgeous, entertaining, and occasionally kooky animation fiction and non-fiction films from around the globe highlight the Focus Animation Nation. Films in this Focus include: the short program **5@5 Circle Game**; **The Big Bad Fox and Other Tales**; **Chris The**

Swiss; Coco; Seder-Masochism; A Ton O'Toons; Virus Tropical; and Zootopia.

Complete 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), 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 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, The Gruber Family Foundation and The EACH 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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