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CELEBRATING 41 YEARS

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

Initiatives & Sections

FESTIVAL INITIATIVE – ACTIVE CINEMA

MVFF's Active Cinema films are united in their commitment to explore the world and its issues, engage audiences, and transform ideas into action

Charm City: (US, documentary feature, dir. Marilyn Ness) An intimate and heart-wrenching portrait of Baltimore's Eastern District — the setting of HBO's *The Wire* — and the struggle of the community leaders, law enforcement officers, and city council members who live and work there to stem the tide of gun violence that has engulfed the city in recent years.

Harvest Season: (US, documentary feature, dir. Bernardo Ruiz) Ever wonder exactly how that wine arrived in your glass? Meet the people who prune, bud, harvest, and blend grapes from wood vine to bottle in our neighboring Napa Valley, as seen and sensed by the individuals who all contribute to the journey of these grapes of wealth.

From Baghdad to the Bay: (US, documentary feature, dir. Erin Palmquist) An Iraqi translator for the US military is wrongfully accused of being a double agent, and over the course of his interrogation by the military, his culturally forbidden sexuality comes to light. This candid documentary follows Ghazwan Alsharif as he forges a new identity, outside his family and homeland, as an openly gay man in San Francisco.

Stay Human: (US, documentary feature, dir. Michael Franti) What does it mean to be human? What connects people around the globe? How can we celebrate the beauty of love and life in a world turned upside down? These are just a few of the big questions Bay Area musician Michael Franti explores in this captivating and inspirational documentary.

Time for Ilhan: (US, documentary feature, dir. Norah Shapiro) Navigating multilayered prejudice with grace and grit in this intimate and riveting account of her 2016 campaign, Ilhan Omar seeks to unseat a 43-year incumbent from the Minnesota House of Representatives and become the first Somali American elected to a legislature in the United States.

Who Killed Lt. Van Dorn: (US, documentary feature, dir. Zachary Stauffer) The widow of a Navy helicopter pilot killed in a 2014 training exercise spurs an investigation that

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uncovers a long history of institutional failings that led to her husband's crash. This poignant portrait of a family's tragedy is also a revelatory inquiry into the murky inner-workings of the American defense establishment.

Wild DaZe: (US, documentary feature, dir. Phyllis Stuart) Through interviews with experts from Dame Jane Goodall to wildlife hunters, filmmaker Phyllis Stuart explores the relationship between animal poaching, the illegal ivory trade, and human beings, and examines how rampant corruption complicates the fight to save species nearing extinction.

FESTIVAL INITIATIVE – MIND THE GAP: WOMEN | FILM | TECH

MVFF's women's initiative, Mind the Gap, is both a celebration and a call to action, exploring women, film, and technology. In a wealth of Festival-wide programming, MVFF explores three aspects of the film and tech worlds: innovation/entrepreneurism, creativity, and gender representation. Through screenings, Q&As, panels, master classes, and special events, MVFF will highlight and explore the work and the impact of women in these fields.

...As If They Were Angels (US, documentary feature, dir. Terry Strauss) Shortly after Pearl Harbor, a US destroyer and a supply ship crashed on the rocks of Newfoundland during a storm. More than 200 sailors lost their lives, but nearly as many were rescued by local townspeople. Narrated by Peter Coyote, this deeply touching film recounts a story of sacrifice, endurance, and heroism.

A Private War (US, narrative feature, dir. Matthew Heineman) In a breathtaking, career-defining performance, Rosamund Pike transforms herself into famed war correspondent Marie Colvin in Oscar®-nominated filmmaker Matthew Heineman's narrative debut. Spanning nearly two decades, this powerful drama showcases the fearless dedication that pushes Colvin to the top of her male-dominated field—a singular passion that drives her pursuit of the truth, even when her own safety is jeopardized.

Alifu the Prince/ss (Taiwan, narrative feature, dir. Wang Yu-Lin) The struggle between upholding tradition and moving forward in the modern world is beautifully depicted in this heartfelt tale of the only son of an indigenous tribal leader in present day Taiwan, who must choose between living life as a woman in Taipei and becoming the new leader in rural Taitung.

All These Small Moments (US, narrative feature, dir. Melissa Miller Costanzo) A sensitive teenage boy finds himself on the prickly path to adulthood as he explores his burgeoning infatuation with a mysterious young woman he meets on the bus, while his parents confront the reality of their crumbling marriage in this fresh and engaging feature debut from Melissa Miller Costanzo.

Amalia The Secretary (Columbia, narrative feature, dir. Andrés Burgos) The Type A secretary to the CEO of a failing family business, Amalia's typically predictable and structured life begins to unravel as she juggles a spontaneous flirtation with a carefree repairman, a suicidal boss, and a company on the verge of collapse in this quirky, hilarious office comedy.

Any Wednesday (US, narrative short, dir. Allie Light, Patrick Stark) Bay Area filmmaker Allie Light wrote and co-directed this sensitive, delicate drama of disparate souls

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reaching for connection. An octogenarian with dementia, Agnes (Mary Black) meets PTSD-afflicted homeless vet C'Mo (Shane Dean) after choir practice and gives him a ride instead of going home. While her family frets, these two people—separated by age, race, class, and even diagnoses—bond in their frail humanity.

Art Paul: The Man Behind the Bunny (US, documentary feature, dir. Jennifer Hou Kwong) This exuberant and heartfelt biographical doc peels back the curtain on *Playboy* magazine's founding art director Art Paul, the visionary graphic designer and influential trendsetter whose incendiary combination of fine art and pop art helped usher in a new cultural revolution. The iconic tuxedoed bunny was only the beginning.

Ash is Purest White (China, narrative feature, dir. Jia Zhangke) After taking a rap for her mobster boyfriend and serving five years in prison, a headstrong woman discovers that life on the outside has changed enormously. Revered auteur Jia Zhangke's contemporary gangster epic eloquently blends the surreal with the melancholy while smartly chronicling a China in flux.

Bathtubs Over Broadway (US, documentary feature, dir. Dava Whisenant) This joyous romp through a Broadway history you never knew existed (which all started with a song about a bathroom) will have you singing along as comedy writer Steve Young uncovers the quirky, endearing, and entirely secret world of mid-20th century industrial musicals.

Becoming Astrid (Unga Astrid) (Sweden/Germany/Denmark, narrative feature, dir. Pernille Fischer Christensen) Before Astrid Lindgren, creator of Pippi Longstocking, became a world-famous children's author she was Astrid Ericsson, a teenager in rural Sweden eager to explore the world. In this gorgeous biopic, Astrid's restless curiosity leads her into an affair and then single motherhood, both experiences crucial to her development as a writer.

Ben Is Back (US, narrative feature, dir. Peter Hedges) Julia Roberts and Lucas Hedges command the screen in Oscar®-nominated writer-director Peter Hedges' riveting family drama. With touches of suspense and surprise throughout, *Ben Is Back* traces the 24 hours of a teenage prodigal son's return to his family's home from his sober living community for Christmas.

Bias (US, documentary feature, dir. Robin Hauser) Precisely matched to this moment of political and social upheaval, award-winning filmmaker Robin Hauser's new documentary takes an incisive look at the nature of unconscious human bias and its long-reaching effects on social, professional, and cultural norms, and searches for answers as to how we can de-bias our own brains.

Birds of Passage (Pájaros de verano) (Columbia/Denmark/Mexico, narrative feature, dirs. Cristina Gallego and Ciro Guerra) During Colombia's marijuana boom in the 1970s, a Wayuu family is torn between upholding their indigenous values and amassing money, guns, and power. Prodigal son Rapayet and seer matriarch Ursula try to have it both ways as a feud escalates with a rival family in this riveting, fact-based drama.

Bushwick Beats (US, narrative feature, dirs. A. Sayeeda Moreno, Chloe Sarbib, Brian Shoaf, Sonejuhi Sinha, James Sweeney, Anu Valia) What do a single mother with ALS, a vampire, a young graffiti artist, and two lovers stuck in separate timelines have in common? Themed around the notion of "unconditional love," six directors from diverse

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cultural backgrounds present a series of vignettes—at turns poignant, tragic, comical, and absurd—entirely set in Brooklyn's vibrantly multicultural neighborhood of Bushwick.

Can You Ever Forgive Me? (US, narrative feature, dir. Marielle Heller) When her career as a celebrity biographer hits hard times, Lee Israel (a marvelous Melissa McCarthy) finds lucrative new use for her literary skills. She forges witty, salacious personal letters from the famous, and after partnering with a streetwise British dandy (a resplendently reprobate Richard E. Grant), sells them to collectors.

Capernaum (Capharnaüm) (Lebanon, France, narrative feature, dir. Nadine Labaki) This profoundly moving achievement opens with a 12-year-old boy, Zain, suing his parents in court: Asked why, he replies, “For giving me life.” Driven by an amazing central performance (real-life refugee Zain Al Rafeea), *Capernaum* addresses one of the most pressing humanitarian issues worldwide with insightful compassion.

Chained For Life (US, narrative feature, dir. Aaron Schimberg) Set behind the scenes of a campy horror film starring actors with various physical irregularities, this deeply original dark comedy shifts between the blatant exploitation in front of the camera and the earnest exchanges that occur between the cast and crew when the camera stops rolling.

Charm City: (US, documentary feature, dir. Marilyn Ness) An intimate and heart-wrenching portrait of Baltimore's Eastern District — the setting of HBO's *The Wire* — and the struggle of the community leaders, law enforcement officers, and city council members who live and work there to stem the tide of gun violence that has engulfed the city in recent years.

Chris the Swiss (Switzerland/Croatia/Germany/Finland, narrative feature, dir. Anja Kofmel) Christian Würtenberg's transformation from idealistic war correspondent to doomed mercenary during the vicious Yugoslav civil war is explored by filmmaker Anja Kofmel in this riveting documentary. Expressive ink animation illustrates and illuminates the mystery of Würtenberg's unsolved murder and the director's quest to uncover the truth.

Collisions (US, narrative feature, dir. Richard Levien) Precocious 12-year-old Itan Bautista is forced to carry the weight of her family when her mother is detained by ICE in this San Francisco-set drama. *Collisions* is a breathtaking and timely first feature that reveals the devastating impact of draconian US immigration policy as it falls on one family.

Daughter of Mine (Figlia mia) (Italy/Germany/Switzerland, narrative feature, dir. Laura Bispuri) In a dusty, isolated village in Sardinia, devoted mother Tina finds her beloved 10-year-old daughter inexplicably drawn to Angelica, the town's reckless, low-rent femme fatale. This intimately observed female-centered drama weaves an emotional triangle shaped by the complex loyalties of motherhood.

Destroyer (US, narrative feature, dir. Karyn Kusama) Karyn Kusama and Nicole Kidman are a match made in cinema heaven: As Kusama ups the ante on genre in this LA noir thriller, Kidman matches her by delivering one of her most extraordinary, transformative performances to date as Erin Bell, a detective who's forced to confront the demons that destroyed her past.

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The Favourite (Ireland, narrative feature, dir. Yorgos Lanthimos) Oscar® winners Rachel Weisz and Emma Stone vie for the affections of—and influence over—sickly Queen Anne (a gloriously unhinged Olivia Colman) in 18th century England in the latest audacious, dark-as-night comedy from world cinema’s leading provocateur, Yorgos Lanthimos (*The Lobster*, *The Killing of a Sacred Deer*).

Free Solo (US, documentary feature, dir. Jimmy Chin, Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi) Scaling the 3200-foot face of El Capitan in Yosemite without ropes or equipment seems like an impossible feat, but Alex Honnold is resolved to do it. In this hair-raising documentary, we witness phenomenal focus and harrowing setbacks, as he sets out to achieve this remarkable, physically punishing dream.

From Baghdad to the Bay: (US, documentary feature, dir. Erin Palmquist) An Iraqi translator for the US military is wrongfully accused of being a double agent, and over the course of his interrogation by the military, his culturally forbidden sexuality comes to light. This candid documentary follows Ghazwan Alsharif as he forges a new identity, outside his family and homeland, as an openly gay man in San Francisco.

Grit (Denmark/Indonesia/US, documentary feature, dirs. Cynthia Wade and Sasha Friedlander) This beautiful, grandly poetic documentary serves as both a memorial to the victims of an Indonesian mud volcano and the story of 16-year-old Dian's activism against a formidable alliance of big business and corrupt politicians to win compensation for her buried village and her family.

Harvest Season (US, documentary feature, dir. Bernardo Ruiz) Ever wonder exactly how that wine arrived in your glass? Meet the people who prune, bud, harvest, and blend grapes from wood vine to bottle in our neighboring Napa Valley. Three storylines illustrate the passions of harvesters and winemakers in search of “the heart of the grape.”

The Hate U Give (US, narrative feature, dir. George Tillman, Jr.) Starr (a sensational Amandla Stenberg) is the queen of code switching: living one version of herself in her Black community and another at her predominantly white private high school. When she becomes the sole witness to the shooting death of her friend by a white policeman, the two Starrs have no choice but to collide—often explosively.

Holly Near: Singing For Our Lives (US, documentary feature, dir. Jim Brown) Singer, songwriter, and activist Holly Near has been performing for over 40 years and in the process created what Gloria Steinem called, “the first soundtrack of the women’s movement.” Featuring Jane Fonda, Harry Belafonte and others, this intimate portrait is a testament to a sensational artist and an important time in history.

I Am Maris (US, documentary feature, dir. Laura VanZee Taylor) After a childhood of mounting anxiety, depression, and eating disorders, Maris is hospitalized to confront her illnesses. Struggling to cope once released, she finds solace in the healing powers of therapy, art, and yoga, becoming an instructor at just 16 and using her blog to promote self-acceptance.

The Kindergarten Teacher (US, narrative feature, dir. Sara Colangelo) In one of her finest turns to date, Maggie Gyllenhaal plays a sensitive kindergarten teacher who notices an uncanny knack for poetry in one of her students. When she attempts to nurture the child’s rare gift, her dedication sparks concern from both the child’s family

and her own in this arresting, thoughtful drama.

Lemonade (Romania, narrative feature, dir. Ioana Uricaru) Mara, a young nurse and an immigrant from Romania, marries one of her patients in order to provide a better life for herself and her son. But she quickly finds that the American Dream is a myth as she tries to navigate the immigration process and a new culture.

Little Woods (US, narrative feature, dir. Nia DaCosta) Ollie (rising superstar Tessa Thompson) is on probation for smuggling prescriptions down from Canada and now deals only in hot coffee in the oil and gas prairies of North Dakota. Beset by bills, doubts, and a desperate plea from her sister (Lily James), Ollie returns to make one last score in this taut, emotional, female-forward anti-western.

Los adioses (Mexico, narrative feature, dir. Natalia Beristáin) This riveting biopic of Rosario Castellanos follows the writer's path from university student in patriarchal postwar Mexico through a volatile romance with her college sweetheart that presents her with a difficult choice—even as it provides avenues for the personal explorations that helped her emerge as one of 20th century Mexico's most important literary voices.

Maria By Callas (US, documentary feature, dir. Tom Volf) Where words cease, music begins: The story of Maria Callas, one of the 20th century's greatest sopranos, is told entirely through her own words in interviews throughout her life. The legendary affair with Aristotle Onassis and her struggles with exhaustion and depression play alongside the evolution of her extraordinary, timeless talent.

Mug (Twarz) (Poland, narrative feature, dir. Maigorzata Szumowska) After a devastating construction accident renders the cheerfully shaggy Jacek unrecognizable, he finds that friends, family, and local townspeople treat him very differently, solely based on the changes to his face. *Mug* uses Jacek's tragedy to pinpoint the hypocrisies of a rapidly modernizing society that is only concerned with surface appearances.

The Parting Glass (US, narrative feature, dir. Stephen Moyer) After the unexpected death of their youngest sister (Anna Paquin), three siblings (Cynthia Nixon, Melissa Leo, and Denis O'Hare) embark on an apprehensive road trip with their father in this powerful, nuanced, and emotionally resonant drama that marks an impressive directorial debut for acclaimed actor Stephen Moyer (*True Blood*).

Pet Names (US, narrative feature, dir. Carol Brandt) This contemplative drama follows grad school dropout Leigh as she escapes to the woods on a camping trip with her ex, taking a break from caring for her ailing mother. With intimate dialogue and meditative pacing, the two navigate their pasts and search for connection, losing and finding themselves amongst the trees.

Rafiki (Kenya/South Africa/France/Norway/Netherlands/Germany, narrative feature, dir. Wanuri Kahlu) Banned in its home country before becoming the very first Kenyan film to ever play at Cannes, *Rafiki* is a sweet and vibrant coming-of-age tale about Kena and Ziki, the daughters of two political rivals who fall in love despite dangerous familial and cultural objections.

Roma (Mexico, narrative feature, dir. Alfonso Cuarón) A love letter to the Mexico City of his youth, Oscar® winner Alfonso Cuarón depicts with stunning vividness the tale of a

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family in 1970 and the housekeeper who is its emotional center. An intensely personal and profoundly moving canvas of humanity, *Roma* is an epic that's not to be missed.

Saint Judy (US, narrative feature, dir. Sean Hanish) An incredibly timely story celebrating tenacity and hope in the face of adversity, *Saint Judy* stars Michelle Monaghan (*Mission: Impossible - Fallout*) in a tender performance as Judy Wood, an immigration attorney who helped change US asylum laws to include women as a protected class.

Seder-Masochism (US, animated feature, dir. Nina Paley) Visionary director and animator Nina Paley's long-awaited follow-up to *Sita Sings the Blues* is an irreverent musical retelling of the story of Passover. With her signature acerbic wit and a resplendent variety of animation styles, Paley's latest is *Schoolhouse Rock* by way of Adult Swim, filtered through a razor-sharp feminist prism.

The Silence of Others (Spain, documentary feature, dirs. Robert Bahar and Almudena Carracedo) Decades after the death of Spain's General Franco, victims of his regime are still awaiting justice. This thoughtful and moving documentary shows how a grassroots effort to prosecute those guilty of crimes against humanity swells into a national movement of remembering and, ultimately, forgiving a past the country would rather forget.

SIR (India/France, narrative feature, dir. Rohena Gera) In her first narrative feature, Rohena Gera sensitively depicts a burgeoning romance in modern-day India between an ambitious domestic worker with dreams of becoming a fashion designer and her well-off employer. Delicately observed, *Sir* limns the social and economic chasm between these two unlikely hearts.

Sofia (France, narrative feature, dir. Meryem Benm'Barek) At home with her parents in Casablanca, 20-year-old Sofia suddenly finds herself in labor, heretofore completely unaware of her own pregnancy. Having violated Moroccan law by giving birth out of wedlock, Sofia must name a father within 24 hours or face serious consequences from both her family and the authorities.

Something Is Happening (Il se passe quelque chose) (France, narrative feature, dir. Anne Alix) Two middle-aged outsiders—free-spirited travel writer Dolores (frequent Almodóvar collaborator Lola Dueñas) and bereft, suicidal Irma—form a tenuous friendship while meandering through a Provence that proves much more complex than its postcard picturesqueness. This beautiful, mysterious film is a meditation on the immigrant experience and humans' simple desire for connection.

Supa Modo (Germany/Kenya, narrative feature, dir. Likario Wainaina) Jo, a terminally ill girl in Kenya, dreams of being a superhero. Her sister sets about transforming their village into Jo's own magical realm. The result is a brightly humorous homage to Hollywood and utterly charming family drama that makes you believe in the superest power of all: love. Age 10+

The Whistleblower of My Lai (US, documentary feature, dir. Connie Field) Fifty years after the My Lai Massacre, the Kronos Quartet team up with composer Jonathan Berger and a select group of artists on a chamber opera exploring the final hours of Hugh Thompson (1943–2006), the Army helicopter pilot who intervened in the mass murder of innocent civilians during the Vietnam War.

Three Faces (Iran, narrative feature, dir. Jafar Panahi) In this fascinating, tender-hearted road movie, director Jafar Panahi (playing himself) drives famous actress Behnaz Jafari (also playing herself) to a remote village in response to a desperate video from a young woman who dreams of becoming an actress. Encounters both whimsical and delightful provide a colorful backdrop along the road to freedom of choice.

Time for Ilhan: (US, documentary feature, dir. Norah Shapiro) Navigating multilayered prejudice with grace and grit in this intimate and riveting account of her 2016 campaign, Ilhan Omar seeks to unseat a 43-year incumbent from the Minnesota House of Representatives and become the first Somali American elected to a legislature in the United States.

Too Late to Die Young (Chile, narrative feature, dir. Dominga Sotomayor Castillo) Living with her father in a mountainous enclave of bohemians just outside Santiago, 16-year-old Sofía is very much off the grid literally and emotionally. Teetering on the brink of adulthood, she negotiates her blooming sexuality while observing the 'grown-up' childishness around her.

Two For Dinner (US, narrative short, dir. Eleanor Coppola) Separated by work, a couple arranges a video chat date night in Eleanor Coppola's bittersweet drama. While Lainie (Joanne Whalley) dines at their favorite LA bistro, film director Jack (Chris Messina), on location, makes do at a rustic Montana eatery. Throughout the effervescent, romantic evening, they flirt, eat, toast, and Jack begs Lainie to join him—but does he mean it?

Two Plains & A Fancy (US, narrative feature, dirs. Lev Kalman and Whitney Horn) Three tourists search for hot springs in 1893 Colorado and end up cavorting with fashion-forward yokels, erotic ghosts, and futuristic time travelers. Gorgeously shot in Super 16mm, filmmaking duo Lev Kalman and Whitney Horn's fractured frontier tale is one strange trip through old, weird America.

Use Your Delusion (US, documentary feature, dir. Jamie Vega Wheeler, Justin Carlton) This immersive documentary brings viewers on tour as former Man Man frontman Ryan Kattner hits the road, starting from scratch with his new musical venture, Honus Honus. Returning to dingy hotels and smaller venues with a group of younger collaborators, the eccentric musician explores the idea of success and staying true to yourself.

Viper Club (US, narrative feature, dir. Maryam Keshavarz) Susan Sarandon offers a riveting performance as a nurse whose journalist son is held for ransom by the Islamic State. When the government proves to be as much of a threat to her son's survival as his captors, she discovers a covert network of individuals working beyond the reaches of American law to aid in the release of her son.

Virus Tropical (Columbia, narrative feature, dir. Santiago Calcedo) Based on the stunning graphic novel memoir by Power Paola, this tender, exquisitely animated feature follows the Colombian-Ecuadorian artist's life from conception to young adulthood as she contends with her quirky family, the trials of teen romance, and the challenges of life as an outsider.

Weed the People (US, documentary feature, dir. Abby Epstein) Abby Epstein's bold documentary follows five children with cancer and their parents as they desperately try to move past marijuana's reputation as a recreational joyride and embrace its centuries-

old history as an effective medicine—one that not only offsets the negative side effects of chemotherapy but may even shrink tumors.

What They Had (US, narrative feature, dir. Elizabeth Chomko) Two-time Academy Award® winner Hilary Swank, Michael Shannon, Taissa Farniga, Robert Forster, and a devastating Blythe Danner are all at the top of their game as members of a family grappling with the effects of their matriarch's deteriorating mental health in writer-director Elizabeth Chomko's stirring and slyly funny feature debut.

When The Trees Fall (Koly Padayut Dereva) (Ukraine/Poland/Macedonia, narrative feature, dir. Marysia Nikitiuk) Lush cinematography, deft art direction, and impressive performances round out a genre-blending debut feature—punctuated with healthy doses of sex and violence—about a teenage girl who falls hard for a handsome criminal and plots escape from her small Ukrainian hometown against the wishes of her family.

Widows (US, narrative feature, dir. Steve McQueen) A star-studded cast led by an exceptional Viola Davis ignites the screen in Steve McQueen's riveting, hugely entertaining follow-up to *12 Years a Slave* (MVFF 2013), centered around a group of women in Chicago who must band together to repay a \$2 million debt left by their late husbands.

Wild Daze: (US, documentary feature, dir. Phyllis Stuart) Through interviews with experts from Dame Jane Goodall to wildlife hunters, filmmaker Phyllis Stuart explores the relationship between animal poaching, the illegal ivory trade, and human beings, and examines how rampant corruption complicates the fight to save species nearing extinction.

Wildlife (US, narrative feature, dir. Paul Dano) Evocatively adapted from Richard Ford's acclaimed novel and featuring a brilliant central performance from Carey Mulligan, the assured directorial debut from actor Paul Dano centers on a 14-year-old boy growing up amid parental strife as his family relocates to small-town Montana for work in the early 1960s.

Woman at War (Iceland, narrative feature, dir. Benedikt Erlingsson) A congenial village choir director, played by an unforgettable Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir, with a secret life as a renegade eco-activist is the unlikely heroine of Benedikt Erlingsson's suspenseful, impassioned, and soaringly uplifting tale, imbued with the devilish delights of Nordic humor.

Working Woman (Israel, narrative feature, dir. Michal Aviad) A young mother embarks on a high-flying real estate career under a charismatic, predatory boss. But as her confidence soars, so do her doubts. When her boss inevitably goes too far, she must summon all her wiles to rediscover her self-worth in this searing depiction of sexual harassment in the workplace.

Worlds of Ursula K. Le Guin (US, documentary feature, dir. Arwen Curry) Pioneer, feminist, wife, mother, and literary giant, Ursula K. Le Guin's life story embodies the passion of pursuit and the victory of triumph, as revealed in Arwen Curry's fascinating documentary, exploring Le Guin's worlds through her own words as well as tributes from devotees like Neil Gaiman, Michael Chabon, and Margaret Atwood.

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Zootopia (US, narrative feature, dir. Byron Howard) In a city of anthropomorphic animals, a rookie bunny cop and a cynical con artist fox must work together to uncover a conspiracy. Enjoy this free family screening under the stars at Old Mill Park!

FESTIVAL INITIATIVE – ¡VIVA EL CINÉ

¡Viva el Cine! is a survey of the best Spanish-language and Latin American films of 2018. This year's eclectic collection includes genre-defying films from Columbia, Cuba, Chile, Argentina, and Spain.

Amalia the Secretary (Amalia, la secretaria) (Columbia, narrative feature, dir. Andres Burgos) Amalia, the Type A secretary to the CEO of a failing family business, finds her typically predictable and structured life begin to unravel while juggling a spontaneous flirtation with a carefree repairman, a suicidal boss, and a company on the verge of collapse in this quirky, hilarious office comedy.

Birds of Passage (Pájaros de verano) (Columbia/Denmark/Mexico, narrative feature, dirs. Cristina Gallego and Ciro Guerra) During Colombia's marijuana boom in the 1970s, a Wayuu family is torn between upholding their indigenous values and amassing money, guns, and power. Prodigal son Rapayet and seer matriarch Ursula try to have it both ways as a feud escalates with a rival family in this riveting, fact-based drama.

Coco (Spanish Version) (US, narrative feature, dirs. Lee Unkrich, Adrian Molina) Kick off MVFF41's ¡Viva el Cine! program with the our screening of this Pixar family favorite in Spanish (with English subtitles) plus live mariachi music, Day of the Dead face painting, churros, and more!

Collisions (US, narrative feature, dir. Richard Levien) Precocious 12-year-old Itan Bautista is forced to carry the weight of her family when her mother is detained by ICE in this local San Francisco production. *Collisions* is a breathtaking first feature that shows the devastating impact of a draconian policy on one family.

El ángel (Argentina/Spain, narrative feature, dir. Luis Ortega) Cherubic-faced spree-killer Carlos Robledo Puch is portrayed as exquisitely impenetrable and nearly adorable in Luis Ortega's thrilling biopic. With black humor, exuberant pop music, and exquisite 1970s period detail, *The Angel* depicts a fascinating time capsule of Argentina through the teenage years of this charming sociopath.

Ernesto (Japan/Cuba, narrative feature, dir. Junji Sakamoto) Japanese-Bolivian medical student Freddy Maemura Hurtado travels to Cuba in 1962 to become a doctor, but instead, joins Che Guevara's guerrilla army in this powerful, anti-war biopic. Like Freddy, an idealistic student who transforms into an unlikely revolutionary, *Ernesto* burns with moral outrage.

Harvest Season: (US, documentary feature, dir. Bernardo Ruiz) Ever wonder exactly how that wine arrived in your glass? Meet the people who prune, bud, harvest, and blend grapes from wood vine to bottle in our neighboring Napa Valley, as seen and sensed by the individuals who all contribute to the journey of these grapes of wealth.

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with a difficult choice—even as it provides avenues for the personal explorations that helped her emerge as one of 20th century Mexico’s most important literary voices.

Museum (Museo) (Mexico, narrative feature, dir. Alonso Ruizpalacios) Inspired by the notorious 1985 art heist that resulted in the theft of more than 100 Mesoamerican and Mayan artifacts from Mexico’s National Museum of Anthropology, this mesmerizing thriller features a devilishly comedic performance from Gael García Bernal as one of the unlikely culprits behind the scandal that rocked a nation.

Roma (Mexico, narrative feature, dir. Alfonso Cuarón) A love letter to the Mexico City of his youth, Oscar winner Alfonso Cuarón depicts with stunning vividness a tale of a family in 1970 and the housekeeper who is its emotional center. An intensely personal and profoundly moving canvas of humanity, *Roma* is an epic that’s not to be missed.

Sergio and Sergei (Cuba, narrative feature, dir. Ernesto Daranas) Based on a true story, this whimsical and light-hearted tale remains grounded in human struggles and emotions through the eyes and ears of a young Cuban named Sergio (Tomás Cao), who works as an amateur radio operator and makes a connection with a Soviet cosmonaut on the Mir space station.

The Silence of Others (Spain, documentary feature, dirs. Robert Bahar and Almudena Carracedo) Decades after the death of Spain’s General Franco, victims of his regime are still awaiting justice. This thoughtful and moving documentary shows how a grassroots effort to prosecute those guilty of crimes against humanity swells into a national movement of remembering and, ultimately, forgiving a past the country would rather forget.

Too Late to Die Young (Chile, narrative feature, dir. Dominga Sotomayor Castillo) Living with her father in a mountainous enclave of bohemians just outside Santiago, 16-year-old Sofía is very much off the grid literally and emotionally. Teetering on the brink of adulthood, she negotiates her blooming sexuality while observing the 'grown-up' childishness around her.

Virus Tropical (Columbia, narrative feature, dir. Santiago Calcedo) Based on the stunning graphic novel memoir by Power Paola, this tender, exquisitely animated feature follows the Colombian-Ecuadorian artist’s life from conception to young adulthood as she contends with her quirky family, the trials of teen romance, and the challenges of life as an outsider.

FESTIVAL SECTION – FAMILY FILMS

A sampling of cultures and adventures for young people (and their families) that nurture their love of film

The Big Bad Fox & Other Tales (France, narrative feature, dirs. Benjamin Renner, Patrick Imbert) A warm-hearted, French charmer with Looney Tunes flair (presented here in English), *The Big Bad Fox* delivers a trio of winning comedic tales set on an idyllic country farm where a number of quirky, occasionally bickering animals are forced to band together as problems (sometimes literally) fall into their laps.

Coco (Spanish Version) (US, narrative feature, dirs. Lee Unkrich, Adrian Molina) Kick off MVFF41’s ¡Viva el Cine! program with the our screening of this Pixar family favorite in

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Spanish (with English subtitles) plus live mariachi music, Day of the Dead face painting, churros, and more!

Supa Modo (Germany/Kenya, narrative feature, dir. Likario Wainaina) Jo, a terminally ill girl in Kenya, dreams of being a superhero. Her sister sets about transforming their village into Jo's own magical realm. The result is a brightly humorous homage to Hollywood and utterly charming family drama that makes you believe in the superest power of all: love. Age 10+

Zootopia (US, narrative feature, dir. Byron Howard) In a city of anthropomorphic animals, a rookie bunny cop and a cynical con artist fox must work together to uncover a conspiracy. Enjoy this free family screening under the stars at Old Mill Park!

It's A Girl's World (Family/Mind The Gap Shorts) - Sherbert Rosencrantz, You're Beautiful (Natalie van den Dungen, Australia 2018, 11 min), **Two Medusas** (Scott Hamilton Kennedy, US 2017, 12 min), **JessZilla** (Emily Sheskin, US 2017, 7 min), **Dear Henri**, (Matthew Sandager, US 2017, 13 min), **A Field Guide to Being a 12-Year-Old Girl** (Tilda Cobham-Hervey, Australia 2017, 20 min), **Galinha (In Portuguese with English subtitles)** (João Pedro Pereira, US 2018, 12 min), **Free Like the Birds (In English and Spanish with English subtitles)** (Paola Mendoza, US 2016, 10 min), **The Bicycle Thief** (Kerry Skinner, UK 2018, 8 min)

From Mexico, Con Amor (Family/Viva El Ciné Shorts) - A Hole (El agujero) (Maribel Suarez, 2016, 5 min), **Lucy vs. the Limits of Voice (Lucy contra los límites de la voz)** (Monica Herrera, 2014, 10 min), **Bzzz** (Anna Cetti & Guicho Nuñez, 2016, 4 min), **Stardust (Polvo de estrellas)** (Aldo Sotelo Lázaro, 2017, 14 min), **Mateo and the Cinema (Mateo y el Cine)** (Luis Felipe Hernández Alanis, 2015, 4 min), **Tintico's Afternoons (Las Tardes de Tintico)** (Alejandro García Caballero, 2016, 11 min), **The Teacher and the Flower (El Maestro y la Flor)** (Daniel Irabién Peniche, 2014, 9 min), **Waves from the Sky (Olas del Cielo)** (Gildardo Santoyo del Castillo, 2015, 9 min), **Ricotta (Requesón)** (Luis Téllez, 2015, 6 min)

A Ton O' Toons (Family Shorts) - Coin Operated (Nicholas Arioli, US 2017, 5 min), **Rouff** (Benjamin Brand, Johannes Engelhardt, Markus Eschrich, Johannes Lumer, & Julius Rosen, Germany 2017, 7 min), **Dark, Dark Woods** (Emile Gignoux & Mik Lovenbalch Kirchheiner, Denmark 2017, 6 min), **Awaker (Probouzec)** (Filip Diviak, Czech Republic 2017, 9 min), **Undiscovered** (Sara Litzenberger, US 2017, 3 min), **A Priori** (Maité Schmitt, France 2017, 6 min), **I Want to Live in the Zoo** (Evgenia Golubeva, UK 2017, 6 min), **Painted** (Olivia Derie, Belgium 2017, 4 min), **Two Balloons** (Mark Smith, US 2017, 9 min), **Post No Bills** (Robin Hays & Andy Poon, Canada 2017, 5 min), **Lion** (Julia Ocker, Germany 2018, 4 min), **Superperson** (Philip Watts, Australia 2017, 2 min), **Outdoors** (Sarah Chalek, France 2017, 7 min)

The Way It Is (Youth Shorts Program) The Look (Max Retik, US 2018, 6 min), **Goodbye Sam** (Theo Taplitz, US 2017, 5 min), **Backyard Bees** (Will Noyce, US 2018, 4 min), **Amrikā** (Nicole Bahar, US 2017, 4 min), **Dance with Me** (Isaac Karliner-Li, US 2018, 5 min), **Perception** (Lola Duenyas, US 2018, 2 min), **The Last Straw** (Julian Jordan, US 2018, 12 min), **Experimenting with Animation** (Paige Flaming, US 2018, 1 min), **Why, God?** (Nathan Ginter, US 2018, 8 min), **Davy Jones Can't Fly** (Grant Anderson-Smith, US 2018, 7 min), **Censored** (Maggie Budzyna, US 2018, 3 min), **One in Thirty: The Story of Henry Oster** (Sarah Antabli, Tiffany Chang, Stephanie Cho, Sara Lowin, Gracie Sandman, India Spencer & Juliet Wiener, US 2017, 6 min), **Gray Areas** (Kat Swander & Jack Safir, US 2018, 7 min), **The Rat** (Miranda Autumn Lewis, US 2018, 5 min), **The Light of My Life** (Erina McSweeny, US 2018, 4 min), **The**

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Redwood Grove (Will Noyce & August Mesarchik, US 2018, 10 min), **Pop** (Ishaan Parmar, US 2018, 6 min)

FESTIVAL SECTION – MVFF MUSIC

Cinematic portraits of musical artists and eras, from all over the Bay Area to all over the world.

Holly Near: Singing For Our Lives (US, documentary feature, dir. Jim Brown) Singer, songwriter, and activist Holly Near has been performing for over 40 years and in the process created what Gloria Steinem called, “the first soundtrack of the women’s movement.” Featuring Jane Fonda, Harry Belafonte and others, this intimate portrait is a testament to a sensational artist and an important time in history.

Kannapolis: A Moving Portait (US, feature, dir. Finn Taylor) In this remarkable visual and musical time capsule and collaborative multimedia event from Bay Area director Finn Taylor and multi-instrumentalist Jenny Scheinman, layers of historical footage, contemporary filmmaking, and accompanying live performance weave together a mesmerizing and vivid portrait of bygone community life during an uncompromising chapter of America’s 20th century past.

One Voice (US, documentary feature, dir. Spencer Wilkinson) *One Voice* follows the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir’s messages of faith, hope, and joy, a radiant manifestation of the possibilities when people come together that demonstrates there is a place for everyone in the songs—a place where differences are bridged, and harmony is more than a musical chord.

Stay Human: (US, documentary feature, dir. Michael Franti) What does it mean to be human? What connects people around the globe? How can we celebrate the beauty of love and life in a world turned upside down? These are just a few of the big questions Bay Area musician Michael Franti explores in this captivating and inspirational documentary.

The Hi De Ho Show (US, dir. John Goddard) Expect the good, the bad, and the simply bizarre as John Goddard hosts and veejays selections from his personal music video archives. This marvelous miscellany of scintillating silliness includes odd pairings (Joan Baez and Phil Spector?), sartorial splendors, and, well, Boris Karloff. In what world do these exist together? That would be *The Hi De Ho Show*.

The Independents (US, narrative feature, dir. Greg Naughton) Pulsing with musical goodness, this engaging, offbeat film asks the age-old question: When do you hang up the guitar and become an adult? This funny, feel-good road movie captures what it means to be an artist at a crossroad and features members of the real-life group The Sweet Remains.

The Whistleblower of My Lai (US, documentary feature, dir. Connie Field) Fifty years after the My Lai Massacre, the Kronos Quartet team up with composer Jonathan Berger and a select group of artists on a chamber opera exploring the final hours of Hugh Thompson (1943–2006), the Army helicopter pilot who intervened in the mass murder of innocent civilians during the Vietnam War.

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Use Your Delusion (US, documentary feature, dir. Jamie Vega Wheeler, Justin Carlton) This immersive documentary brings viewers on tour as former Man Man frontman Ryan Kattner hits the road, starting from scratch with his new musical venture, Honus Honus. Returning to dingy hotels and smaller venues with a group of younger collaborators, the eccentric musician explores the idea of success and staying true to yourself.

MVFF Music at Sweetwater Music Hall Shows Announced:

10/5: Freddy Jones Band
10/6: Jarvis Cocker
10/7: Holly Near
10/8: Michael Franti
10/9: Black Zeppelin
10/10: Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir
10/11: [TBA]
10/12: Half Pint
10/13: Honus Honus

FESTIVAL SECTION – US CINEMA

A showcase of new films by master and emerging American filmmakers who share a talent for independent storytelling

A Private War (US, narrative feature, dir. Matthew Heineman) In a breathtaking, career-defining performance, Rosamund Pike transforms herself into famed war correspondent Marie Colvin in Oscar®-nominated filmmaker Matthew Heineman's narrative debut. Spanning nearly two decades, this powerful drama showcases the fearless dedication that pushes Colvin to the top of her male-dominated field—a singular passion that drives her pursuit of the truth, even when her own safety is jeopardized.

All Square (US, narrative feature, dir. John Hyams) John (Michael Kelly), a former pitcher who's now a two-bit bookie, spots an untapped market for the seedy gambling crowd in his girlfriend's son's Little League baseball team. John Hyams' hysterical comedy is the unholy alliance of *Bad Santa* and *The Bad News Bears* you've been waiting for.

All These Small Moments (US, narrative feature, dir. Melissa Miller Costanzo) A sensitive teenage boy finds himself on the prickly path to adulthood as he explores his burgeoning infatuation with a mysterious young woman he meets on the bus, while his parents confront the reality of their crumbling marriage in this fresh and engaging feature debut from Melissa Miller Costanzo.

Any Wednesday (US, narrative short, dir. Allie Light, Patrick Stark) Bay Area filmmaker Allie Light wrote and co-directed this sensitive, delicate drama of disparate souls reaching for connection. An octogenarian with dementia, Agnes (Mary Black) meets PTSD-afflicted homeless vet C'Mo (Shane Dean) after choir practice and gives him a ride instead of going home. While her family frets, these two people—separated by age, race, class, and even diagnoses—bond in their frail humanity.

Beautiful Boy (US, narrative feature, dir. Felix Van Groeningen) Powerhouse performances from Steve Carell and Timothée Chalamet anchor Oscar®-nominated director Felix Van Groeningen's adaptation of the bestselling memoirs of father and son

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David and Nic Sheff. Filmed in San Francisco and Marin, *Beautiful Boy* is a kaleidoscopic, moving portrait of an American family's resilience in the face of addiction.

Ben Is Back (US, narrative feature, dir. Peter Hedges) Julia Roberts and Lucas Hedges command the screen in Oscar®-nominated writer-director Peter Hedges' riveting family drama. With touches of suspense and surprise throughout, *Ben Is Back* traces the 24 hours of a teenage prodigal son's return to his family's home from his sober living community for Christmas.

Boy Erased (US, narrative feature, dir. Joel Edgerton) The teenage son of a Baptist preacher finds himself at a gay conversion camp after a fellow student maliciously outs him to his family. Nicole Kidman, Lucas Hedges, and Russell Crowe deliver astonishing performances as the divided family in Joel Edgerton's elliptical coming-of-age tale, based on true events.

Bushwick Beats (US, narrative feature, dirs. A. Sayeeda Moreno, Chloe Sarbib, Brian Shoaf, Sonejuhi Sinha, James Sweeney, Anu Valia) What do a single mother with ALS, a vampire, a young graffiti artist, and two lovers stuck in separate timelines have in common? Themed around the notion of "unconditional love," six directors from diverse cultural backgrounds present a series of vignettes—at turns poignant, tragic, comical, and absurd—entirely set in Brooklyn's vibrantly multicultural neighborhood of Bushwick.

Can You Ever Forgive Me? (US, narrative feature, dir. Marielle Heller) When her career as a celebrity biographer hits hard times, Lee Israel (a marvelous Melissa McCarthy) finds lucrative new use for her literary skills. She forges witty, salacious personal letters from the famous, and after partnering with a streetwise British dandy (a resplendently reprobate Richard E. Grant), sells them to collectors.

Chained For Life (US, narrative feature, dir. Aaron Schimberg) Set behind the scenes of a campy horror film starring actors with various physical irregularities, this deeply original dark comedy shifts between the blatant exploitation in front of the camera and the earnest exchanges that occur between the cast and crew when the camera stops rolling.

Collisions (US, narrative feature, dir. Richard Levien) Precocious 12-year-old Itan Bautista is forced to carry the weight of her family when her mother is detained by ICE in this local San Francisco production. *Collisions* is a breathtaking first feature that shows the devastating impact of a draconian policy on one family.

Destroyer (US, narrative feature, dir. Karyn Kusama) Karyn Kusama and Nicole Kidman are a match made in cinema heaven: As Kusama ups the ante on genre in this LA noir thriller, Kidman matches her by delivering one of her most extraordinary, transformative performances to date as Erin Bell, a detective who's forced to confront the demons that destroyed her past.

The Front Runner (US, narrative drama, dir. Jason Reitman) Writer-director Jason Reitman's powerful ensemble drama, featuring the stellar talents of Hugh Jackman, Vera Farmiga, and J.K. Simmons, presents a beautifully nuanced portrait of the meteoric rise and quicksilver downfall of Senator Gary Hart, favored candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination of 1988.

Green Book (US, narrative feature, dir. Peter Farrelly) For classically trained Black jazz

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piano prodigy Dr. Don Shirley (Oscar® winner Mahershala Ali, *Moonlight*, MVFF 2016) and his white chauffeur and bodyguard Tony Lip (Viggo Mortensen), a 1962 concert tour of the American South proves an eye-opening experience in unanticipated ways. Peter Farrelly's sharply observed drama, inspired by real-life events, features the prodigiously gifted Ali as the ultra-sophisticated, polylingual Shirley, an elegant, mannered outsider wherever he goes and a transformed Mortensen as his truculent, semi-illiterate attendant.

The Hate U Give (US, narrative feature, dir. George Tillman, Jr.) Starr (a sensational Amandla Stenberg) is the queen of code switching: living one version of herself in her Black community and another at her predominantly white private high school. When she becomes the sole witness to the shooting death of her friend by a white policeman, the two Starrs have no choice but to collide—often explosively.

If Beale Street To Talk (US, narrative feature, dir. Barry Jenkins) In arguably the year's most anticipated film, Academy Award® winner Barry Jenkins follows his iconic *Moonlight* (MVFF 2016) with a poetic, astonishingly realized adaptation of James Baldwin's novel about a pregnant 19-year-old woman in 1970s Harlem who fights to free her innocent husband from jail before their child is born.

The Kindergarten Teacher (US, narrative feature, dir. Sara Colangelo) In one of her finest turns to date, Maggie Gyllenhaal plays a sensitive kindergarten teacher who notices an uncanny knack for poetry in one of her students. When she attempts to nurture the child's rare gift, her dedication sparks concern from both the child's family and her own in this arresting, thoughtful drama.

Little Woods (US, narrative feature, dir. Nia DaCosta) Ollie (rising superstar Tessa Thompson) is on probation for smuggling prescriptions down from Canada and now deals only in hot coffee in the oil and gas prairies of North Dakota. Beset by bills, doubts, and a desperate plea from her sister (Lily James), Ollie returns to make one last score in this taut, emotional, female-forward anti-western.

The Parting Glass (US, narrative feature, dir. Stephen Moyer) After the unexpected death of their youngest sister (Anna Paquin), three siblings (Cynthia Nixon, Melissa Leo, and Denis O'Hare) embark on an apprehensive road trip with their father and the sister's estranged husband in this heartfelt drama that marks the directorial debut of Stephen Moyer (*True Blood*).

Pet Names (US, narrative feature, dir. Carol Brandt) This contemplative drama follows grad school dropout Leigh as she escapes to the woods on a camping trip with her ex, taking a break from caring for her ailing mother. With intimate dialogue and meditative pacing, the two navigate their pasts and search for connection, losing and finding themselves amongst the trees.

Saint Judy (US, narrative feature, dir. Sean Hanish) An incredibly timely story celebrating tenacity and hope in the face of adversity, *Saint Judy* stars Michelle Monaghan (*Mission: Impossible - Fallout*) in a tender performance as Judy Wood, an immigration attorney who helped change US asylum laws to include women as a protected class.

Seder-Masochism (US, animated feature, dir. Nina Paley) Visionary director and animator Nina Paley's long-awaited follow-up to *Sita Sings the Blues* is an irreverent

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musical retelling of the story of Passover. With her signature acerbic wit and a resplendent variety of animation styles, Paley's latest is *Schoolhouse Rock* by way of Adult Swim, filtered through a razor-sharp feminist prism.

Two For Dinner (US, narrative short, dir. Eleanor Coppola) Separated by work, a couple arranges a video chat date night in Eleanor Coppola's bittersweet drama. While Lainie (Joanne Whalley) dines at their favorite LA bistro, film director Jack (Chris Messina), on location, makes do at a rustic Montana eatery. Throughout the effervescent, romantic evening, they flirt, eat, toast, and Jack begs Lainie to join him—but does he mean it?

Two Plains & A Fancy (US, narrative feature, dirs. Lev Kalman and Whitney Horn) Three tourists search for hot springs in 1893 Colorado and end up cavorting with fashion-forward yokels, erotic ghosts, and futuristic time travelers. Gorgeously shot in Super 16mm, filmmaking duo Lev Kalman and Whitney Horn's fractured frontier tale is one strange trip through old, weird America.

Viper Club (US, narrative feature, dir. Maryam Keshavarz) Susan Sarandon offers a riveting performance as a nurse whose journalist son is held for ransom by the Islamic State. When the government proves to be as much of a threat to her son's survival as his captors, she discovers a covert network of individuals working beyond the reaches of American law to aid in the release of her son.

What They Had (US, narrative feature, dir. Elizabeth Chomko) Two-time Academy Award® winner Hilary Swank, Michael Shannon, Taissa Farmiga, Robert Forster, and a devastating Blythe Danner are all at the top of their game as members of a family grappling with the effects of their matriarch's deteriorating mental health in writer-director Elizabeth Chomko's stirring and slyly funny feature debut.

Widows (US, narrative feature, dir. Steve McQueen) A star-studded cast led by an exceptional Viola Davis ignite the screen in Steve McQueen's riveting, hugely entertaining follow-up to *12 Years a Slave*, centered around a group of women in Chicago who must band together to repay a \$2 million debt left by their late husbands.

Wildlife (US, narrative feature, dir. Paul Dano) Evocatively adapted from Richard Ford's acclaimed novel and featuring a brilliant central performance from Carey Mulligan, the assured directorial debut from actor Paul Dano centers on a 14-year-old boy growing up amid parental strife as his family relocates to small-town Montana for work in the early 1960s.

World of Facts (US, narrative feature, dir. Mike Gibisser) After Maureen's boyfriend falls into a sudden coma, she returns to her hometown to care for him. This beautiful and meditative exploration of love and loss pulses with a stripped-down Terrence Malick-like energy, focusing on the sights and sounds of everyday existence amid questions of mortality and memory.

FESTIVAL SECTION – VALLEY OF THE DOCS

The latest in documentary filmmaking from heartfelt stories of activism to historical profiles, current events and more

...As If They Were Angels (US, documentary feature, dir. Terry Strauss) Shortly after Pearl Harbor, a US destroyer and a supply ship crashed on the rocks of Newfoundland

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during a storm. More than 200 sailors lost their lives, but nearly as many were rescued by local townspeople. Narrated by Peter Coyote, this deeply touching film recounts a story of sacrifice, endurance, and heroism.

Angst (US/United Kingdom, documentary feature, dir. Matt Skerritt) A short, sharp documentary that hits an absolute bulls eye on the topic of anxiety. For those who suffer from it and those who interact with sufferers, *Angst* is an eye-opening and empowering exploration of anxiety's causes and effects—both physical and emotional—and what we can do about it.

Art Paul: The Man Behind the Bunny (US, documentary feature, dir. Jennifer Hou Kwong) This exuberant and heartfelt biographical doc peels back the curtain on *Playboy* magazine's founding art director Art Paul, the visionary graphic designer and influential trendsetter whose incendiary combination of fine art and pop art helped usher in a new cultural revolution. The iconic tuxedoed bunny was only the beginning.

Bathtubs Over Broadway (US, documentary feature, dir. Dava Whisenant) This joyous romp through a Broadway history you never knew existed (which all started with a song about a bathroom) will have you singing along as comedy writer Steve Young uncovers the quirky, endearing, and entirely secret world of mid-20th century industrial musicals.

Bias (US, documentary feature, dir. Robin Hauser) Precisely matched to this moment of political and social upheaval, award-winning filmmaker Robin Hauser's new documentary takes an incisive look at the nature of unconscious human bias and its long-reaching effects on social, professional, and cultural norms, and searches for answers as to how we can de-bias our own brains.

Charm City: (US, documentary feature, dir. Marilyn Ness) An intimate and heart-wrenching portrait of Baltimore's Eastern District — the setting of HBO's *The Wire* — and the struggle of the community leaders, law enforcement officers, and city council members who live and work there to stem the tide of gun violence that has engulfed the city in recent years.

Earth, Our Home: The New Environmentalists (US, documentary program) These three documentaries provide valuable perspective on the beauty of the Earth and the responsibility we each have in celebrating its grandeur and safeguarding its welfare: *A Word to the Wise* (Jordi Esgleas Marroi, Spain 2017, 27 min), *Earthrise* (Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee, US 2017, 31 min), *The New Environmentalists: From Hanoi to Paris* (Will Parrinello, John Antonelli, & Matt Yamashita, US 2018, 32 min).

Effortless French (Bitcoin Big Bang, l'improbable épopée de Mark Karpejès) (France, documentary feature, dirs. Xavier Sayanoff and Vincent Gonon) In 2014, the Mt. Gox bitcoin exchange collapsed when it lost 850,000 bitcoins (roughly \$800,000 at current value). Its CEO Mark Karpejès faced charges of embezzlement and other crimes in Japan. But is he a con artist or a victim? This engrossing documentary investigates the scandal and the cryptic personality at its center.

Free Solo (US, documentary feature, dir. Jimmy Chin, Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi) Scaling the 3200-foot face of El Capitan in Yosemite without ropes or equipment seems like an impossible feat, but Alex Honnold is resolved to do it. In this hair-raising documentary, we witness phenomenal focus and harrowing setbacks, as he sets out to achieve this remarkable, physically punishing dream.

From Baghdad to the Bay: (US, documentary feature, dir. Erin Palmquist) An Iraqi translator for the US military is wrongfully accused of being a double agent, and over the course of his interrogation by the military, his culturally forbidden sexuality comes to light. This candid documentary follows Ghazwan Alsharif as he forges a new identity, outside his family and homeland, as an openly gay man in San Francisco.

The Great Buster (US, documentary feature, dir. Peter Bogdanovich) Acclaimed director Peter Bogdanovich explores the legacy of comic genius Buster Keaton, celebrating the innovative and visionary career of “The Great Stone Face” through archival footage and interviews with friends, family, and artists who have been deeply influenced by his timeless work.

Grit (Denmark/Indonesia/US, documentary feature, dirs. Cynthia Wade and Sasha Friedlander) This beautiful, grandly poetic documentary serves as both a memorial to the victims of an Indonesian mud volcano and the story of 16-year-old Dian's activism against a formidable alliance of big business and corrupt politicians to win compensation for her buried village and her family.

The Guardians (Canada, documentary feature, dir. Billie Mintz) A society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable members, including its elders. Investigative filmmaker Billie Mintz joins family members, activists, and journalists in Las Vegas to expose a nefarious system designed specifically to allow court-appointed guardians to defraud and abuse senior citizens—and get away with it.

Harvest Season: (US, documentary feature, dir. Bernardo Ruiz) Ever wonder exactly how that wine arrived in your glass? Meet the people who prune, bud, harvest, and blend grapes from wood vine to bottle in our neighboring Napa Valley, as seen and sensed by the individuals who all contribute to the journey of these grapes of wealth.

I Am Maris (US, documentary feature, dir. Laura VanZee Taylor) After a childhood of mounting anxiety, depression, and eating disorders, Maris is hospitalized to confront her illnesses. Struggling to cope once released, she finds solace in the healing powers of therapy, art, and yoga, becoming an instructor at just 16 and using her blog to promote self-acceptance.

Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People: (US, documentary feature, dir. Oren Rudavsky) If you've experienced history through a punchy newspaper headline, you have publisher Joseph Pulitzer to thank. Narrated by Adam Driver, this portrait of modern journalism's founding father tells the story of an American legend who crusaded for the common man and set the gold standard for the Fourth Estate.

Long Time Coming (US, documentary feature, dir. Jon Strong) Can baseball change the world? This stirringly intense and deeply emotional documentary explores how one 1955 Little League game played in the heavily segregated American South transformed the lives of two groups of kids and offered a glimmer of hope for a country struggling with racial tension and inequality.

The Lost City of the Monkey God (US, documentary feature, dir. Bill Benenson) A fabled ancient Mayan city is the elusive goal of a real-life explorer and his team of archeologists and adventurers, as the impenetrable jungles of Honduras serve as a

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backdrop for an epic journey rich in mystery, danger, and controversy. This tale is centuries in the making.

Maria By Callas (US, documentary feature, dir. Tom Volf) Where words cease, music begins: The story of Maria Callas, one of the 20th century's greatest sopranos, is told entirely through her own words in interviews throughout her life. The legendary affair with Aristotle Onassis and her struggles with exhaustion and depression play alongside the evolution of her extraordinary, timeless talent.

Moving Stories (US, documentary feature, dir. Rob Fruchtmann) Award-winning filmmaker Rob Fruchtmann's compelling documentary follows six dancers breaking through culture and language barriers to inspire at-risk youth across the world. Traveling to India, Romania, South Korea, and Iraq, the New York-based performers offer week-long workshops that culminate in vibrant, heartfelt performances before the young students' communities.

Time for Ilhan (US, documentary feature, dir. Norah Shapiro) Navigating multilayered prejudice with grace and grit in this intimate and riveting account of her 2016 campaign, Ilhan Omar seeks to unseat a 43-year incumbent from the Minnesota House of Representatives and become the first Somali American elected to a legislature in the United States.

Weed the People (US, documentary feature, dir. Abby Epstein) Abby Epstein's bold documentary follows five children with cancer and their parents as they desperately try to move past marijuana's reputation as a recreational joyride and embrace its centuries-old history as an effective medicine—one that not only offsets the negative side effects of chemotherapy but may even shrink tumors.

Who Killed Lt. Van Dorn (US, documentary feature, dir. Zachary Stauffer) The widow of a Navy helicopter pilot killed in a 2014 training exercise spurs an investigation that uncovers a long history of institutional failings that led to her husband's crash in a documentary that is both a poignant portrait a family's tragedy and a revelatory inquiry into the murky inner-workings of the American defense establishment.

Wild DaZe (US documentary feature, dir. Phyllis Stuart) Through interviews with experts from Dame Jane Goodall to wildlife hunters, filmmaker Phyllis Stuart explores the relationship between animal poaching, the illegal ivory trade, and human beings, and examines how rampant corruption complicates the fight to save species nearing extinction.

Worlds of Ursula K. Le Guin (US, documentary feature, dir. Arwen Curry) Pioneer, feminist, wife, mother, and literary giant, Ursula K. Le Guin's life story embodies the passion of pursuit and the victory of triumph, as revealed in Arwen Curry's fascinating documentary, exploring Le Guin's worlds through her own words as well as tributes from devotees like Neil Gaiman, Michael Chabon, and Margaret Atwood.

FESTIVAL SECTION – WORLD CINEMA

Stories from six continents that foster a new understanding of our global neighbors and ourselves

22-July (Norway, narrative feature, dir. Paul Greengrass) Directed with visceral immediacy by Paul Greengrass (*United 92*), this drama recreates Norway's tragic 2011

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terrorist attack and its aftermath in a story about how a democracy dedicates itself to progress and the rule of law in the face of fear, as its victims find hope and community in the shadow of hate.

Alifu the Prince/ss (Taiwan, narrative feature, dir. Wang Yu-Lin) The struggle between upholding tradition and moving forward in the modern world is beautifully depicted in this heartfelt tale of the only son of an indigenous tribal leader in present day Taiwan, who must choose between living life as a woman in Taipei and becoming the new leader in rural Taitung.

Amalia the Secretary (Amalia, la secretaria) (Columbia, narrative feature, dir. Andres Burgos) Amalia, the Type A secretary to the CEO of a failing family business, finds her typically predictable and structured life begin to unravel while juggling a spontaneous flirtation with a carefree repairman, a suicidal boss, and a company on the verge of collapse in this quirky, hilarious office comedy.

Ash Is Purest White (China/France, narrative feature, dir. Jia Zhangke) After taking a rap for her mobster boyfriend and serving five years in prison, a headstrong woman discovers that life on the outside has changed enormously. Revered auteur Jia Zhangke's contemporary gangster epic eloquently blends the surreal with the melancholy while smartly chronicling a China in flux.

Becoming Astrid (Unga Astrid) (Sweden/Germany/Denmark, narrative feature, dir. Pernille Fischer Christensen) Before Astrid Lindgren, creator of *Pippi Longstocking*, became a world-famous children's author she was Astrid Ericsson, a teenager in rural Sweden eager to explore the world. In this gorgeous biopic, Astrid's restless curiosity leads her into an affair and then single motherhood, both experiences crucial to her development as a writer.

Birds of Passage (Pájaros de verano) (Columbia/Denmark/Mexico, narrative feature, dirs. Cristina Gallego and Ciro Guerra) During Colombia's marijuana boom in the 1970s, a Wayuu family is torn between upholding their indigenous values and amassing money, guns, and power. Prodigal son Rapayet and seer matriarch Ursula try to have it both ways as a feud escalates with a rival family in this riveting, fact-based drama.

Border (Gräns) (Sweden/Denmark, narrative feature, dir. Ali Abbasi) Tina is a lonely customs agent with a special talent for sniffing out all manner of malfeasance using her extraordinary sense of smell. With equal parts magical realism, weird romance, dark humor, and spot-on social critique, *Border* is a jaw-dropping tale in which absolutely nothing—and no one—is who, or what, they seem.

Burning (Beoning) (South Korea, narrative feature, dir. Lee Chang-Dong) A brittle romantic triangle powers Korean master Lee Chang-dong's exquisite, genre-defying adaptation of a beloved Haruki Murakami short story, in which the arrival of a wealthy, handsome playboy (*The Walking Dead's* Steven Yeun) disrupts the budding relationship between a deliveryman and his former classmate.

Capernaum (Capharnaüm) (Lebanon, France, narrative feature, dir. Nadine Labaki) This profoundly moving achievement opens with a 12-year-old boy, Zain, suing his parents in court: Asked why, he replies, "For giving me life." Driven by an amazing central performance (real-life refugee Zain Al Rafeea), *Capernaum* addresses one of the most pressing humanitarian issues worldwide with insightful compassion.

Chris the Swiss (Switzerland/Croatia/Germany/Finland, narrative feature, dir. Anja Kofmel) Christian Württemberg's transformation from idealistic war correspondent to doomed mercenary during the vicious Yugoslav civil war is explored by filmmaker Anja Kofmel in this riveting documentary. Expressive ink animation illustrates and illuminates the mystery of Württemberg's unsolved murder and the director's quest to uncover the truth.

Cold War (Zimna Wojna) (Poland, France, United Kingdom, narrative feature, dir. Pawel Pawlikowski) Based loosely on the lives of his parents, Oscar-winning director Paweł Pawlikowski's *Cold War* traces the tempestuous relationship of a composer and singer in mid-century Poland. Much like the director's *Ida*, this love story doubles as an examination of the fear and uncertainty of life during Communism.

Daughter of Mine (Figlia Mia) (Italy/Germany/Switzerland, narrative feature, dir. Laura Bispuri) In a dusty, isolated village in Sardinia, devoted mother Tina finds her beloved 10-year-old daughter inexplicably drawn to Angelica, the town's reckless, low-rent femme fatale. This intimately observed female-centered drama weaves an emotional triangle shaped by the complex loyalties of motherhood.

El ángel (Argentina/Spain, narrative feature, dir. Luis Ortega) Cherubic-faced spree-killer Carlos Robledo Puch is portrayed as exquisitely impenetrable and nearly adorable in Luis Ortega's thrilling biopic. With black humor, exuberant pop music, and exquisite 1970s period detail, *The Angel* depicts a fascinating time capsule of Argentina through the teenage years of this charming sociopath.

Ernesto (Japan/Cuba, narrative feature, dir. Junji Sakamoto) Japanese-Bolivian medical student Freddy Maemura Hurtado travels to Cuba in 1962 to become a doctor, but instead, joins Che Guevara's guerrilla army in this powerful, anti-war biopic. Like Freddy, an idealistic student who transforms into an unlikely revolutionary, *Ernesto* burns with moral outrage.

Everybody Knows (Spain, narrative feature, dir. Asghar Farhadi) Oscar® winners Penélope Cruz and Javier Bardem deliver powerful performances in two-time Oscar® winner Asghar Farhadi's engrossing thriller. Laura returns to her hometown for a wedding, only to be reunited with her former lover, but when her daughter goes missing, unresolved secrets from Laura's past start to come to light.

The Favourite (Ireland, narrative feature, dir. Yorgos Lanthimos) Oscar® winners Rachel Weisz and Emma Stone vie for the affections of—and influence over—sickly Queen Anne (a gloriously unhinged Olivia Colman) in 18th century England in the latest audacious, dark-as-night comedy from world cinema's leading provocateur, Yorgos Lanthimos (*The Lobster*, *The Killing of a Sacred Deer*).

In The Aisles (In den Gängen) Gentle comedy and touching melancholia suffuse this nuanced exploration of affection and camaraderie in a German supermarket. When mild-mannered new employee Christian falls hard for coworker Marion (*Toni Erdmann's* Sandra Hüller), the halting progress of their romance is tracked alongside a perfectly thought-out presentation of workplace life and personalities.

Lemonade (Romania, narrative feature, dir. Ioana Uricaru) Mara, a young nurse and an immigrant from Romania, marries one of her patients in order to provide a better life for

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herself and her son. But she quickly finds that the American Dream is a myth as she tries to navigate the immigration process and a new culture.

Los adioses (Mexico, narrative feature, dir. Natalia Beristáin) This riveting biopic of Rosario Castellanos follows the writer's path from university student in patriarchal postwar Mexico through a volatile romance with her college sweetheart that presents her with a difficult choice—even as it provides avenues for the personal explorations that helped her emerge as one of 20th century Mexico's most important literary voices.

Mug (Twarz) (Poland, narrative feature, dir. Malgorzata Szumowska) After a devastating construction accident renders the cheerfully shaggy Jacek unrecognizable, he finds that friends, family, and local townspeople treat him very differently, solely based on the changes to his face. *Mug* uses Jacek's tragedy to pinpoint the hypocrisies of a rapidly modernizing society that is only concerned with surface appearances.

Museum (Museo) (Mexico, narrative feature, dir. Alonso Ruizpalacios) Inspired by the notorious 1985 art heist that resulted in the theft of more than 100 Mesoamerican and Mayan artifacts from Mexico's National Museum of Anthropology, this mesmerizing thriller features a devilishly comedic performance from Gael García Bernal as one of the unlikely culprits behind the scandal that rocked a nation.

Non-Fiction (France, narrative feature, dir. Olivier Assayas) The thorny relationship between art, literature, and commerce has never been more seductive than in French auteur Olivier Assayas' latest comedy of manners. Featuring the ever-luminous Juliette Binoche, ironically cast as a past-her-prime primetime TV star, *Non-Fiction* is essential viewing for bibliophiles and cinephiles of all stripes.

Northern Wind (Vent du Nord) (France/Tunisia, narrative feature, dir. Walid Mattar) Putting a human face on global capitalism with lucid clarity and gentle humor, this smart debut feature intercuts the lives of two factory workers on different sides of the Mediterranean Sea: downcast, middle-aged, and recently laid off Hervé in France and young, underwhelmed, and underpaid Foued in Tunisia.

Obey (UK, narrative feature, dir. Jamie Jones) Amid growing unrest between protesters and authorities after an unarmed black man is killed by police, an East London teenager is forced to choose between fighting alongside his friends and family or running away with the carefree outsider he loves in director Jamie Jones's electrifying and powerfully acted debut feature.

Peterloo (UK, narrative feature, dir. Mike Leigh) A brilliant cast of character actors bring history to stunning life. Thousands gather at Manchester's St. Peter's Field on August 19, 1819, for a rally demanding reforms, only to be met by violent force. Writer-director Mike Leigh's (MVFF Tributee 2004) sweeping drama is a panoramic journey through this little-known moment of England's past.

Pity (Greece/Poland, narrative feature, dir. Babis Makridis) A mourning lawyer with a comatose wife relies upon loved ones' sympathies and the kindness of strangers. Then the grief gravy train dries up, and director Babis Makridis' deadpan take on the sorrow and the pity of personal tragedy turns into one brilliantly bitter pitch-black comedy, from the co-writer of *The Lobster*.

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Rafiki (Kenya/South Africa/France/Norway/Netherlands/Germany, narrative feature, dir. Wanuri Kahlu) Banned in its home country before becoming the very first Kenyan film to ever play at Cannes, *Rafiki* is a sweet and vibrant coming-of-age tale about Kena and Ziki, the daughters of two political rivals who fall in love despite dangerous familial and cultural objections.

Roma (Mexico, narrative feature, dir. Alfonso Cuarón) A love letter to the Mexico City of his youth, Oscar winner Alfonso Cuarón depicts with stunning vividness a tale of a family in 1970 and the housekeeper who is its emotional center. An intensely personal and profoundly moving canvas of humanity, *Roma* is an epic that's not to be missed.

Sergio and Sergei (Cuba, narrative feature, dir. Ernesto Daranas) Based on a true story, this whimsical and light-hearted tale remains grounded in human struggles and emotions through the eyes and ears of a young Cuban named Sergio (Tomás Cao), who works as an amateur radio operator and makes a connection with a Soviet cosmonaut on the Mir space station.

Shoplifters (Manbiki Kazoku) (Japan, narrative feature, dir. Hirokazu Kore-eda) An elderly father living in poverty decides to take in a scared, abused little girl—but is it a kidnapping or a rescue? Master filmmaker Hirokazu Kore-eda often focuses on the tenuous bonds of family, but rarely as beautifully as in this quietly devastating, morally complex drama.

Sir (India/France, narrative feature, dir. Rohena Gera) In her first narrative feature, Rohena Gera sensitively depicts a burgeoning romance in modern-day India between an ambitious domestic worker with dreams of becoming a fashion designer and her well-off employer. Delicately observed, *Sir* limns the social and economic chasm between these two unlikely hearts.

Sofia (France, narrative feature, dir. Meryem Benm'Barek) At home with her parents in Casablanca, 20-year-old Sofia suddenly finds herself in labor, heretofore completely unaware of her own pregnancy. Having violated Moroccan law by giving birth out of wedlock, Sofia must name a father within 24 hours or face serious consequences from both her family and the authorities.

Something Is Happening (Il se passe quelque chose) (France, narrative feature, dir. Anne Alix) Two middle-aged outsiders—free-spirited travel writer Dolores (frequent Almodóvar collaborator Lola Dueñas) and bereft, suicidal Irma—form a tenuous friendship while meandering through a Provence that proves much more complex than its postcard picturesqueness. This beautiful, mysterious film is a meditation on the immigrant experience and humans' simple desire for connection.

Swimming With Men (UK, narrative feature, dir. Oliver Parker) In this irreverent comedy, a gang of hard-luck misfits form a men's synchronized swimming team and then seek redemption by courting humiliation and competing in the world championships. But what the film truly celebrates is the salve of male companionship and its cast of beloved British character actors, including Rob Brydon, Rupert Graves, Jim Carter, and more.

The Silence of Others (Spain, documentary feature, dirs. Robert Bahar and Almudena Carracedo) Decades after the death of Spain's General Franco, victims of his regime are still awaiting justice. This thoughtful and moving documentary shows how a grassroots

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effort to prosecute those guilty of crimes against humanity swells into a national movement of remembering and, ultimately, forgiving a past the country would rather forget.

The Silent Revolution (Das Schweigende Klassenzimmer) (Germany, narrative feature, dir. Lars Kraume) When two teenage boys sneak into a West German movie theater and see a report about Hungarian students protesting Soviet occupation, they're inspired to lead their East German classmates in a gesture of solidarity. Their small act of defiance precipitates a chain of events that will test their friendships and their principles.

The Sweet Requiem (India, narrative feature, dirs.. Tenzing Sonam) A vivid story of exile and memory, Ritu Sarin and Tenzing Sonam's follow-up to *Dreaming Lhasa* centers on Dolkar, a young woman living and thriving in North Delhi's Tibetan refugee colony. Her life is disrupted when a mysterious activist and refugee arrives, invoking recollections and long-suppressed questions about her childhood escape across the Himalayas.

Three Faces (Iran, narrative feature, dir. Jafar Panahi) In this fascinating, tender-hearted road movie, director Jafar Panahi (playing himself) drives famous actress Behnaz Jafari (also playing herself) to a remote village in response to a desperate video from a young woman who dreams of becoming an actress. Encounters both whimsical and delightful provide a colorful backdrop along the road to freedom of choice.

Too Late to Die Young (Chile, narrative feature, dir. Dominga Sotomayor Castillo) Living with her father in a mountainous enclave of bohemians just outside Santiago, 16-year-old Sofía is very much off the grid literally and emotionally. Teetering on the brink of adulthood, she negotiates her blooming sexuality while observing the 'grown-up' childishness around her.

Transit (Germany/France, narrative feature, dir. Christian Petzold) A mysterious refugee in occupied France assumes the identity of a dead writer in order to escape. Though basing this intrigue on a novel set in 1942, director Christian Petzold brilliantly transposes the setting to contemporary Marseilles, creating a kind of timeless purgatory that reflects the plight of all refugees.

Virus Tropical (Columbia, narrative feature, dir. Santiago Calcedo) Based on the stunning graphic novel memoir by Power Paola, this tender, exquisitely animated feature follows the Colombian-Ecuadorian artist's life from conception to young adulthood as she contends with her quirky family, the trials of teen romance, and the challenges of life as an outsider.

When The Trees Fall (Koly Padayut Dereva) (Ukraine/Poland/Macedonia, narrative feature, dir. Marysia Nikitiuk) Lush cinematography, deft art direction, and impressive performances round out a genre-blending debut feature—punctuated with healthy doses of sex and violence—about a teenage girl who falls hard for a handsome criminal and plots escape from her small Ukrainian hometown against the wishes of her family.

Woman at War (Kona fer í Strid) (Iceland, France, Ukraine, narrative feature, dir. Benedikt Erlingsson) A congenial village choir director, played by an unforgettable Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir, with a secret life as a renegade eco-activist is the unlikely

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heroine of Benedikt Erlingsson's suspenseful, impassioned, and soaringly uplifting tale, imbued with the devilish delights of Nordic humor.

Working Woman (Israel, narrative feature, dir. Michal Aviad) A young mother embarks on a high-flying real estate career under a charismatic, predatory boss. But as her confidence soars, so do her doubts. When her boss inevitably goes too far, she must summon all her wiles to rediscover her self-worth in this searing depiction of sexual harassment in the workplace.

Yomeddine (Egypt, narrative feature, dir. A. B. Shawky) With moments of grace, *Yomeddine* is a life-affirming tale of human dignity, respect, and the resilience of the human spirit. Beshay, a resident one of Egypt's leper colonies, embarks on a desert journey to find the family that abandoned him, with a 10-year-old boy named "Obama" as his sidekick and a donkey in tow.

FESTIVAL SECTION – 5@5 SHORTS

The Boho Dance (Mind The Gap Shorts) - Join us for these tales of fierce and fallible women, told by a fabulous international collection of female storytellers: **Spanko** (Melanie Zoey Weinstein, US 2018, 12 min), **Candace** (Emma Weinstein, US 2017, 9 min), **Runner** (Clare Cooney, US 2017, 13 min), **Tsar Bomba** (Oskar Resetti, Switzerland 2018, 14 min), **Oculus** (Nasim Kiani and Mostafa Mostafavi, Iran 2018, 18 min), **Silvia in the Waves** (Giovana Olmos, Canada 2017, 13 min).

Daisy Summer Piper - Don't miss this set of hilarious comedic shorts, ranging from broad hijinks to a little ham on wry: **Brentwood** (Sharon Everitt, US 2018, 12 min), **Heads or Tails** (Fernand-Philippe Morin-Vargas, Canada 2018, 15 min), **Craig's Pathetic Freakout** (Graham Parkes, US 2018, 7 min), **Are You Still Singing?** (Gillian Barnes, US 2018, 12 min), **#Metoo Gumshoe** (Ilyse Mimoun, US 2018, 6 min), **One Cambodian Family Please for My Pleasure** (A.M. Lukas, US 2018, 14 min).

Eastern Rain - Tales of love highlight these shorts as each one depicts families facing a major turning point: **The Dress of Myriam** (Lucas H. Rossi, Brazil 2017, 15 min), **The Day That** (Dorian Tocker, US 2017, 26 min), **Two Puddles** (Timothy Keeling, UK 2018, 6 min), **The Law of Averages** (Elizabeth Rose, Canada 2017, 14 min), **Break the Camera** (Jenna Sofia, US 2018, 5 min).

Coyote - In these powerful shorts, lone protagonists navigate treacherous emotional terrain as they reconcile their need for connection with the world around them: **I Am My Own Mother** (Andrew Zox, US 2018, 23 min), **Shoe Shiner** (Andrés Gallegos, Chile 2018, 17 min), **Special Day** (Teal Greyhavens, US 2018, 7 min), **Souls of Totality** (Richard Raymond, US 2018, 19 min).

Come To The Sunshine - Indulge in these real life stories of the human spirit on display in all its marvelous varieties: **The Fiddler** (Brett Marty, US 2017, 10 min), **Skip Day** (Ivete Lucas & Patrick Bresnan, US/UK 2018, 17 min) **Hula Girl** (Amy Hill and Chris Riess, US 2018, 11 min), **The Center of a Book** (Joshua Moore and Liz Payne, US 2018, 5 min), **The School of Honk** (Patrick Johnson, US 2018, 12 min), **Agent of Connection** (Ivan Cash, US 2017, 4 min), **Mothers and Daughters: 8 True**

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Stories (Gary Weimberg and Catherine Ryan, US 2018, 6 min), **Footprint** (Sara Newens, US 2018, 19 min).

Complete Press Materials are available at:

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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, 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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