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CELEBRATING 41 YEARS

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

**MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
FOURTH YEAR OF GENDER EQUITY INITIATIVE**

**MIND THE GAP: WOMEN | FILM | TECH
AND HONORS DR. STACY SMITH**

SAN RAFAEL, CA (September 6, 2018) – The Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF) is proud to present the fourth year of our gender equity Initiative Mind The Gap: Women | Film | Tech, a festival-wide celebration and call to action, focused on the intersection of film and tech. Through this initiative MVFF is actively working towards closing the gender equity gap in Hollywood and the rest of the global film industry, by providing an inclusive platform for emerging and established women filmmakers and content. MVFF is committed to attaining the programmatic goal of “50:50 by 2020” across the whole spectrum of the Festival – World, US, Docs, Shorts, Music, and special premieres. This year, MVFF41 will showcase **45% women directors** throughout the Festival.

Mind the Gap at MVFF41 will launch with the second Mind the Gap Summit on Saturday, October 6th in Mill Valley, at the Outdoor Art Club, from 10am to 6pm.

MIND THE GAP SUMMIT

**Saturday, October 6th, 10:00am – 6:00pm, Outdoor Art Club
Conscious Inclusion in Film and Tech**

This full-day intensive session of presentations, discussions, master classes, and networking will be led by an extraordinary line-up of thought leaders and creatives in the film and tech industries. Addressing tangible ways to engage in change, speakers include Dr. Stacy Smith, singer/activist Holly Near, Chaz Ebert (publisher, RogerEbert.com), Shakti Butler (founder, World Trust), Robin Hauser (filmmaker, *bias*), and presenters from ReFrame, Seed and Spark, Facebook, and Lucasfilm. Participants will examine the intersections between film and tech and what each can learn from the other.

DR. STACY SMITH HONORED WITH MIND THE GAP AWARD

During the Summit, guest of honor Dr. Stacy Smith, Founder and Director of the USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, will be presented with the Mind the Gap Award. The Award recognizes those whose work and leadership inspires the movement towards greater equity in film and our lives. Dr. Smith will be honored for her groundbreaking research and inspiring advocacy for gender equity in film.

About Dr. Stacy Smith

Stacy L. Smith, Ph.D., 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. Her work has set the national conversation on employment practices on screen and behind the camera and has inspired the drive towards palpable, solution-driven change. It was Dr. Smith who introduced the idea of the Inclusion Rider, famously invoked by Frances McDormand at the 2018 Academy Awards® and since adopted by many in the film industry. And

it was her participation at Mill Valley Film Festival in 2013 that helped inspire the launch of Mind the Gap. We are grateful for her leadership, inspiration, and brilliance. Dr. 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.

WOMEN FILMMAKERS HONORED THROUGHOUT MVFF

During MVFF, several key luminaries in film will be honored: Carey Mulligan for her collaboration with Paul Dano in “Wildlife,” Amandla Stenberg for her inspiring role in “The Hate You Give,” Karyn Kusama for her powerful directorial work in “Destroyer,” and Maggie Gyllenhaal for her extraordinary performance in “The Kindergarten Teacher.”

Mind The Gap Films at MVFF41

...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 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 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 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.

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.

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 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 Aïx) 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 Sofia 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 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.

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.

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!

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

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