



Press/Media Contacts:

Shelley Spicer, Mill Valley Film Festival
415.526.5845; sspicer@cafilm.org

Karen Larsen, Larsen Associates
415.957.1205; karen@larsenassoc.com

Clara Franco, Hamilton Ink PR
415.381.8198; clara@hamiltoninkPR.com

(Above number and email are not for publication)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CELEBRATING 41 YEARS

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

GREEN BOOK
TO OPEN THE 2018 MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2018

DIRECTOR PETER FARRELLY AND OSCAR® WINNER MAHERSHALA ALI TO ATTEND
THE U.S. PREMIERE OF THE FILM

SAN RAFAEL, CA. (September 4, 2018) – The Mill Valley Film Festival announced today the second of two official Opening Night films for 2018, Participant Media and DreamWorks Pictures' **Green Book**, a powerful, sharply observed drama that will be distributed by Universal Pictures. Inspired by a true friendship, the film stars Oscar® nominee Viggo Mortensen as Tony Lip, a bouncer from the Bronx, and Oscar® winner Mahershala Ali as Dr. Don Shirley, a renowned virtuoso pianist, on a 1962 concert tour of the American South. Attending the Opening Night festivities — which also serve as the film's U.S. premiere — will be Mahershala Ali and director Peter Farrelly.

About Green Book

When Tony Lip (Viggo Mortensen), a bouncer from an Italian-American neighborhood in the Bronx, is hired to drive Dr. Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali), a world-class Black pianist, on a concert tour from Manhattan to the Deep South, they must rely on "The Green Book" — a travel guide that listed the few establishments that were then safe for African-Americans. Confronted with racism, danger — and comforted by unexpected humanity and humor — they are forced to set aside their differences to survive and thrive on the journey of a lifetime.

Peter Farrelly is a director, producer, executive producer, screenwriter, and published novelist widely known for the nearly 20 star-driven comedy blockbuster movies he made with his brother Bob, such as *There's Something About Mary*, *Kingpin*, *Shallow Hall*, *Stuck on You*, *Fever Pitch*, and the modern-day classic, *Dumb and Dumber*. Most recently, Farrelly's television series *Loudermilk*, starring Tyler Layton-Olson and Ron Livingston, was renewed for a second season by the At&T Audience Network.

Although **Mahershala Ali** starred in dozens of acclaimed and popular films and television programs, including *The Hunger Games*, *The Free State of Jones*, *The Place Beyond the Pines*, and *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, for more than 12 years, it was the Oakland-born actor's Emmy-nominated role as Remy Danton in the acclaimed Netflix series *House of Cards* that proved to be his breakout role. With high-profile roles in the Marvel/Nefflix series *Luke Cage* and the Oscar®-nominated crowd-pleaser *Hidden Figures*, Ali topped off a great 2017 by winning the Academy Award as Best Supporting Actor for his performance in Barry Jenkins' Oscar® Best Picture winner, *Moonlight*. Ali will soon star as Detective Wayne Hays in the third season of HBO's acclaimed *True Detective* series and later this year will be seen in Robert Rodriguez's *Alita: Battle Angel* for Twentieth Century Fox, alongside Jennifer Connelly and Christoph Waltz.

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

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

About the Mill Valley Film Festival

Presented by the California Film Institute, the 41st Festival runs October 4 – 14, 2018. Locations this year include: CinéArts@Sequoia (Mill Valley), Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center (San Rafael), Cinemark's Century Theater Larkspur, Lark Theatre (Larkspur), and other theatres throughout the Bay Area. With a reputation for launching new films and creating awards season buzz, MVFF has earned a reputation as a "filmmakers' festival" by celebrating the best in American independent and world cinema alongside high profile and prestigious award contenders.

About the California Film Institute

The non-profit California Film Institute (CFI) celebrates and promotes film by presenting the annual Mill Valley Film Festival and DocLands Documentary Film Festival, exhibiting film year-round at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, and building the next generation of filmmakers and audiences through CFI Education. CFI relies on the generosity of its community to sustain these core programs. The invaluable support of our sponsors, foundations, and individual donors ensures our continued success as we celebrate our 40th year. For more information please visit www.cafilm.org.

Supporters

CFI is once again proud to acknowledge the leadership support of Christopher B. and Jeannie Meg Smith and Jennifer Coslett MacCreedy, 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.

Social Media

#MVFF41, #MVFF

Twitter: @MVFFilmFest

Instagram: @millvalleyfilmfest

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MillValleyFilmFestival>