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MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES NEW MEMBERS OF ITS PROGRAMMING TEAM AND LAUNCHES TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NEW AND DIVERSE PROGRAMMING TALENTS



SAN RAFAEL, CA (May 23, 2019) – Mill Valley Film Festival announces two new members of its programming team: **João Federici**, joining the world cinema team, and **Mimi Brody**, who will be programming US Indies and leading the festival's new Trainee Programmer initiative.

From his tenure as executive and artistic director of the largest LGBTQ - themed film festival in Latin America, MixBrasil, João Federici brings a wealth of experience in international programming. A frequent jury member at festivals such as Cannes and for the Berlinale's Teddy Awards, he has also served as guest programmer at festivals around the world.

Mimi Brody is a well-respected programmer known for her work at top US festivals, including AFI DOCS, Tribeca Film Festival, LA Film Festival, and San Francisco International Film Festival. Her distinguished career includes curating for the Block Cinema and for the UCLA Film & Television Archive.

In addition to welcoming Federici and Brody to its programming team, MVFF is launching a pilot Trainee Programmer initiative in an effort to mentor and offer experience to new and diverse voices in festival programming. This initiative will offer two trainee programmers the chance to delve into the process of programming a festival from pre-festival research to post-festival wrap. They will contribute to the US Indies roster under the guidance of Brody, helping to curate a collection of films that represent a wide spectrum of American life and innovative storytelling. MVFF recognizes the challenges for new programmers to gain experience in the world of film festival programming, and is committed to incorporating diverse perspectives and experiences into the selection process of this well-established festival. In this pilot year, nominations will be solicited from programming colleagues, film professors and filmmakers in the Bay Area to identify potential candidates.

About the Mill Valley Film Festival

Presented by the California Film Institute, the 42nd Festival runs October 3 – 13, 2019. 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 California Film Institute

The California Film Institute (CFI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to celebrating and promoting film and media arts through the presentation of the internationally acclaimed Mill Valley Film Festival celebrating its 42nd year in 2019 and DocLands Documentary Film Festival, the ongoing cultivation of the next generation of filmmakers and film lovers through CFI Education, which features a broad range of activities, including screenings, Q&A sessions, and seminars with top international and local filmmakers and industry professionals as well as a rich program of classes and hands-on-workshops. Additionally, CFI acts as a year-round film-centric town hall with a diverse calendar of programming at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, one of the leading non-profit independent theatres in the country. The art of storytelling through film enables CFI to engage 275,000 guests throughout the year with films and events that entertain as well as address a breadth of social, environmental, and cultural issues. 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. For more information visit cafilm.org

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