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CELEBRATING 42 YEARS

Showcasing the Best in Independent and World Cinema
Thursday, October 3 – 13, 2019

Acclaimed Films From Around the World Highlight
First Slate of Films Announced at 42nd Mill Valley Film Festival

SAN RAFAEL, CA (August 9, 2019) – The Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF), presented by the California Film Institute, announced today the first set of films selected for the 42nd edition of the Festival, returning to Marin County October 3-13, 2019. The Festival will present acclaimed films from the 2019 Cannes Film Festival, the 2019 Berlin International Film Festival, and other Festivals around the world.

Early Confirmed films from the 2019 Cannes Film Festival at MVFF42:

The Festival is thrilled to present a diverse offering of films from the 2019 Cannes Film Festival including:

- **California premiere** of Jury Prize winner *Bacurau*, an absorbing small town mystery from Brazil, directed by Juliano Dornelles and Kleber Mendonça Filho
- **US Premiere** of Ira Sachs' *Frankie*, an intergenerational drama set in Portugal, starring **Isabelle Huppert, Marisa Tomei, Brendan Gleeson, and Greg Kinnear**
- **US Premiere** of Jessica Hausner's plant nursery horror film *Little Joe*, starring **Best Actress winner Emily Beecham**
- **Pedro Almodóvar's** meditation on the life of a film director, *Pain and Glory*, starring **Best Actor winner Antonio Banderas**
- Melina Leon's *Song Without A Name*, a kidnapping drama set in Peru, winner of Best Emerging Director at the Munich Film Festival
- **West Coast Premiere** of **Ken Loach's** UK drama about the struggles of a working-class family, *Sorry We Missed You*
- **North American premiere** of animated French film set in the summer of 1998 *The Swallows of Kabul* from Zabou Breitman and Eléa Gobbé-Mévellec
- **California premiere** of Marco Bellocchio's Italian mafioso biopic *The Traitor*, based on the life of 1980's Sicilian informant Tommaso Buscetta
- Comedic heist tale *The Whistlers* from Romanian director Corneliu Porumboiu

Early Confirmed films from the 2019 Berlin International Film Festival at MVFF42:

- **US premiere** of **Grand Jury Prize winner** *By The Grace of God* from **François Ozon**, an absorbing drama about three childhood friends involved in a Catholic Church abuse scandal
- **California premiere** of *Flesh Out* from Italian director Michela Occhipinti about a Mauritanian woman forced to gain weight in preparation for her impending marriage
- **California premiere** of *Marighella* from Brazilian director **Wagner Moura**, a biographical film about Marxist-Brazilian writer, politician, and guerilla fighter **Carlos Marighella**

- Offbeat Mongolian murder mystery **Öndög** from Sixth Generation Chinese filmmaker **Wang Quan'an**
- **North American premiere** of Hans Petter Moland's film adaptation of Per Petterson's best-selling character drama **Out Stealing Horses**, starring **Stellan Skarsgård**
- **California premiere** of **Golden Bear winner** director Nadav Lapid's **Synonyms** about an ex-Israeli soldier seeking to shed his national identity in Paris
- **West Coast premiere** of **Varda by Agnès**, an inspired career retrospective presented by **Agnès Varda** herself in her charming and bittersweet final film

Early Confirmed films from the 2019 Sundance Film Festival and South x Southwest at MVFF42:

- **California Premiere** of Australian Sophie Hyde's **Animals**, a best friends' coming-of-age in Dublin story based on Emma Jane Unsworth's novel starring **Holliday Grainger** and **Alia Shawkat**
- **California Premiere** of Miia Tervo's **Aurora**, about a commitment-phobic party girl in Finnish Lapland who falls for an Iranian refugee

Additional World Cinema Films:

- **Amateurs** (Sweden) dir. Gabriela Pichler - Unemployment and immigration have come to the once-thriving "typical" Swedish hamlet of Lafors. To entice a German superstore into opening a new location there, the town council enlists a Stockholm filmmaker to make a promo, with disastrous results. Then plucky teens Aida and Dana take matters into their own hands...
- **Amra and the Second Marriage** (Saudi Arabia) dir. Mahmoud Sabbagh - Unhappy housewife Amra is stoically resigned to her husband taking a second wife to provide him a male heir and must find her own subtly subversive ways of coping. Mahmoud Sabbagh's sophomore feature is a droll yet thought-provoking commentary on the state of the gender wars in modern-day Saudi Arabia.
- **And Then We Danced** (Sweden) dir. Levan Akin – **US Premiere** Merab has been training from a young age at the National Georgian Ensemble with his dance partner Mary. His world turns upside down when the carefree Irakli arrives and becomes both his strongest rival and desire. – IMDB
- **Blackbird** (UK) dir. Roger Michell – **US Premiere** A terminally ill mother arranges to bring her family together one last time before she dies. A remake of the 2014 Danish film 'Silent Heart'. - IMDB
- **Blue Hour** (Japan) dir. Yuko Hakota – **California Premiere** Thirty-year-old professional woman Sunada is a commercial agency director in Tokyo Japan. However, despite what others may think, she is unhappy with her job, career trajectory or the bustle. At the same time she travels to visit her grandmother who is hospitalized. With her travelling to Ibaraki is Kiyura, a friend. – IMDB
- **Carmilla** (UK) dir. Emily Harris - Much to the chagrin of her dour governess, Lara, a bored, rebellious 18th century teenager with a fascination for the macabre, takes a romantic interest in Carmilla, a mysterious young lady recuperating in their home. When Lara falls ill in the same manner as other girls in the area, the governess must decide whether their odd houseguest is to blame.
- **The Conductor** (Netherlands) dir. Maria Peters – **US Premiere** Based on the true story of Antonia Brico, the first woman to conduct the Berlin Philharmonic, a defiant and determined Dutch immigrant must choose between following her passion to become an orchestra conductor—unheard of for a woman in 1920s New York—and leading a more traditional life with the man she loves.

- ***Days of the Bagnold Summer*** (UK) dir. Simon Bird – **North American Premiere** A teenager spends his summer listening to heavy metal music and trying to get along with his librarian mom. - IMDB
- ***The Gasoline Thieves*** (Mexico) dir. Edgar Nito – From the very first moments – when two huachicoleros (or gasoline thieves) murder a rival poacher – an unrelenting air of violence and dread hands over director Edgar Nito's riveting debut, whose gritty, unvarnished filmmaking heartbreakingly captures the ordinary tragedies of decent people struggling to survive in a broken system.
- ***A Girl From Mogadishu*** (Ireland, Belgium) dir. Mary McGuckian – **California Premiere** Aja Naomi King stars in this inspiring story of Ifrah Ahmed, a Somalian refugee who rises to prominence as an international activist against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). King breathes life into Ahmed's testimony with a powerful performance that balances humanity with vulnerability and demonstrates the impact of refugee stories.
- ***Noah Land*** (Germany/Turkey/USA) dir Cenk Ertürk - Suffering through a mid-life crisis, Omer has to face the angry villagers in order to realize his estranged father's dying wish to be buried under the enshrined Noah Tree which his father claims to have planted half a century ago. – IMDB
- ***The Prince*** (Chile) dir. Sebastián Muñoz – A teenage boy in a 1970s Chilean prison is taken in by an older cellmate known as The Stud, who rules this erotically charged male society with brutality and tenderness. *The Prince* opens and closes in blood, but at its beating heart, it's a sexy, unconventional love story.
- ***A Tramway in Jerusalem*** (Israel) dir. Amos Gitai - Through a kaleidoscopic series of micro stories ranging from humorous to romantic to musical to surreal—all taking place inside a tram car gliding between Jerusalem's east and west over the course of a day—this poignant and perceptive drama from virtuoso filmmaker Amos Gitai offers a rare and complex snapshot of present-day Israel.

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 the 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

Supporters

CFI is once again proud to acknowledge the leadership support of Christopher B. and Jeannie Meg Smith, Jennifer Coslett MacCready, Vickie Soulier and Nancy P. and Richard K. Robbins Family Foundation, and the continued major support of Marin Community Foundation, The Bernard Osher Foundation, The Gruber Family Foundation, and The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation. We are also fortunate to have the contributions of the following Signature and Major Sponsors of the Mill Valley Film Festival: Jackson Square Partners, Lucasfilm, Ltd., Wareham Development, Bellam Self Storage and Boxes, Netflix, Project No. 9, Delta Air Lines and San Francisco Chronicle.

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#MVFF42

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FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

42nd Mill Valley Film Festival

Celebrating the best of independent and world cinema alongside high profile and prestigious award contenders.
Marin County, California

Thursday, October 3 to Sunday October 13, 2019

Ticket On-Sale Dates

Advance Ticket Packages and Passes on sale now

General Public Single Tickets on sale Saturday, September 14, 2019

CFI members can purchase single tickets in advance of the general public beginning Sunday, September 8, 2019.