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CELEBRATING 42 YEARS

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

**MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL TO SCREEN
HONEY BOY WITH DIRECTOR ALMA HAR'EL
OCTOBER 9, 2019**

SAN RAFAEL, CA (September 16, 2018) – The Mill Valley Film Festival is proud to showcase HONEY BOY with Director Alma Har'el in attendance.



Photo: Joseph Rubinstein

Most famous for her award-winning films *Bombay Beach* and *LoveTrue*, Alma Har'el creates narrative work that plunges deep into the heart of imagination and creates surreal, dream-like poetic meditations on life. Her wildly inventive approach to filmmaking produces genre-redefining work which is exceptional, fearless, and artistically blurs the line between documentary and fiction.

Born in Tel Aviv, she began her film career as a photographer and video artist, mixing live video content for concerts which then led to directing music videos. Filmmaker Magazine said her music video for Sigur Rós 'FJÖGER PIANO' starring Shia LaBeouf contains a "Truthful fusion of fantasy and reality" after naming her one of their 25 new faces of cinema. Her documentary *Bombay Beach* took top prize at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2011 and was nominated for the Indie Spirit awards. Her film, *LoveTrue*, saw her collaborating again with Shia LaBeouf, this time with him in the executive producer's seat. The film premiered at Tribeca Film Festival to rapturous applause in April 2016, with Indiewire writing "*LoveTrue* confirms that Alma Har'el makes movies like nothing else out there."

In 2016, Har'el launched the initiative Free the Bid to address the gender imbalance among directors in the commercial industry. #FreeTheBid asks ad agencies, production companies, and brands to pledge a woman director bid on every commercial. Since its launch, over 40 of the world's biggest ad agencies have taken the pledge along with 10 major brands including HP, Visa, eBay, Twitter, Levi's and Airbnb.

In the first year of Free the Bid's implementation, pledged agencies, BBDO and CP+B reported an increase of jobs directed by women of up to 400%.

About *Honey Boy*:

From a screenplay by Shia LaBeouf, based on his own experiences, award-winning filmmaker Alma Har'el brings to life a young actor's stormy childhood and early adult years as he struggles to reconcile with his father through cinema and dreams. Fictionalizing his childhood ascent to stardom, and subsequent adult crash-landing into rehab and recovery, Har'el casts Noah Jupe and Lucas Hedges as Otis Lort, navigating different stages in a frenetic career. LaBeouf takes on the daring and therapeutic challenge of playing a version of his own father, an ex-rodeo clown and a felon. Artist and musician FKA twigs makes her feature acting debut, playing neighbor and kindred spirit to the younger Otis in their garden-court motel home. Har'el's feature narrative debut is a one-of-a-kind collaboration between filmmaker and subject, exploring art as therapy and imagination as hope.

Honey Boy is one of the many films directed by women being shown at the Festival this year as part of its gender equity initiative Mind the Gap. In 2018, MVFF signed the Gender Parity Pledge, 50/50x2020, joining the likes of the Cannes, Venice, and Toronto International Film Festivals, to work towards better gender representation and inclusion in its lineup, MVFF is the only festival in California to sign the 2020 pledge. This year (2019) the Festival will showcase **48% women directors** throughout the Festival, a 3% increase from last year.

Honey Boy photos available [here](#).

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 Mind the Gap

Films represent one of our greatest opportunities to impact society. Films break through language barriers and highlight common values and shared experiences. Movies change the way we think and operate in society. Which is why it's so important for films to reflect the totality of the world. Every race, every age, every religion, every sexual orientation. And every gender. We have a long way to go on all counts, but the Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF) is focusing on where we can have the greatest immediate impact: Gender.

After decades of supporting the work of women filmmakers, CFI formally launched Mind the Gap in 2015, an initiative dedicated to achieving gender equity in the film industry. At the 2019 Festival, 48% of our films across all sections are directed by women.

CFI is grateful for the support of our Mind the Gap sponsors: Marin Community Foundation, Delta Air Lines, Netflix, LUNA, Equator Coffees, Egide Family Foundation & Christine A. Schantz.

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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