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CELEBRATING 42 YEARS

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

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

SAN RAFAEL, CA (September 16, 2019) – The Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF) is proud to present its gender equity initiative, [Mind The Gap](#), throughout the 11-day Festival. Now in its fifth year, Mind the Gap is changing the narrative that shapes our culture, championing gender equity in the film industry.

Last year MVFF signed the Gender Parity Pledge (50/50x2020), joining the likes of Cannes, Venice, and Toronto International Film Festivals, to work towards better gender representation and inclusion in its lineup, and increase transparency of its selection process by 2020. MVFF is the only festival in California to sign the 2020 pledge. MVFF42 will showcase **48% women directors** throughout the Festival, a 3% increase from last year.

The following Mind the Gap activities will take place at the Festival:

MIND THE GAP SUMMIT

**Saturday, October 5th, 9:00am – 4:00pm, Outdoor Art Club and Sweetwater Music Hall
The Money Issue**

An intensive session of presentations, discussions, panels, and networking led by an extraordinary lineup of thought leaders and creatives in the film industry. Speakers include Anna Serner, CEO, Swedish Film Institute; directors Olivia Wilde (*Booksmart*) and Kasi Lemmons (*Harriet*); documentary filmmaker Jennifer Siebel Newsom; Pixar filmmakers Kristen Lester and Rosana Sullivan; Melissa Silverstein, advocate and founder, Women and Hollywood; and presenters from ReFrame and Seed & Spark. The day will conclude with the screening of *No Time to Waste*, a documentary that pays tribute to National Park Service Ranger and activist Betty Reid Soskin's life and achievements.

MIND THE GAP DIRECTORS FORUM

Sunday, October 6, 12:00-2:00pm, Sweetwater Music Hall

In 91 years of Oscars® there have only been five women nominated in the Best Director category. In this one year at MVFF, we've assembled five potential awards-track women directors in this forum alone. This panel takes a deep dive into what it takes to sustain a career as a filmmaker—of fiction, animation, documentary—in 2019. Participants include:

- Zabou Breitman, *The Swallows of Kabul* (France)
- Sippy Chadha, *Subira* (Kenya)
- Chinonye Chukwu, *Clemency* (U.S.)
- Petra Costa, *The Edge of Democracy* (Brazil)
- Kasi Lemmons, *Harriet* (U.S.)

MIND THE GAP MASTER CLASS WITH LAURA DERN

Saturday, October 12, 3:00pm, San Rafael Film Center

Laura Dern is having an incredible year. It's a standout in a career marked by remarkable performances, from her indelible beginnings in Marin-based *Smooth Talk* (MVFF 1985) to her 2014 Oscar®-nominated role in *Wild* (MVFF Award 2014). Along the way are unforgettable moments: Being chased by dinosaurs (*Jurassic Park*) to hearing things (*Blue Velvet*) to the inimitable Admiral Hondo—power!—in *The Last Jedi*.

In this onstage conversation, Dern delves into her art as an actor, looking particularly at her most recent works. This year has seen: A reprise of her role as the intense, crazy-protective mom and tech honcho Renata Klein on *Big Little Lies*, a role which already won her both an Emmy® and a Golden Globe®; the compassionate but tough divorce lawyer in Noah Baumbach's sublime *Marriage Story*; and the ultimate mother of daughters, Marmee, in Greta Gerwig's *Little Women*.

MIND THE GAP AWARDS

- ***Visionary of the Year—Anna Serner, CEO, Swedish Film Institute***
Friday, October 4, 6:30pm, Rafael 2—award is presented prior to the screening of *Amateurs*

Serner is recognized internationally as a leader in gender equality in film production. Before taking office at the Swedish Film Institute in 2011, Serner was CEO of the Advertising Association of Sweden, and Managing Director of the Swedish Media Publishers' Association, where she was active in public debate on freedom of speech and the media's role in society.

Under her tenure, the gender equality perspective permeates everything that is done at the Swedish Film Institute—from production funding to the recruitment of new personnel. She studied film theory and filmmaking and has a Master of Laws from Stockholm University.

- ***Trailblazer of the Year—Betty Reid Soskin, National Park Service Ranger***
2:45pm, Saturday, October 5, Outdoor Art Club
Betty Charbonnet Reid Soskin is an author, composer and singer, social and political activist, entrepreneur, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, historian, blogger, public speaker, and National Park Service Ranger whose remarkable life spans the great American fault lines of the 20th and early 21st centuries.

Born into a Cajun/Creole African-American family in 1921, she spent her early years in New Orleans in the era of lynchings and Jim Crow segregation. Her family later settled in Oakland, California, following the historic floods that devastated the City of New Orleans in 1927. As a file clerk in an all-Black segregated union hall during World War II, she was witness to the flood-tide of Black and white workers who poured into the Bay Area wartime shipyards, a mass migration that changed the social fabric of California and helped usher in the Civil Rights era.

As a California State Assembly field representative, Betty was instrumental in the establishment of Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California, in 2000. She was later hired to work at the Rosie the Riveter Park, and is the oldest ranger in the National Park Service at 98.

- ***Actor of the Year—Laura Dern, actor, director, producer***
Saturday, October 12, 3:00pm, Rafael 2
(See above)

Among the Mind The Gap Films being presented at MVFF42 are:

- *3 Feet*, narrative short, director Gisele Geney
- *37 Seconds*, narrative feature, director HIKARI
- *39 ½*, narrative animation experimental feature, director Kara Herold

- *A First Farewell*, narrative feature, director Lina Wang
- *A Girl from Mogadishu*, narrative feature, director Mary McGuckian
- *All That Remains*, documentary short, director Eva Rendle
- *Amateurs*, narrative feature, director Gabriela Pichler
- *Amir Ali*, narrative short, director Shiva
- *Animals*, narrative feature, director Sophie Hyde
- *Annie & Carola: My Best Friend (Span.)*, animated short, director Myriam Ballesteros
- *Aurora*, narrative feature, director Miia Tervo
- *Ava in the End*, narrative short, director Ursula Ellis
- *Backpedal*, narrative short, director Dani Pearce
- *The Basket*, animated short, director Suresh Eriyat
- *Belly Flop*, animated short, co-director Kelly Dillon
- *Bike Bird*, narrative short, co-director Kari Klyve-Skaug
- *Blue Hour*, narrative feature, director Yuko Hakota
- *The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open*, narrative feature, directors Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers, Kathleen Hepburn
- *The Bookmobile*, narrative short, director Julie Zammarchi
- *Brewed in Palestine*, narrative short, director Emma Schwartz
- *Bubblegum*, narrative short, director Ella Fields
- *Carmilla*, narrative feature, director Emily Harris
- *Cherry Blossoms and Demons*, narrative feature, director Doris Dorrie
- *Chuskit*, narrative feature, director Priya Ramasubban
- *Clemency*, narrative feature, director Chinonye Chukwu
- *The Conductor*, narrative feature, director Maria Peters
- *De Lo Mio*, narrative feature, director Diana Peralta
- *Diary 2013-2018*, narrative short, director Soyeon Kim
- *The Dog Doc*, feature documentary, director Cindy Meehl
- *Don't You Forget About Me*, narrative short, director Lydia Ricci
- *Every Grain of Sand*, narrative short, director Amanda Spencer
- *Flatland*, narrative feature, director Jenna Bass
- *Flesh Out*, narrative feature, director Michela Occhipinti
- *Good Mother*, narrative short, director Sarah Clift
- *The Great 14th: Tenzin Gyatso, The 14th Dalai Lama in His Own Words*, documentary feature, director Rosemary Rawcliffe
- *Hanged*, narrative short, director Roqlye Tavakoll
- *Hard Shadow*, narrative short, director Neda Kanifar
- *Harriet*, narrative feature, director Kasi Lemmons
- *Hava, Maryam, Ayesha*, narrative feature, director Sahraa Karimi
- *Honey Boy*, narrative feature, director Alma Har'el
- *How to Be Alone*, narrative short, director Kate Trefry
- *Intermission Expedition*, narrative short, director Wiep Teeuwisse
- *It's Been Too Long*, narrative short, director Amber Schaefer
- *It's Only Rock n Roll*, narrative short, co-director Marcia Jarmel
- *Journeys Beyond the Cosmodrome*, documentary feature, director Jeanne C. Finley in collaboration with Lyazzat Khanim
- *The Kingmaker*, documentary feature, director Lauren Greenfield
- *Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone (If You're a Girl)*, documentary feature, director Carol Dysinger
- *Like An Elephant in a China Shop*, animated short, director Louise Chevrier
- *Little Joe*, narrative feature, director Jessica Hausner
- *Lizard*, narrative short, director Emily Gularte
- *The Lure of This Land*, documentary feature, director Alexandra Lexton
- *Mahalia Melts in the Rain*, narrative short, directors Emilie Mannering, Carmine Pierre-Dufour
- *Making Waves: The Art of Cinematic Sound*, documentary feature, director Midge Costin
- *Mamma Mia!*, narrative feature, director Phyllida Lloyd

- *The Miseducation of Bindhu*, narrative feature, director Prarthana Mohan
- *My Brother Luca*, animated short, co-director Catalina Serna
- *Perfumer*, narrative short, director Paloma Lingwei Chen
- *Pomegranate Seeds: Voices and Visions from Iranian Women*, shorts collection by seven women directors from Iran
- *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, narrative feature, director Celine Sciamma
- *The Remix: Hip Hop X Fashion*, documentary feature, directors Lisa Cortés and Farah X
- *Right to Harm*, documentary feature, co-director Annie Speicher
- *Sam's Dream*, animated short, director Nolwenn Roberts
- *Scheme Birds*, documentary feature, directors Ellen Fiske and Ellinor Hallin
- *Selma After the Rain*, narrative short, director Loli Menezes
- *Serendipity*, documentary feature, director Prune Nourry
- *Show Me What You Got*, narrative feature, director Svetlana Cvetko
- *Slow Death*, narrative short, director Amen Sahrael
- *Song Without A Name*, narrative feature, director Melina Leon
- *South Mountain*, narrative feature, director Hilary Brougher
- *Stop the Presses!: Memos from the Fourth Estate*, shorts collection by various women directors
- *The Story of Plastic*, documentary feature, director Deia Schlosberg
- *Subira*, narrative feature, director Sippy Chadha
- *The Swallows of Kabul*, animated feature, directors Zabou Breitman and Eléa Gobbé-Mévellec
- *Take Me Somewhere Nice*, narrative feature, director Ena Sendijarević
- *This Little Land of Mines*, documentary feature, director Erin McGoff
- *Thousand Pieces of Gold*, narrative feature, director Nancy Kelly
- *Trapped Ghost*, narrative short, director Hui-Ying Hsieh
- *Under Covers*, narrative short, director Michaela Olson
- *Varda By Agnes*, narrative feature, director Agnes Varda
- *Wingmen*, narrative short, director Nicole Emanuele
- *What Do You Believe Now?*, documentary feature, director Sarah Feinbloom
- *Yellow Jubilee P260-5*, documentary short, director Kate Lain
- *You Say You Want A Revolution*, documentary feature, director Emily Harris
- *You're Still Here*, narrative short, co-director Katayoun Parmar

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

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 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 42nd year. For more information please visit www.cafilm.org.

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