

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(Above number and email are not for publication)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 42 YEARS

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

**MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL TO HONOR
LAURA DERN
WITH MIND THE GAP ACTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019**



SAN RAFAEL, CA (September 6, 2018) – The Mill Valley Film Festival is proud to announce the Mind the Gap Actor of the Year Award will be presented to Laura Dern for her incredible body of work, with a special focus on her impressive slate of roles in 2019.

Laura Dern has had a standout year in a career marked by remarkable performances, from her indelible beginnings in Marin-based *Smooth Talk* (MVFF 1985) to her first Oscar nomination for *Rambling Rose* and 2014 Oscar® nominated role in *Wild* (MVFF Award 2014). Along the way are unforgettable moments from many acclaimed projects, among them *Jurassic Park*, *Blue Velvet*, *Wild at Heart*, *Recount*, *Enlightened*, *Citizen Ruth*, and *The Last Jedi*.

Dern joins us for an on-stage conversation, she will delve into her art as an actor, looking particularly at her most recent works. This year has seen: A reprise of her role as the deliciously 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 complex character of Savannah Knoop as the women behind the creation of *JT LeRoy*; 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*. Dern is an actor at the top of her game who delivers rich performances that demonstrate why she is such a revered and beloved actor – what shines through her work is not just her sheer mastery of the art and craft of acting, but the depth of the connection she makes with her fellow actors.

This program is sponsored by Christine A. Schantz, Mind the Gap Executive Advisor

Complete Press Materials are available at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1sbczth54gy920h/AABuG9eCKHxnt1dnPy-Fag5ma?dl=0>

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.

The **Mind the Gap** award recognizes women creatives and technicians whose work has helped close the gender gap in the film industry. Honoring talents both above and below the line, MtG celebrates their groundbreaking achievements and acknowledges their importance as role models. The award is a custom-designed gold pendant with moonstone and diamond accent, each individually cast and numbered,

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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