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CELEBRATING 42 YEARS

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

**42ND MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL WRAPS WITH
BAY AREA PREMIERES OF JAMES MANGOLD'S FORD v FERRARI
AND EDWARD NORTON'S MOTHERLESS BROOKLYN**

SAN RAFAEL, CA (October 14, 2019) – The 42nd Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF42) concluded October 13th with the Bay Area Premieres of two of the buzziest Fall Films: James Mangold's exhilarating race car drama **FORD v FERRARI**; and Edward Norton's crime noir **MOTHERLESS BROOKLYN**, which he also wrote and stars in. Both Mangold and Norton were present for the sold out screenings.

The two films capped 11 days of films, panels, parties, and musical performances at the annual autumn showcase, drawing over 75,000 attendees, who flocked to Marin County to get an early look at the upcoming Academy Award® contenders, discover some of the best films from around the globe, and celebrate the many talented local filmmakers in the Bay Area, as well as acclaimed filmmakers travelling from countries all around the world.

"The 42nd Mill Valley Film Festival was another tremendous success," said Founder/Director Mark Fishkin. "Success as defined through traditional methods like attendance and revenue, as well as through the countless number of times our visiting filmmakers and audience members expressed what an amazing experience the Festival provided, often sharing personal stories about how MVFF has improved the quality of their lives. Such experiences include sitting in our own state-of-the-art Art Deco jewel box, the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, with sold-out attendance, listening to *Ford v Ferrari* director James Mangold discuss how his film is not just a true story about the greatest car race, but one of family, friendship, and what human beings can accomplish by working together. It reminds us that big-budget movies are not just about action heroes and explosive stunts; they are about universal characters with which audiences can empathize, no matter how different they are from ourselves."

"During our State of the Industry panel," Fishkin continued, "celebrated documentarian Dawn Porter stated: 'issues aren't cinema, characters are cinema', a theme passionately reiterated by fellow panelists Brad Bird, John Sloss, and Bob Berney, collectively representing a century of experience in directing, producing, and releasing popular and impactful films. This powerful collection of films that provide unique insight into our common human condition motivate audiences to feel, think, and, often, take action. This experience - replicated frequently throughout the 2019 Festival - is the MVFF experience."

"MVFF42 reached a new level this year," said Director of Programming Zoë Elton. "It became an event important not only for the film industry, but also for the extraordinary cultural conversations that took place—through films, guests and panels. When you bring together community that includes visionaries and trailblazers like the Swedish Film Institute's Anna Serner, Tendzin Choegyal (the Dalai Lama's youngest brother), Wounded Knee resisters Willard Carlson and Ken Tiger, the '60s all-girl band Ace of Cups and Snoop Dogg alongside filmmakers like Afghani director Sahraa Karimi, Syrian director Feras Fayyad,

HIKARI, Prune Nourry, Sippy Chadha, you know that something really special is afoot. I just wish I could experience it as an attendee!” Elton continued, “our Mind the Gap Summit also surpassed our expectations, digging deep into a hot topic: Money! We hit 48% women directors across the Festival’s 200+ films. We’re right on track for 50/50 by 2020!”

The 42nd Mill Valley Film Festival opened with **JUST MERCY**, Destin Daniel Cretton’s gripping drama about a young lawyer (Michael B. Jordan) who attempts to free an innocent man from jail. Oscar® winner Jamie Foxx, who stars as the wrongfully accused man, was in attendance along with co-star Karan Kendrick, producer Asher Goldstein, and screenwriter Andrew Lanham.

MVFF42 presented special Tributes to actor **Alfre Woodard** for her extraordinary turn as a prison warden in **CLEMENCY**, with director/writer Chinone Chukwu in attendance; director **Michael Apted** for the latest installment in his evolving masterwork, the Up Series, which is now at **63 UP**; and the singularly talented actress **Barbara Rush**. Each Tribute featured an onstage conversation and presentation of the MVFF award.

Throughout the Festival, MVFF42 presented special Spotlight Awards to actor/director Olivia Wilde who was recognized for her evolving body of work and directorial debut **BOOKSMART**; actor Robert Pattinson for his brilliant turn in Robert Eggers’ **THE LIGHTHOUSE**; actor Kristen Stewart for her captivating turn as screen legend and fashion icon Jean Seberg in Benedict Andrews’ **SEBERG**; and the acting ensemble that drives Noah Baumbach’s acclaimed marriage drama **MARRIAGE STORY**. Laura Dern, Julie Hagerty, and Baumbach were present to accept the award.

With director Trey Edward Shults and actors Kelvin Harrison, Jr. and Taylor Russell in attendance, the Festival presented the Bay Area Premiere of **WAVES**, Shults’ dynamic family drama, as the Centerpiece Film.

Laura Dern was also present for a Mind the Gap Master Class, a special program that highlighted her remarkable career and current incredible year of acclaimed performances (**BIG LITTLE LIES, MARRIAGE STORY, LITTLE WOMEN**). Dern was presented the Mind the Gap Actor of the Year Award at the presentation. MVFF42 also recognized Anna Serner, CEO of the Swedish Film Institute, with the Mind the Gap Visionary Leader of the Year Award for her work on the forefront of the charge towards gender equity in film; and legendary nonagenarian Park Ranger, activist, and author Betty Reid Soskin with the Mind the Gap Trailblazer of the Century Award, a presentation which included a screening of the documentary about her life, **NO TIME TO WASTE**.

Scott Z. Burns, in attendance for his latest directorial effort **THE REPORT**, received the *Variety* Creative Impact in Screenwriting Award. At the Bay Area Premiere of **THE REPORT**, Burns was joined by Daniel Jones, the real-life investigator who led the research into the CIA’s use of torture in the wake of September 11th.

For the first time, the Festival hosted *Variety*’s 10 Screenwriters to Watch, an honor *Variety* has bestowed for over a decade. Panelists in attendance included: Kristy Wilson-Cairns for **1917**; Chinonye Chukwu for **CLEMENCY**; Stephany Folsom for **TOY STORY 4**; Shay Hatten for **JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 3-PARABELLUM**; Dan Hernandez and Benji Samit for **DETECTIVE PIKACHU**; Amanda Idoko for **BREAKING NEWS IN YUBA COUNTY**; Andrew Lanham for **JUST MERCY**; Cat Vasco for **QUEEN OF THE AIR**; along with moderator Malina Saval, *Variety* Features Editor.

In addition to the *Variety* Screenwriters panel, MVFF hosted a number of thought-provoking and insightful conversations about the current and future state of cinema as part of our **BEHIND THE SCREENS** program, including the **MIND THE GAP SUMMIT**, featuring discussions with Kasi Lemmons, Anna Server, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, Melissa Silverstein, Olivia Wilde, and many more; the **MIND THE GAP DIRECTOR’S PANEL** with participants Zabou Brietman, Sippy Chadha, Chinonye Chukwu, Kasi Lemmons, and Petra Costa; the **STATE OF THE INDUSTRY PANEL** with participants Bob Berney, Brad Bird, Dawn Porter, and John Sloss with moderator Malina Saval; **THE STORY OF PLASTICS PANEL** with Stiv Wilson, Froilan Grate, Tiza Mafira, Emma Priestland, Yvette Arellano and director Deia Schlosberg, moderated by the executive director of Greenpeace, Annie Leonard; and two CFI Education Workshops **GET THE KIDS IN THE PICTURES: Auditioning, Casting, and Directing Kids & Teens** and **FROM CONCEPT TO STORY TO SCREEN: Short Film Development for Teens**.

MVFF42 also presented a number of Special Premieres including, the World Premiere of **INMATE #1: THE RISE OF DANNY TREJO** with director Brett Harvey and Danny Trejo in attendance; World Premiere of **THE GREAT 14TH: TENZIN GYATSO, THE 14TH DALAI LAMA IN HIS OWN WORDS**, with director Rosemary Rawcliffe and Tenzin Choegyal, the Dalai Lama's youngest brother in attendance; World Premiere of **TEAM MARCO** with director Julio Vincent Gambuto, actors Tony Patellis, Anastasia Ganiass-Gellen and Skyler Lipkin in attendance. The U.S. Premiere of **THE TRUTH**, Hirokazu Kore-eda's English language debut starring Catherine Deneuve, Juliette Binoche, and Ethan Hawke; Roger Michell's **BLACKBIRD** with Michell in attendance for the U.S. Premiere; and the North American Premiere of **DAYS OF THE BAGNOLD SUMMER** with director Simon Bird and newcomer, actor Earl Cave, in attendance, with proud dad musician Nick Cave in the audience to support the film.

4K restorations of **THOUSAND PIECES OF GOLD**, Nancy Kelly's beloved masterwork about a young Chinese woman (Rosalind Chao) who must fend for herself when she is sold into marriage and sent to the American Old West, and Phillip Kaufman's sweeping adaptation of Milan Kundera's classic novel **THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING** with director Kaufman and star Lena Olin in attendance were presented to sold out audiences. Olin was also in attendance with director Tom Dolby for a well-received screening of their film **THE ARTIST'S WIFE**.

Other special screenings and guests at MVFF42 included: **HONEY BOY** with director Alma Har'el in attendance alongside actor/screenwriter Shia LaBeouf and actor/screenwriter Byron Bowers; acclaimed documentary filmmaker Lauren Greenfield, along with producer Frank Evers in attendance for **THE KINGMAKER**; Edward James Olmos, his son, director Michael J. Olmos, screenwriter Robert Mailer Anderson, producer Jai Wilson and supporters Carlos Santana and Charlie Musslewhite in attendance for a screening of their 9/11 immigrant family drama **WINDOWS ON THE WORLD**; Academy Award Nominee Feras Fayyad with his latest documentary **THE CAVE**; director Ira Sachs with **FRANKIE**, his latest film starring Isabelle Huppert; Brazilian director Fernando Meirelles with **THE TWO POPES**; French artist Prune Nourry with her film **SERENDIPITY**; and Kasi Lemmons with **HARRIET**, her inspirational film about abolitionist and political activist Harriet Tubman. Additional special guests in attendance include Oscar-winning editor Walter Murch and producer Paul Zaentz at a screening of Taghi Amirani's **COUP 53**; Oscar and Emmy Award-winning visual effects supervisor and producer Phil Tippett in attendance for a screening of **PHIL TIPPETT: MAD DREAMS AND MONSTERS**; and Senior Vice President of Dolby Laboratories Ioan Allen in attendance with multiple members of the filmmaking team behind Midge Costin's **MAKING WAVES: THE ART OF CINEMATIC SOUND**.

It was a record-breaking Festival for CFI's Education program. Over just the six weekdays of MVFF, CFI Education presented 25 free screenings of 15 different film programs to students in grades 1–12. More than 4,500 students from 49 different schools throughout the Bay Area bused, drove or walked to various Marin county theaters to watch a diverse selection of films and participate in post-screening conversations with filmmaker guests from around the world.

In addition to these free screenings, the Filmmakers Go to School program extended the Festival experience beyond the theaters, taking a number of visiting Festival guests out into the educational community to spend time with future cinephiles and filmmakers at schools from Oakland to Petaluma to San Francisco (and a few cities in between). Filmmakers from around the world visited a dozen different schools and after-school programs to meet with more than 1,400 additional students.

Finally, the MVFF Music series featured several musicians in attendance at the Festival, with live performances nine nights in a row at the Sweetwater Music Hall, including the **JOHNNY AND JUNE FOREVER** Tribute Revue presented as a companion concert to the Festival screening of **THE GIFT: THE JOURNEY OF JOHNNY CASH**; Grammy-nominated Americana singer-songwriter **HAYES CARLL**; Bay Area based **ACE OF CUPS**, featured in Emily Harris' documentary **YOU SAY YOU WANT A REVOLUTION?**; **PETRA HANSEN** and **GAIJIN À GO GO**, presented in conjunction with her film **XMAS CAKE: THIS AMERICAN SHELF-LIFE**; bluegrass legend **ALICE GERRARD** performing in conjunction with a film about her life and work **YOU GAVE ME A SONG**; hip hop luminary Snoop Dogg performing a sold-out set as **DJ SNOOPADELIC**, with proceeds benefitting the future restoration of Mill Valley's community treasure, the Sequoia Theater.

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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