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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**CELEBRATING 43 YEARS**

Showcasing the Best in Independent and World Cinema  
Thursday, October 8 – 18, 2020

**MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL'S MIND THE GAP 2020 INITIATIVE THE POLITICS  
OF NOW: REDEFINING THE NARRATIVES SPOTLIGHTS  
INCLUSION AND WOMEN DIRECTORS  
57% TITLES THROUGHOUT FESTIVAL DIRECTED OR CO-DIRECTED BY WOMEN**



SAN RAFAEL, CA (September 22, 2020) – Mark Fishkin, Executive Director/Founder of the California Film Institute (CFI) and Zoë Elton, MVFF Director of Programming have reiterated their commitment to gender, equity and inclusion in the 2020 Mind the Gap program, acknowledging that the challenges of the pandemic, Black Lives Matter and climate change have opened the door to a deeper commitment of Mind the Gap's responsibilities as the world changes and evolves.

Since its inception, **Mind The Gap** has embraced the intersectionality of its filmmakers and conversations within the fight for gender equity. The importance of intersectional perspectives and gender's indissociable connections to other identity traits has become a cornerstone of the platform's focus. "We see this as a moment when we can step up", Elton says. "Mind the Gap shines the light on issues that 2020 has laid bare—systemic racism, inequity, and the deep need to reframe narratives in film and life. The opportunity to address and explore those issues has inspired a series of online events with amazing filmmakers and thought leaders that will be streamed worldwide throughout this year's festival. It's a time of great change, and Mind the Gap offers a place for us to examine, learn, and create our collective ways forward in this changing world. And yes—we're thrilled that we've surpassed our 50/50 by 2020 goal and hit 57% women directors across MVFF43, opening the door to the deeper work of applying what we've learned so far to a greater spectrum—women, BIPOCs, queer people, people with disabilities."

Throughout the 2020 program, there will be a number of conversations with incredible women, notably multi-hyphenate actor, producer, and advocate Viola Davis, who will be presented with the Mind the Gap Award-Actor of the Year, for her groundbreaking work. Known as an exciting and boundary-pushing talent, Davis is the first Black woman to attain that great trifecta of acting: two Tony Awards, an Oscar® and an Emmy®. She is an artist of the highest order, whose brilliance and dedication to speaking out with eloquence and wisdom on issues of equality, especially for women and Black women, have established her as one of the great performers and spokespeople of our time. MVFF Awards will recognize the work of many other talents: Oscar®-winning actor Regina King; acclaimed icon of stage and screen Dame Judi Dench; Academy®, Emmy® and Grammy® award-winning luminary Kate Winslet; brilliant stage actor Clare Dunne who makes a triumphant transition to the big screen, working from a beautiful script she co-wrote with Malcolm Campbell (*What Richard Did*); legendary, Oscar® and Grammy® award-winning international star Sophia Loren.

## **MIND THE GAP SERIES**

### **The Politics of Now: Redefining the Narratives**

The pandemic has laid bare the inequalities in society that have fueled and structured the film industry, and guided which perspectives are centered and which are left off screen. The global support of the Black Lives Matter movement as well as the uprisings against racial injustice has forced the industry to examine the systems that have marginalized BIPOC creatives.

MTG 2020 will build on these cultural and industry conversations and will examine how these issues can be reframed, centering the voices of those who have remained on the margins for far too long. Beyond the current context of upheaval, MTG will also explore the formation of networks and communities of black and brown film professionals, in particular those connecting intersectional women, non-binary and queer people, and how they form alternative eco-systems and spaces of learning, healing and re-envisioning.

### **Panels and Roundtables**

#### **MTG 1—Evolution of Black Women's Roles Onscreen**

This conversation with film creatives, actors, and curators will chart the changing nature of the portrayal of Black women onscreen. By revisiting the simplistic type-casting of Black women in film since its inception, the speakers will discuss how the representation of Black women in Hollywood and beyond has moved towards a variety of depictions and voices.

Panelists to be announced.

#### **MTG 2—Rethinking Classics: Towards a More Democratic Global Canon**

For as long as there has been a film canon, it has been dominated by white heterosexual men as creatives, educators, and critics. This canon has in recent times come under increased pressure to open up to a broader spectrum of authors and perspectives. Challenging this canon involves questioning the criteria and the conventions for films to be considered “worthy” of being an important film as well as who is making those decisions. This event will explore how to shift the decision-making on what enters the international canon towards a broader, more inclusive, and ultimately more democratic pool so that these goals can be achieved at a global level.

### **Centerpiece Conversations**

The centerpiece events of this year’s Mind the Gap programming will explore two distinct but overlapping strategies adopted by BIPOC-led organizations, collectives and initiatives in the way they engage with the entertainment industry. There are those in this industry working to effect change from the inside and others who opt to create alternative structures; many combine a mixture of both approaches. In the wake of the covid-19 pandemic and the global uprising against racism, this conversation is all the more timely and urgent given the formation of new initiatives and alliances and their shift in focus following both watershed moments of 2020.

#### **MTG 3—Changing the Industry from the Inside**

By creating awareness and a conversation around discrimination, marginalization, and underrepresentation, these are organizations, collectives, and initiatives striving to address the fundamental systemic inequities of the film industry and effect change from the inside. This conversation will explore how these industry players are using their power and clout to create structural change across Hollywood and beyond.

#### **MTG 4—Building Your Own Table & Chairs**

As a response to the many isms that are endemic to the film industry, these organizations, collectives and initiatives have chosen to focus their attention on building alternative networks, platforms and eco-systems - alongside the mainstream industry - in which their communities can flourish, create power structures, and set their own rules. As opposed to working towards having a seat at the table, these industry players have opted to create their own table.

#### **MTG 5—Fantasies of Reconciliation: What Hollywood Keeps Getting Wrong About Race**

Several films on the subject of race, often written and directed by white creatives, have given rise to a discussion on Hollywood’s propensity to project contrived and convenient happy-ending narratives on racial inequality in America and beyond. This conversation aims at revisiting and deconstructing those tropes which ultimately downplay the role of white supremacy.

### MTG 6—Mind the Gap Directors Forum and Keynote

2020 will go down as the year when everything changed—in ways both daunting and exciting. Where will it all lead? With theaters closed, festivals cancelling or re-inventing, online platforms springing up, zoom rooms and virtual events becoming ubiquitous, words like “pivot” and “nimble” have peppered daily discussions about work, life, and navigating radical change. It seems like a 20-year growth spurt packed into a single year. This program considers what things will return and what will have shifted as we imagine the future for independent filmmakers. The program includes a keynote by award-winning industry leader Cathy Shulman, co-founder of ReFrame and President and CEO, Welle Entertainment. This program will consist of a roundtable of directors whose work was released this year discussing their experiences of navigating 2020 and their insights about how this year’s challenges may inform innovations in the post-pandemic world of film. Panelists include: Radha Blank (*The 40 Year Old Version*), Gia Coppola (*Mainstream*), Gina Prince-Bythewood (*The Old Guard*), and Alice Wu (*The Half of It*).



### **MIND THE GAP FILMS at MVFF43**

Films represent one of our greatest opportunities to change narratives, shift mindsets and create deep social impact. Films break through barriers, highlight the commonalities of the human condition and define what we see, know and how we act towards one another. It’s this power to mold minds and affect our actions which underlines why it is essential for films to include and to reflect the totality of the world in its full kaleidoscope of genders, ethnicities, sexualities, classes, castes, ages, bodies and abilities.

**11:40** (Argentina, narrative short, dir. Claudia Ruiz) For two brothers, a birthday gift of a new watch leads to an anxious countdown to a special moment in time.

**199 Little Heroes: Jesus From Mexico** (Germany/Mexico, documentary short, dir. Lina Luzyte) In this episode from an international documentary series following children around the world on their way from home to school, 11-year-old Jesus and his little sister make the journey by boat through the Floating Gardens of Xochimilco in Mexico City.

**9to5: The Story of a Movement** (US, documentary feature, dirs. Julia Reichert, Steve Bognar) - From the filmmakers of last year’s Oscar®-winning documentary *American Factory*, *9to5* is an inspiring look at the historic intersection of the women’s movement and the labor movement in the 1970s, when secretaries all over the nation decided that they were done making the boss’ coffee and ready to start a revolution. – **California Premiere**

**Adeline, the Great** (US, narrative short, dir. Jessica Mendez Siqueiros) In this very sweet and funny film, a young Black activist manages to rally an unlikely assembly of allies among her fellow students.

**Ailín on the Moon** (Argentina, narrative short, dir. Claudia Ruiz) A mother’s patience is tested by her young daughter in this charming stop-motion animation that captures the daily joys and challenges of parenthood.

**Avalanche** (US, narrative short, dir. Heather Jack) A woman pitching a TV pilot finds that the memory of a physical trauma can have some incredibly bad timing.

**Babenco: Tell Me When I Die** (Brazil, documentary feature, dir. Barbara Paz) Winner of the Best Documentary on Film award at Venice, this meditative, moving film chronicles the end of Oscar®-nominated filmmaker Héctor Babenco’s (*Kiss of the Spider Woman*) life as he faces cancer and reflects on his career. Directed by his wife, Bárbara Paz, this stunning portrait brings Babenco back to life onscreen. – **US Premiere**

**Bandar Band** (Iran, narrative feature, dir. Manijeh Hekmat) Three idealistic young musicians make their way to a battle-of-the-bands competition in Tehran, hoping a win will be their big break. Set during the cataclysmic floods that submerged large swaths of the country in the spring of 2019, Manijeh Hekmat brings her keen documentary eye and deep empathy for Iran’s regular folk to this joyful song-infused road movie. – **US Premiere**

***Banksy Most Wanted*** (France, documentary feature, dirs. Aurélie Rouvier, Seamus Haley) Street artist Banksy's meteoric rise to fame has left a huge lingering question: who is the person behind the name? This in-depth investigation of the celebrated provocateur entertains many differing theories of who exactly is pulling the strings while looking at the overwhelming impact Banksy's art has had throughout the world.

***Belly of the Beast*** (US, documentary feature, dir. Erika Cohn) - When a plucky attorney receives a letter from a woman in a California prison asking for help, it sets off a shocking investigation into the Department of Corrections' dark history of forced sterilizations. This unlikely pair teams up to explode the extraordinary truth of modern-day eugenics occurring throughout the US.

***Binti*** (Belgium, narrative feature, dir. Frederike Migom) Binti is a budding YouTube star who dreams of making a permanent home with her Congolese father in Belgium where they live without legal documentation. An incredibly charming cast and energetic storytelling provide a real-world look at immigration that brings a complex issue into relatable focus for kids and adults. Age 9+.

***The Blue Cape (La capa azul)*** (Puerto Rico, narrative short, dir. Alejandra López) - In hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico, a young boy's heroic efforts to help his grandfather may not be enough to save the day.

***The Boys Who Said NO!*** (US, documentary feature, dir. Judith Ehrlich) - Oscar®-nominated Bay Area director Judith Ehrlich combines breathtaking news footage and moving testimonials to offer a snapshot of America at an historical turning point. Ehrlich points her camera toward the nonviolent warriors who actively opposed the military draft during the Vietnam War, eventually leading to the end of both the draft and the war. – **US Premiere**

***Caregiver: A Love Story*** (US, documentary short, dirs. Kevin Gordon, Jessica Zitter) This short doc challenges viewers to acknowledge the growing strain placed on family caregivers and to envision a new approach in caring for the dying.

***Charlatan*** (Czech Republic/Ireland/Poland/Slovakia, narrative feature, dir. Agnieszka Holland) What profound secrets live in the heart of a healer? Veteran Polish director Agnieszka Holland explores the complex character of renowned Czech herbalist and healer Jan Mikolášek in this radiantly atmospheric and deeply humanistic portrait of a flawed yet gifted man performing medicinal miracles far ahead of his time.

***Circus Person*** (US, narrative short, dir. Britt Lower) A heartbroken woman finds a sense of renewal with a motley big top crew.

***Coded Bias*** (US, documentary feature, dir. Shalini Kantayya) - After Joy Buolamwini revealed the racial and gender biases built into facial recognition software, the MIT academic turned to activism. Following her work as leader of the Algorithmic Justice League, documentarian Shalini Kantayya shows us the awesome power these computer algorithms already wield and how women like Buolamwini are leaning in for change.

***Colette, the Artist*** (Mexico, documentary short, dir. Colette the Artist) - Colette is a very special pig who lives in Todos Santos, Mexico. She's a thinker, a pig-anthropist—and an artist of the world. She's surrounded by people who love her, like Don Javier, her rescuer, who saved her bacon and recognized her true calling: *Colette is an artist!* Cubism, installations, conceptual art, video art: Colette has dabbled her trotters in the lot. And now, she's out to conquer the world—and our hearts. – **World Premiere**

***The Falconer*** (US, documentary feature, dir. Annie Kaempfer) Former "corner boy" Rodney Stotts learned how to rescue and train predatory birds and in the process rescued himself from a life of violence. With a cinema vérité style, director-cinematographer Annie Kaempfer shows Stotts as he builds a bird sanctuary in rural Maryland to help others form these same healing bonds with nature. – **World Premiere**

***Farewell Amor*** (US, narrative feature, dir. Ekwa Msangi) - Years ago, Walter fled from war-torn Angola to America. Newly reunited with his wife and daughter, all three must adjust to their new life together in very different ways. From its beautiful opening image, Tanzanian American filmmaker Ekwa Msangi's debut brims with an extraordinary humanity, as well as being blessed by three pitch-perfect central performances. – **California Premiere**

***For Estefani, Third Grade, Who Made Me a Card*** (US, animated short, dir. Jordan Bruner) When a teacher receives a sweet card with a cryptic message from one of her students, she is inspired to make sense of its seemingly nonsensical note.

***For Your Memory*** (US, narrative short, dir. Katrina Kwok) A daughter delves into her mother's photo box to chronicle her life story, from Vietnam to Malaysia to Queens, New York.



***The Fox & the Pigeon*** (Canada, animated short, dirs. Michelle Chua, Aileen Dewhurst, Sharon Gabriella, Viktor Ivanovski, Sang Lee, Tyler Pacana, Sikyung Kevin Sung, Morgan Thompson, Chelsea van Tol, Matt Walton, Steven Wang) A fox must save his ice cream from a pigeon with a sweet tooth and a narrator with a wild imagination.

***Freeland*** (US, narrative feature, dirs. Kate McLean, Mario Furloni) An aging pot farmer living in the woods of California, Devi (Krisha Fairchild) has always been able to artfully cultivate her weed strains with loving thought and care. But as the legalization of marijuana pushes for automation, modernization, and corporatization, she must come to terms with the potential loss of her livelihood in a rapidly-paced industry that is leaving her behind.

***Girasol*** (Venezuela, animated short, dir. María Victoria Sánchez Lara) With animated silhouettes against colorful backgrounds, the mythical story of Carandaí, the first sunflower in the world, is vibrantly brought to life.

***Herself*** (Ireland/UK, narrative feature, dir. Phyllida Lloyd) After escaping her abusive husband, Sandra (Irish stage actor Clare Dunne in an uncompromisingly powerful lead performance) finds herself and her two young daughters floating between temporary living situations, none of them ideal or sustainable. So, Sandra decides, if the perfect home doesn't exist, why not build it herself?

***I'll Be There*** (US, documentary short, dir. Kallista Palapas) - After filmmaker Kallista Palapas's friend Ricky commits suicide, she attempts to make sense of the unthinkable while honoring her close friend's life.

***I Carry You with Me*** (US/Mexico, narrative feature, dir. Heidi Ewing) Oscar® nominee Heidi Ewing makes her first foray into narrative cinema with this epic romance between two Mexican men who risk everything by relocating to New York as undocumented immigrants. This double prizewinner at Sundance is a heartfelt, lyrical testament to the dreamers searching for a new beginning in what was once the land of opportunity.

***Jackie & Oopjen*** (Netherlands, narrative feature, dir. Annemarie van de Mond) *Night at the Museum* vibes infuse this charming, funny friendship tale between a precocious 12-year-old and a Rembrandt painting come to life. Oopjen steps out of her famous portrait in Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum to search for her long-lost sister. Resourceful Jackie comes to her aid and finds an unexpected BFF from another era. Age 9+

***Jumbo*** (France/Luxembourg/Belgium, narrative feature, dir. Zoe Wittock) Jeanne, a shy young woman, works in an amusement park. Fascinated with carousels, she still lives at home with her mother. That's when Jeanne meets Jumbo, the park's new flagship attraction.

***Kings of Mulberry Street*** (South Africa, narrative feature, dir. Judy Naidoo) In an impoverished South African neighborhood, two young Indian boys join forces to take down a local hoodlum in this exuberant, silly, sly, action-packed, sometimes gritty, and unexpectedly moving paean to boyhood, friendship, and classic Bollywood cinema. Age 11+

***Land Without Evil (Tierra sin Mal)***: (Argentina/Hungary, animated short, dir. Katalin Egely) - Based on Guaraní mythology, this animated film set to world music offers a vision of a paradise on earth where all creatures live in harmony.

***Little Chief*** (US, narrative short, dir. Erica Tremblay) A First Nations teacher has a lot on her plate in a typical, poignant day on the reservation.

***Los Hermanos/The Brothers*** (US, documentary feature, dirs. Marcia Jamal, Ken Schneider) Geopolitical forces separate Cuban brothers and virtuosos Aldo and Ilmar López-Gávilan, even as their love of music unites them. Tracing their efforts to maintain their musical and familial bonds, *Los Hermanos/The Brothers* is an exuberant and tender paean to the enduring power of music, family, and home. Featuring an original score by Aldo and Ilmar.

***Mainstream*** (US, narrative feature, dir. Gia Coppola) When she meets a strange and magnetic man in a mouse costume at the mall and secretly films his anti-capitalist rant, Frankie (Maya Hawke) unexpectedly turns her new friend into a viral sensation. Featuring a larger-life-performance by Andrew Garfield, Gia Coppola's sophomore film is a vibrant, timely satire of celebrity in the influencer age.

***Maxima*** (US, documentary feature, dir. Claudia Sparrow) Indigenous farmer Máxima Acuña lives in harmony with nature, raising her sheep in the Peruvian Andes. When a local gold mine seeks to expand its operations, threatening her land and way of life, Máxima inspires the community to fight back, in this stirring David-versus-Goliath story of environmental justice.

***Michael Aragon: The Beat Goes On*** (US, documentary short, dirs. Erin Turney, Sam Huff) Learn about the impact jazz drummer Michael Aragon has had on his bandmates, as well as the Sausalito community, having performed the same Friday night gig at the NoName bar since 1983. – **World Premiere**

**Mighty** (US, narrative short, dir. Lola Glaudini) An African American woman and her Latina best friend find that a road trip to Idaho can take some very unusual turns.

**The Most Magnificent Thing** (Canada, animated short, dir. Arna Selznick) When a spunky little girl receives her very own tool kit, her creativity and resourcefulness kick into high gear as she sets her sights on building the most magnificent thing imaginable for her canine best friend.

**The Movie About Us** (Hong Kong, narrative short, dir. Keung Chor Kiu) When two Hong Kong teens of different ethnicities fall in love, can they endure the peer pressure and prejudice that surrounds them?

**My Donkey, My Lover and I** (France, narrative feature, dir. Caroline Vignal) This bright Gallic comedy centers on a Parisian school teacher (Laure Calamy, in a hilarious star-making turn) who impulsively decides to stalk her married lover on his familial hiking vacation astride an adorable ass named Patrick. Along the way, she forms an unlikely bond with her immovable pack mule while overturning stubborn-ass clichés about the Other Woman.

**No Fan of Andy** (US, narrative short, dir. Kai Tomizawa) After a pet-related mishap, a devoted but misguided friend has to carry out an absurd plan for redemption.

**Nomadland** (US, narrative feature, dir. Chloe Zhao) Following the economic collapse of a company town in rural Nevada, Fern (Academy Award® winner Frances McDormand) packs her van and sets off on the road exploring a life outside of conventional society as a modern-day nomad. The third feature film from director Chloé Zhao (*The Rider*) and winner of the Golden Lion at this year's Venice Film Festival, *Nomadland* features real nomads Linda May, Swankie, and Bob Wells as Fern's mentors and comrades in her exploration through the vast landscape of the American West.

**Ode to the Beans (Oda a los frijoles)** (US, documentary short, dir. Karolina Esqueda) An ode to an underappreciated grain that brings sustenance and traditions to so many across borders.

**One Night in Miami** (US, narrative feature, dir. Regina King) On one incredible night in 1964, four icons of sports, music, and activism gather to celebrate one of the biggest upsets in boxing history. When underdog Cassius Clay, soon to be called Muhammad Ali (Eli Goree), defeats heavy weight champion Sonny Liston at the Miami Convention Hall, Clay memorialized the event with three of his friends: Malcolm X (Kingsley Ben-Adir), Sam Cooke (Leslie Odom, Jr.), and Jim Brown (Aldis Hodge). Based on the award-winning play of the same name, *One Night in Miami* is a fictional account inspired by the historic night these four formidable figures spent together. It looks at the struggles these men faced and the vital role they each played in the civil rights movement and cultural upheaval of the 1960s. More than 40 years later, their conversations on racial injustice, religion, and personal responsibility still resonate.

**One Thousand Stories: The Making of a Mural** (US, documentary short, dir. Tasha Van Zandt) Director Tasha Van Zandt follows renowned French artist JR in the creation of his first-ever video mural project, *The Chronicles of San Francisco*, which brought over 1,200 people together into a single work of art.

**Out of Place** (US, narrative short, dir. Peier "Tracy" Shen) The lives of a Mexican house painter and a Chinese classical pianist intertwine as two immigrant stories show the same spiritual hope and pathos.

**The Painter** (US, narrative short, dir. Vivian Blantz) An artist in the woods. A painting in progress. A memory of a life in full color

**Potluck** (US, narrative short, dir. Olivia Squires, Jared Goudsmit) - Five lovely ladies organize a neighborhood get-together. But not everyone agrees with the messaging or the menu.

**Ramón** (Colombia, documentary feature, dir. Natalia Bernal) - Eight-year-old Ramón is a Mexican kickboxer-in-training who learns the true meaning of winning and losing in his first major competition.

**Ruthless Souls** (Canada, narrative feature, dir. Madison Thomas) An Ojibwe artist leans on the unconditional support of her two lifelong friends to begin to heal, to trust, and to love again, following the sudden loss of her partner. Utilizing vibrant visual art, music, and powerful spoken word poetry, *Ruthless Souls* tells a down-to-the-bone tale of healing and closure, a testament to the resilience of chosen family.

**Seeing Things in Black and White** (US, animated short, dir. Ashley Lee) Sisters sharing a room struggle to maintain both boundaries and their emotional responses.

**Shy & Ketchup** (Chile, animated short, dir. Teresa Romo) - A young girl's obsession with a particular condiment forces her to overcome her shyness and make her needs known.

***Sisters: The Summer We Found Our Superpowers*** (Norway, narrative feature, dirs. Silje Salomonsen, Arild Østin Ommundsen) - Nine-year-old Vega and five-year-old Billie set out on a playful camping trip with their father, but embark on an epic wilderness adventure to save him after a sudden accident. Tested by the crisis, these remarkable sisters triumph by discovering the superpowers in their relationship and within their hearts. – **North American Premiere**

***Small Footprint*** (US, documentary short, dir. Deanne Fitzmaurice) Meet the Goepels, an inspiring surfer family living life off-the-grid in Hawaii and creating the sustainable life they believe in.

***Spring Blossom*** (France, narrative feature, dir. Suzanne Lindon) Bored with school and her peers, sixteen-year-old Suzanne meets a handsome actor (Arnaud Valois, *BPM*, MVFF40) twenty years her senior, resulting in an unexpected coup de foudre. With an wisdom and vision well beyond her years, writer-director-actor Suzanne Lindon makes an unforgettable debut, capturing the elation and confusion of first love in a manner rarely accomplished onscreen.

***Stucco*** (US, narrative short, dirs. Janina Gavankar, Russo Schelling) This film takes an agoraphobic woman and some Cronenbergian visuals to dig deep into the psyche of someone cut off from the world.

***Test Pattern*** (US, narrative feature, dir. Shatara Michelle Ford) In Shatara Michelle Ford's award-winning *Test Pattern*, a young interracial couple's idyllic life is challenged when Renesha is sexually assaulted by a stranger. As her boyfriend Evan pushes her to obtain a rape kit, the film compassionately examines the intersection of race, romance, and gender in an unjust system. – **California Premiere**

***Three Summers*** (Brazil, narrative feature, dir. Sandra Kogut) Gregoriously quippy housekeeper Madá's (a terrific Regina Casé) boss has been implicated in a countrywide corruption scandal, and the luxury home's remaining staff are left behind waiting for back wages. Reflecting the real-life scandal that helped topple Brazil's most powerful politicians, this rich dramedy sharply examines class as Madá uses her ingenuity and dry humor to keep the household afloat. – **US Premiere**

***Topping Out*** (New Zealand, narrative short, dir. Kerry Fox) Infidelity and suspicion have a tense dance between two construction workers on the scaffolding of a high-rise in the directorial debut of actress Kerry Fox (*An Angel at My Table*). – **North American Premiere**

***Us Kids*** (US, documentary feature, dir. Kim A. Snyder) A hit at this year's Sundance Film Festival, documentarian Kim A. Snyder's latest feature is an inspiring portrait of the courageous teenagers of Parkland, Florida. After surviving the tragic mass school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High, these kids created and led the 2018 March for Our Lives youth movement against gun violence.

***Veins of the World (Die Adern der Welt)*** (Germany/Mongolia, narrative feature, dir. Byambasuren Davaa) As a child of the nomadic people of the Mongolian steppe, 11-year-old Amra helps his parents take care of their land and animals, daydreaming of appearing on *Mongolia's Got Talent*. Following a tragic accident, Amra must step up to become the defender of his family's and his people's legacy against the constant threats from greedy mining companies. – **California Premiere**

***Wally Wenda*** (US, narrative short, dir. Diane Russo) Think *All Is Lost* if it were a twentysomething woman on that boat adrift in the ocean.

***The Warden (De Vogelwachter)*** (Netherlands, narrative feature, dir. Threes Anna) For almost half a century an old man has been the warden of a bird sanctuary on a tiny island in the middle of the ocean. One day he receives notice that his posting will be discontinued. His happy life - in and alongside nature - comes to an abrupt end. But the warden refuses to accept his dismissal. Determined not to leave, he decides to fight back in his own way. – **North American Premiere**

***We Still Matter*** (US, documentary short, dirs. Talia Smith, Ashalia Dawkins, Sophia Kerner, Lauren Pyfer) A group of Mill Valley teens shine a light on the African American Arts and Culture Complex in San Francisco and the valuable space it creates for Black artists to be represented.

***Weed & Wine*** (US, documentary feature, dir. Rebecca Richman Cohen) Continents apart from one another, two farming families aim to reinvent themselves on their land. One family—a poised French matriarch and the son she raised among her vines—tends a centuries-old, biodynamic vineyard in the Southern Rhône. Across the ocean in Humboldt, California, another family—a brash father and his more restrained son—carefully manages a state-legal, sun-grown, organic cannabis farm. – **US Premiere**

### **About Mind The Gap**

Mind the Gap, is the California Film Institute's platform for inclusion and equity, amplifies and champions filmmaking by women, non-binary people and other marginalized groups. Alongside our celebration of filmmaking from a diverse spectrum of perspectives, the platform is committed to challenging prevailing industry narratives regarding women, BIPOCs, queer people, people with disabilities.

### **About Mill Valley Film Festival**

Presented by the California Film Institute, the 43<sup>rd</sup> Mill Valley Film Festival runs October 8-18, 2020. The MVFF is an acclaimed eleven-day cinema event celebrating the best in American independent and world cinema. Located just north of San Francisco, it's known as a filmmakers' festival, and the West Coast launch pad for many Academy Award®-winning films, annually showcasing 200+ films from over 50 countries. The MVFF creates a community that celebrates the best in international film as well as Tributes and Spotlights with major film talents. The relaxed and non-competitive atmosphere surrounding MVFF gives filmmakers and audiences alike the opportunity to share their work and experiences in a collaborative and convivial spirit.

### **About California Film Institute**

The California Film Institute (CFI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to celebrating and promoting film as art and education with a diverse series of annual programs, including the presentation of the internationally acclaimed Mill Valley Film Festival, celebrating its 43<sup>rd</sup> year in 2020 and the documentary film festival DocLands; building the next generation of young filmmakers and audiences through CFI Education, featuring a broad range of activities, 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 for all Bay Area students and lifetime learners. Year-round, CFI acts as a film-centric town hall with a varied calendar of programming at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, one of the leading non-profit independent theaters in the US, celebrating and promoting the art of storytelling through film. CFI is also the majority owner of the Sequoia Theater in Mill Valley, California. Additionally, through CFI Releasing, a national non-profit film distribution initiative, CFI enables filmmakers and sales agents to collaborate with U.S. independent exhibitors, giving nationwide audiences access to quality independent film and promoting this work as a valuable artistic and educational medium conveying different visions, viewpoints, and cultural perspectives. 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](http://cafilm.org)

### **Supporters | Mind the Gap**

CFI is proud to acknowledge a group of supporters who believe in the power of film to positively transform society. We are grateful to Christine A Schantz, Marin Community Foundation, Netflix, Delta Airlines, Resonance Philanthropies and Egide Family Foundation for their generous support of Mind the Gap.

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CFI is once again proud to acknowledge the leadership support of Christopher B. and Jeannie Meg Smith, Project No. 9, Jennifer Coslett MacCready, Nancy P. and Richard K. Robbins Family Foundation, Vickie Soulier and Caroline Labe, and the continued major support of Marin Community Foundation, The Bernard Osher Foundation, The Gruber Family Foundation, and Resonance Philanthropies. 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., and Bellam Self Storage and Boxes.

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