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CELEBRATING 45 YEARS  
Showcasing the Best in Independent and World Cinema  
October 6 – 16, 2022

## MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES SPOTLIGHT ON WRITER/DIRECTOR NIKYATU JUSU & SCREENING OF *NANNY* SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15



San Rafael, CA (August 23, 2022) – The Mill Valley Film Festival is thrilled to announce a Spotlight program celebrating **Nikyatu Jusu**. Jusu will be on hand for this special onstage conversation, presentation of the MVFF Award for Feature Debut, and screening of the 2022 Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner and her extraordinary first feature **NANNY**.



**Nikyatu Jusu** is an independent writer, director, and Assistant Professor in Film & Video at George Mason University. Her films have played at festivals nationally and internationally. Jusu is the second black woman director and *Nanny* is the first horror film to win the Sundance Grand Jury Prize (US Dramatic).

The MVFF Spotlight program honors and celebrates exceptional work by film artists in their most current work. Honorees may be in early, mid, or late career. Over the years, MVFF has spotlighted such extraordinary talents as Regina King, Delroy Lindo, Denis Villeneuve, Robert Pattinson, Richard E. Grant, Karyn Kusama, Joel Edgerton, Amandla Stenberg, Dee Reese, Alejandro González Iñárritu, Eddie Redmayne, Ewan McGregor, Brie Larson, Steve McQueen, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michelle Yeoh, Elle Fanning and Jared Leto, to name a few.



Joining Nikyatu Jusu on stage for a post-screening conversation will be *Nanny* lead Anna Diop. Senegalese-American actress Diop is known for her portrayal as Kory Anders on the DC Universe/HBO Max series *Titans* as well as being a series regular on The CW supernatural mystery *The Messengers* and the Fox thriller *24:Legacy*.

### **About NANNY**

In this psychological fable of displacement, Aisha (Anna Diop), a woman who recently emigrated from Senegal, is hired to care for the daughter of an affluent couple (Michelle Monaghan and Morgan Spector) living in New York City. Haunted by the absence of the young son she left behind, Aisha hopes her new job will afford her the chance to bring him to the U.S. but becomes increasingly unsettled by the family's volatile home life. As his arrival approaches, a violent presence begins to invade both her dreams and her reality, threatening the American dream she is painstakingly piecing together.

*Nanny* will be released in the US theatrically on November 23 and on Prime Video globally on December 16.

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

Presented by the California Film Institute, the 45th Mill Valley Film Festival runs October 6-16, 2022. MVFF is an acclaimed eleven-day cinema event celebrating the best in American independent and world cinema. Located just north of San Francisco, the Festival is known as a filmmakers' festival and the West Coast launch pad for many Academy Award®-winning films. MVFF has earned a reputation for launching new films and creating awards season buzz. The festival welcomes more than 200 filmmakers representing more than 50 countries annually.

### **About MVFF Award**

Inaugurated in 2007, the Mill Valley Film Festival Award is a specially designed bronze sculpture created by Mill Valley artist Alice Corning, each one individually cast for the recipient and a numbered, limited edition. The MVFF Award is presented to the recipients of Tributes and Spotlights, MVFF's special programs honoring and celebrating the work of distinguished artists and innovators in the filmmaking community. Corning says of her artwork, "The purpose is to show the power and dignity of a human being...as it is with great work in film."

### **About 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, now in its 45th year, DocLands Documentary Film Festival, and the ongoing cultivation of the next generation of filmmakers and film lovers through CFI Education. CFI Education features a broad range of activities, including screenings, Q&A sessions, seminars with top international & local filmmakers and industry professionals, and 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 touch 275,000 guests throughout the year with films and events that entertain and address a breadth of social, environmental, and cultural issues. CFI is also the majority owner of the Sequoia Theater in Mill Valley, California. CFI relies on the generosity of its community to sustain these core programs; the invaluable support of our sponsors, foundations, individual donors, and members ensures our continued success. For more information visit [cafilm.org](http://cafilm.org).

### **Supporters**

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, and Vickie Soulier, 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., Wareham Development, and Bellam Self Storage and Boxes.

## **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS**

### **45<sup>th</sup> Mill Valley Film Festival**

Celebrating the best of independent and world cinema alongside high profile and prestigious award contenders.

**Thursday, October 6 to Sunday October 16, 2022**

### **Ticket On-Sale Dates**

Advance Ticket Packages and Passes on sale August 1, 2022.

CFI members can purchase single tickets in advance of the public beginning Friday, September 9, 2022.

General Public Single Tickets on sale Tuesday, September 13, 2022.

### **MVFF45 Bay Area Screening Venues:**

San Rafael:	Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center – October 6 – 16, 2022
Mill Valley:	CinéArts Sequoia – October 6 – 16, 2022
Larkspur:	Lark Theater – October 8 & 9 + October 15 & 16, 2022
Berkeley:	BAMPFA/Barbro Osher Theater – October 8 - 16, 2022
San Francisco:	The Roxie Theater – October 15 & 16, 2022