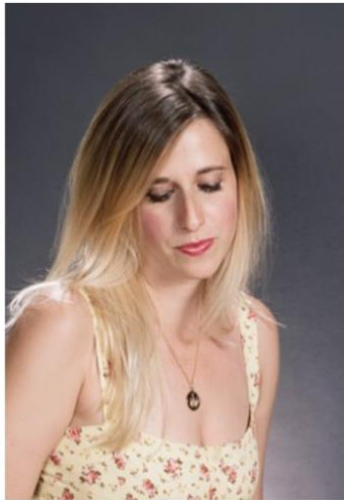


CELEBRATING 45 YEARS
Showcasing the Best in Independent and World Cinema
October 6 – 16, 2022

MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
2022 MIND THE GAP CREATION PRIZE
TO AWARD \$10,000



Ellie Fombi, *Our Father, The Devil*.



Morrisa Maltz, *The Unknown Country*



Nikyatu Jusu, *Nanny*

San Rafael, CA – The Mill Valley Film Festival announces nominees for the 2022 Mind The Gap (MTG) Creation Prize of \$10,000.00. Awarded to a first- or second-time Mind the Gap filmmaker, the prize recognizes exciting new voices in cinema who demonstrate creativity of vision and exceptional use of the film medium.

A jury of industry professionals will select the 2022 Creation Prize recipient. The 2022 jury includes Zoë Elton, MVFF & MTG Director of Programming; Osinachi Ibe, MTG Production Manager; KD Davis, MVFF Senior Programmer–World Cinema; Celeste Wong, MVFF US Indies Programmer; Christine A. Schantz, MTG Executive Advisor and Creation Prize Underwriter, and Pratibha Parmar, filmmaker, and past Mind the Gap Award recipient. All first- or second-time Mind The Gap filmmakers screening their narrative or documentary feature-length film at the 2022 Mill Valley Film Festival were eligible. The recipient receives a \$10,000 prize to use at their discretion.

The 2022 nominees are:

Ellie Fombi, *Our Father, The Devil (Mon Père, Le Diable)*

Ellie Fombi is an actor, writer, and director from Cameroon whose work has screened at Venice, Santa Barbara International Film Festival and Tribeca where her first feature won the Best Narrative Feature Audience Award. She's an alum of Berlinale Talents and New York Film Festival's Artist Academy. Her projects have been supported by The Gotham, SFFILM Rainin Grant, Film Independent, the Tribeca Film Institute and the Venice Biennale College. She holds an MFA from Columbia University's School of the Arts in Directing.

Our Father, the Devil (US, narrative feature, dir. Ellie Fombi) In Cameroonian-American filmmaker Ellie Fombi's ravishing and provocative feature debut, an African refugee's modest life in a sleepy French mountain town is irrevocably shattered when she recognizes a newly arrived Catholic priest as a disturbing figure from her violent past. *In French with English subtitles* – **West Coast Premiere**

Nikyatu Jusu, *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).

Nanny (US, narrative feature, dir. Nikyatu Jusu) 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.

Morrissa Maltz, *The Unknown Country*

An artist/filmmaker with a degree in Fine Art (Columbia University), Morrissa's work has been shown at MOCA, and international galleries. Her first documentary, *INGRID*, premiered on PBS. She recently completed her first narrative feature *THE UNKNOWN COUNTRY*. Morrissa is a 2018/2019 AFS grant recipient and was included in 2019's IFP Narrative Lab, US in Progress Poland and AFS Artist Intensive.

The Unknown Country (US, narrative feature, dir. Morrissa Maltz) With a staggering sense of humanity, Morrissa Maltz's documentary-narrative hybrid follows a grieving young woman (Lily Gladstone) on a road trip across the American Midwest — contemplating death and rebirth amidst a magnificent, heart-wrenching search for one's place in the world. – [Bay Area Premiere](#)

Launched in 2021, the inaugural Mind the Gap Creation Prize was awarded to Nana Mensah for her feature directorial debut, *QUEEN OF GLORY*, which captured the 2021 MTG theme, Reconnecting with Community,

Complete press materials available here: [MVFF45 Press Kit](#)

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About Mind the Gap

Films represent one of our most significant opportunities to impact society, 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. **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 diverse perspectives, the platform is committed to challenging prevailing industry narratives regarding women, BIPOCs, queer people, and people with disabilities.

We are grateful for the support of our Mind the Gap sponsors: Resonance Philanthropies, Christine A. Schantz, Marin Community Foundation, Netflix, and LUNA.

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 California Film Institute

The California Film Institute (CAFILM) 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 CAFILM Education. CAFILM 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, CAFILM 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 CAFILM to touch 275,000 guests throughout the year with films and events that entertain and address a breadth of social, environmental, and cultural issues. CAFILM is also the majority owner of the Sequoia Theater in Mill Valley, California. CAFILM 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](#).

The California Film Institute and Mill Valley Film Festival are located in Marin County, California, on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary homelands of the Coast Miwok, Pomo, and Wappo peoples. This includes the Southern Pomo and Graton Rancheria Tribes. These tribes were removed or displaced from their lands. We recognize this history and the harm to present-day Coast Miwok, Pomo, and Wappo peoples and to their ancestors. The California Film Institute commits to moving forward from a place of authenticity and working with present-day tribes to elevate their stories, history, and present-day legacy through film.

Supporters

The California Film Institute 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

45th 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 Now ~ mvff.com

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:	Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive – October 8 - 16, 2022
San Francisco:	The Roxie Theater – October 15 & 16, 2022

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