

MEDIA RELEASE

**MVFF MUSIC RETURNS TO SWEETWATER MUSIC HALL
AMPLIFYING CINEMATIC STORIES WITH
ELECTRIFYING PERFORMANCES AND PREMIERES!**

FESTIVAL DATES THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023

Mill Valley, CA, August 22, 2023 – The California Film Institute is thrilled to announce that MVFF Music will again take center stage at the historic Sweetwater Music Hall in downtown Mill Valley. Over two nights, Tuesday, October 10, and Friday, October 13, the stage will come alive with incredible live music performances, perfectly complementing two highly anticipated MVFF46 documentaries. The World Premiere of Maureen Gosling's *The 9 Lives of Barbara Dane* a vibrant tribute celebrating the life of a powerhouse blues/jazz/folk singer, activist, feminist, record producer, and committed troublemaker, Barbara Dane. Her nine-decade odyssey redefines established narratives surrounding pivotal eras like 1940s communism, 1950s white femininity, the vibrant tapestry of the 1960s folk movement, the activism of the 1970s Anti-War crusade, and the intricate web of the 1980s Iran-Contra affair. Her resolute principles guide her through fame, obscurity, and musical immortality. And the California Premiere of Jay Schlossberg's *Feast Your Ears: The Story of WHFS 102.3 FM*, a feature-length documentary chronicling the revolutionary impact of FM radio trailblazer WHFS 102.3 FM. This small yet influential commercial radio station became the countercultural voice transcending generations. The film takes you on a musical and historical journey through the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, a golden age when progressive "free form" radio was in its heyday in the United States, and how WHFS carried a frequency of social change on the radio dial.

Proceeds for both shows benefit the California Film Institute.

Tuesday, October 10 – All Ages | Tickets and Showtime to be Announced Soon

THE 9 LIVES OF BARBARA DANE – PERFORMANCES IN HONOR OF AN AMERICAN HERO

A special one-of-a-kind tribute concert honoring the legendary Barbara Dane and the much-anticipated premiere screening of Maureen Gosling's captivating documentary, *The 9 Lives of Barbara Dane*. Brace yourself for an explosion of talent with mesmerizing performances that span genres and generations. Guest artists Holly Near and Willie Chambers (Chambers Brothers) will join Barbara Dane's son from Cuba, Pablo Menendez (Mezcla) who will lead Barbara's band featuring Tammy Hall (piano), Ruth Davies (bass) and Daria Johnson (drums), with cameo appearances by Barbara's eldest son Jesse Cahn and her Cuban rockstar grandson Osamu. This electrifying celebration promises an unforgettable night of music, memories, and a deep appreciation for a legacy that has touched lives across the globe.

Friday, October 13 – All Ages | Tickets and Showtime to be Announced Soon

A CELEBRATION OF EAST AND WEST COAST RENEGADE RADIO

Following the California premiere of Jay Schlossberg's documentary feature film *Feast Your Ears: The Story of WHFS 102.3*, we're turning up the heat with a live concert that's all about celebrating the iconic independent radio stations that kept us jamming through the 1960s, '70s, and '80s – WHFS on the East Coast and KSAN on the West Coast. Hosted by the legendary Ben Fong-Torres, this night is gonna rock as we bring you performances by Jesse Colin Young, Taj Mahal, members of the Firesign Theater, a reunion of former DJs from both KSAN and WHFS Radio, and other surprise guests that will have you grooving to the tunes.

Get ready for a blast of excitement as the California Film Institute brings back MVFF Music, once again rocking the iconic Sweetwater Music Hall in the heart of downtown Mill Valley—more details to be announced soon.

Stay connected:

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For more information: [mvff.com](#)

About Mill Valley Film Festival

Presented by the California Film Institute (CAFILM), the 46th Mill Valley Film Festival runs October 5-15, 2023. MVFF is a significant cultural cinema event in the San Francisco Bay Area. It has gained international recognition for its commitment to showcasing exceptional films, supporting emerging talent, and fostering creative dialogue. Over the years, it has hosted renowned filmmakers, actors, and industry professionals, further establishing its reputation as the West Coast launch pad for many Academy Award®-winning films and a hub for cinematic excellence.

About Sweetwater Music Hall

Sweetwater Music Hall is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization that is fully committed to advancing education, understanding, and appreciation of music, Bay Area music history, culture, and arts, through the presentation of a vibrant and diverse range of performances, exhibits and arts programming to the general public, with particular focus on youth arts education.

The original Sweetwater music venue opened more than 50 years ago, in 1972, in a rustic downtown Mill Valley storefront previously occupied by a local watering hole called the Office. For more than three decades, the venue hosted a who's who of Americana, roots, and rock music luminaries, from Big Mama Thornton and Odetta to John Lee Hooker, Maria Muldaur, Van Morrison, Jerry Garcia, Bob Weir, Ramblin' Jack Elliott and beyond. In the '80s, the Times of London hailed Sweetwater as one of the best nightclubs in America. The original Sweetwater closed in 2007. Five years later it was reopened only a couple of blocks away on Corte Madera Avenue as Sweetwater Music Hall.

Sweetwater Music Hall is also committed to supporting fellow greater Bay Area nonprofit arts, music, education, performing arts, and youth service organizations and to help these other nonprofits with their fundraising goals through programming at the music hall.

About California Film Institute

The California Film Institute (CAFILM) is a non-profit organization that celebrates and promotes film and media arts through its renowned programs, which include the Mill Valley Film Festival and DocLands Documentary Film Festival. CAFILM fosters the next generation of filmmakers and film lovers through CAFILM Education, offering a wide range of activities, including screenings, Q&A sessions, seminars, and a rich program of classes and hands-on workshops led by international & local filmmakers and industry professionals. The Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, one of the leading non-profit independent theaters in the country, serves as a year-round hub for cinema-centric programming. CAFILM utilizes the power of storytelling through film to entertain and address social, environmental, and cultural issues, reaching 275,000 guests annually. Additionally, CAFILM is the majority owner of the Sequoia Theater in downtown Mill Valley. The organization relies on the generosity of its community; the invaluable support from our sponsors, foundations, individual donors, and members ensures our ability to sustain these vital programs. For more information, visit [cafilm.org](#).

The California Film Institute and Mill Valley Film Festival are 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 the Christopher B. Smith Family, 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, and The Gruber Family 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, and Bellam Self Storage and Boxes.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

46th Mill Valley Film Festival

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

Thursday, October 5 to Sunday, October 15, 2023

Ticket On-Sale Dates

Advance Ticket Packages and Passes on sale Monday, August 7, 2023

General Public Single Tickets on sale Tuesday, September 12, 2023

CFI members can purchase single tickets in advance of the public beginning Friday, September 8, 2023

MVFF46 Bay Area Screening Venues:

San Rafael: Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center – October 5 – 15, 2023

Mill Valley: CinéArts Sequoia – October 5 – 15, 2023

Larkspur: Lark Theater – October 13 -15, 2023

Berkeley: Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive – October 6, 7, & 8 and October 13 & 14, 2023

San Francisco: The Roxie Theater – October 9 & 10, 2023