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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**CALIFORNIA FILM INSTITUTE UNVEILS  
MVFF46 SPOTLIGHT ON WRITER/DIRECTOR EMERALD FENNEL  
AND SPECIAL SCREENING OF SALT BURN**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023**

**EMERALD FENNEL TO BE PRESENTED WITH THE  
MIND THE GAP AWARD • FILMMAKER OF THE YEAR**

San Rafael, CA (September 7, 2023) – Mark Fishkin, Founder/Director of the Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF), along with Zoë Elton, MVFF & Mind the Gap Director of Programming, are delighted to announce the recipient of the MVFF Mind the Gap Award for Filmmaker of the Year: acclaimed writer/director **Emerald Fennell**. Oscar®-winner Emerald Fennell (*Promising Young Woman*, MVFF43) has established herself as one of the brightest stars of new British cinema with the wickedly funny *Saltburn*, which will screen on Tuesday, October 10, 2023. The screening will be followed by an engaging on-stage conversation with Fennell, who will also accept the Mind the Gap Award. This award is in celebration of the incredible inspiration she has provided through her remarkable work and unwavering dedication to her craft.

**Spotlight | MIND THE GAP AWARD – FILMMAKER OF THE YEAR | EMERALD FENNEL**

Tuesday, October 10 | 7:00pm  
Smith Rafael Film Center  
1118 Fourth Street, San Rafael



**Emerald Fennell** is a renowned writer, director, actress, and author who has firmly established herself as a prolific multi-hyphenate across film, television, and theater, garnering many accolades. Among her achievements are two British Academy Film Awards, a Screen Actors Guild Award, three Primetime Emmy Award nominations, three Golden Globe Award nominations, and an Academy Award® for Best Original Screenplay for her stunning directorial debut in 2020 with *"Promising Young Woman."* Beyond her cinematic accomplishments, Fennell has published three novels; the first two, *"Shiverton Hall"* and its sequel *"The Creeper,"* captivated readers with their narrative prowess, and her third novel, *"Monsters,"* a nominee for the 2017 Carnegie Medal, garnered widespread acclaim, drawing comparisons ranging from Ronald Dahl to Bret Easton Ellis. These novels have

showcased her narrative finesse and earned her a fervent following, firmly establishing her as a multifaceted creative force.

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. The MVFF Mind the Gap Award honors creatives, leaders, and craftswomen whose work has helped close the gender gap in the film industry and in our lives. Recognizing talents above and below the line, the Award celebrates their groundbreaking achievements and acknowledges their importance as role models. Previous Mind the Gap Award recipients include **Chinonye Chukwu, Danielle Deadwyler, Nina Yang Bongiovi, Jane Campion, Viola Davis, Dawn Porter Céline Sciamma, Maggie Gyllenhaal, and Carrie Mulligan**, to name a few.

**About SALT BURN**

Academy Award® winning filmmaker Emerald Fennell (*Promising Young Woman*) brings us a beautifully wicked tale of privilege and desire. Struggling to find his place at Oxford University, student Oliver Quick (Barry Keoghan) finds himself drawn into the world of the charming and aristocratic Felix Catton (Jacob Elordi), who invites him to **Saltburn**, his eccentric family's sprawling estate, for a summer never to be forgotten.

*Saltburn* will be released in select theaters on Friday, November 24.

**# #**

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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, establishing its reputation as the West Coast launch pad for many Academy Award®-winning films and a hub for cinematic excellence.

**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 how 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.

The Mind the Gap Award is a custom-designed gold pendant with a moonstone and diamond accent, individually cast and numbered.

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

**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](#).

**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**

**46<sup>th</sup> 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**

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