

Press/Media Contact:
Shelley Spicer, Mill Valley Film Festival
415-526-5845 | sspicer@cafilm.org
Karen Larsen, Larsen Associates
415-957-1205 | karen@larsenassoc.com

(The above number and email are not for publication)

MEDIA RELEASE

Mill Valley Film Festival
Showcasing the Best in Independent and World Cinema
Thursday, October 5-15, 2023

**MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL PAYS TRIBUTE TO
DIRECTOR TODD HAYNES AND PRODUCER CHRISTINE VACHON
WITH MVFF AWARD: LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT FOR COLLABORATION AWARD
FEATURING EXCLUSIVE SCREENING OF "MAY DECEMBER"
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12**



Natalie Portman and Julianne Moore in Netflix's *May December* ©NETFLIX

September 6, 2023 (San Rafael, CA) – Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF), presented by the California Film Institute, is honored to announce a Tribute to longtime collaborators Director **Todd Haynes** (*Carol*, MVFF 2015) and Producer **Christine Vachon** at the 46th Mill Valley Film Festival. Haynes and Vachon will be on hand for this special onstage conversation, and presentation of the MVFF Award: Lifetime Achievement – Collaboration. This will be MVFF's first time award honoring lifetime collaborators and the West Coast Premiere of *May December*.

Acclaimed director Todd Haynes and renowned producer Christine Vachon have been working together since *Poison*, her first feature as producer and his first as director. The film won the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival. Vachon and Haynes' partnership has continued through theatrical and television features, documentaries, and music videos, including their latest, *May December*, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in May.

Tribute | MVFF AWARD – LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT FOR COLLABORATION | MAY DECEMBER
Thursday, October 12 | 6:30 PM
Smith Rafael Film Center
1118 Fourth Street, San Rafael

Tickets for the general public will be available starting Tuesday, September 12, 2023. CFI members have the exclusive opportunity to purchase single tickets ahead of the public release, beginning Friday, September 8, 2023.



About TODD HAYNES

In 1987, Director Todd Haynes created *The Short Film Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story*. His first feature film *Poison* won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance. *After Safe*, which revealed Julianne Moore, he conjured David Bowie in *Velvet Goldmine*, then paid homage to Douglas Sirk in *Far From Heaven*. Haynes had six actors play Bob Dylan in *I'm Not There*. He directed the TV miniseries *Mildred Pierce*, then returned to feature films with *Carol*, *Wonderstruck* and *Dark Waters*. The documentary *The Velvet Underground* followed. His latest feature, *May December* will be released by Netflix in December.



About CHRISTINE VACHON

Christine Vachon and Pamela Koffler co-founded the independent production company and industry stronghold, Killer Films, in 1995. Over their nearly 30 years, they have produced more than 100 films, including some of the most celebrated and important American independent features: *Kids*, *Far From Heaven*, *Boys Don't Cry*, *I Shot Andy Warhol*, *Carol*, *Happiness*, *Hedwig And The Angry Inch*, *One Hour Photo*, *Still Alice*, and *First Reformed*. In television, they executive-produced the Emmy and Golden Globe-awarded miniseries *Mildred Pierce* for HBO as well as the Emmy Award-winning limited series *Halston* for Netflix. Recent releases include Janicza Bravo's *Zola* (A24), six-part documentary series, *Pride* (FX), Todd Haynes' *the Velvet Underground* (Apple TV+), and Celine Song's *Past Lives* (A24). Upcoming releases include Haynes' *May December*, Rebecca Miller's *She Came to Me*, and Aaron Schimberg's *A Different Man* (A24).

About MAY DECEMBER

Twenty years after their notorious tabloid romance gripped the nation, a married couple (Julianne Moore and Charles Melton) buckles under the pressure when an actress (Natalie Portman) arrives to do research for a film about their past.

May December will be released in select theaters on November 17 and streams on Netflix in the U.S. and Canada on December 1.

The MVFF Tribute program honors and celebrates lifetime achievements in the career of a significant film artist. Over the years, MVFF has honored such extraordinary talents as Brendan Fraser, Kenneth Branagh, Dame Judi Dench, Sir Anthony Hopkins, Sophia Loren, Kate Winslet, Michael Apted, Alfre Woodard, Pawel Pawlowski, Glenn Close, Kristin Scott Thomas, Sean Penn, Holly Hunter, Todd Haynes, Julie Dash, Catherine Hardwicke, Sir Ian McKellen, Laura Dern, Ben Stiller, Mira Nair, and Nicole Kidman, to name a few.

##

Stay connected:

Twitter: [@MVFFilmFestival](https://twitter.com/MVFFilmFestival)

Facebook: [@MillValleyFilmFestival](https://www.facebook.com/MillValleyFilmFestival)

Instagram: [@millvalleyfilmfest](https://www.instagram.com/millvalleyfilmfest)

YouTube: [@CaliforniaFilmInstitute](https://www.youtube.com/@CaliforniaFilmInstitute)

For more information: mvff.com

About the 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 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 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 MacCreedy, 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