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MEDIA RELEASE

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

**MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL SPOTLIGHT ON
DIRECTOR GEORGE C. WOLFE & SCREENING OF *RUSTIN*
Sunday, October 8**



Colman Domingo in Netflix's' *Rustin* ©PARRISH LEWIS/NETFLIX

September 7, 2023 (San Rafael, CA) – Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF), presented by the California Film Institute, is thrilled to honor five-time Tony award-winning director and DGA award recipient George C. Wolfe with the MVFF Award for Directing. Wolfe will be on hand for this special onstage conversation, screening of the highly anticipated ***RUSTIN***, and presentation of the **MVFF Award** on Sunday, October 8 at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center in San Rafael.

Produced by Barack and Michelle Obama's Higher Ground Productions, and with a screenplay by Julian Breece and Oscar® winner Dustin Lance Black, George C. Wolfe deftly directs the story of Bayard Rustin, architect of 1963's March on Washington. Starring Colman Domingo (*If Beale Street Could Talk*, MVFF41), Chris Rock, Glynn Turman, Aml Ameen, Gus Halper, CCH Pounder, Da'Vine Joy Randolph, Johnny Ramey, Michael Potts, Jeffrey Wright, Audra McDonald.

Spotlight | MVFF AWARD - DIRECTING | GEORGE C. WOLFE

Sunday, October 8 | 6:45pm
Smith Rafael Film Center
1118 Fourth Street, San Rafael

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



George C. Wolfe ©CHRIS BUCK

About GEORGE C. WOLFE

Renowned director, producer, and writer George C. Wolfe is one of America's most important and influential cultural voices. Wolfe most recently directs *Rustin*, the story of Bayard Rustin, architect of 1963's March on Washington for Netflix, and President Barack and Michelle Obama's production company, Higher Ground. Also for Netflix, he directed critically acclaimed *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. Wolfe made his directorial film debut with *Lackawanna Blues*, winning a DGA Award, four NAACP Image Awards and a National Board of Review Award. Wolfe has won five Tony awards and directed 17 Broadway productions. Wolfe served on the President's Committee for the Arts and Humanities and is the Chief Creative Officer for the Center of Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta.

About RUSTIN

The architect of 1963's momentous March on Washington, Bayard Rustin was one of the greatest activists and organizers the world has ever known. He challenged authority, never apologized for who he was, what he believed, or who he desired. And he did not back down. He made history, and in turn, he was forgotten. Directed by DGA Award and five-time Tony Award winner George C. Wolfe and starring Emmy Award winner Colman Domingo, *Rustin* shines a long overdue spotlight on the extraordinary man who, alongside giants like the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., Adam Clayton Powell Jr., and Ella Baker, dared to imagine a different world, and inspired a movement in a march toward freedom. Produced by Academy Award winner Bruce Cohen, Higher Ground's Tonia Davis, and George C. Wolfe, the film features an all-star cast including Chris Rock, Glynn Turman, Aml Ameen, Gus Halper, CCH Pounder, Da'Vine Joy Randolph, Johnny Ramey, Michael Potts, with Jeffrey Wright and Audra McDonald.

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 Nikyatu Jusu, Paolo Sorrentino, Denis Villeneuve, Regina King, Delroy Lindo, Robert Pattinson, Richard E. Grant, Karyn Kusama, Joel Edgerton, Amandla Stenberg, Dee Rees, Alejandro González Iñárritu, Eddie Redmayne, Ewan McGregor, Brie Larson, Steve McQueen, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michelle Yeoh, Elle Fanning and Jared Leto, to name a few.

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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 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