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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 UNVEILS WORLD PREMIERE OF
PHILLIP NOYCE'S ACTION-PACKED COMEDY FAST CHARLIE**



Photos courtesy of ©Fast Charlie

San Rafael, CA, (September 14, 2023) – The California Film Institute is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated World Premiere of Phillip Noyce's film, "Fast Charlie," at the Mill Valley Film Festival on Saturday, October 7th. This comedic, action-packed, and heartfelt gem showcases an outstanding ensemble cast featuring the talents of Pierce Brosnan, Morena Baccarin, Gbenga Akinnagbe, and the late James Caan in his final performance. FAST CHARLIE is poised to captivate audiences with its gripping storyline, from a screenplay by Richard Wenk (*Equalizer 1,2,3*) that is complemented by the photography of Australian DP Warwick Thornton.

FAST CHARLIE is a mature, reflective, character-driven, action-punctuated story of cunning and desire on the Mississippi bayou. Flavored with a kind of Elmore Leonard sauce, the sensual, hard-hitting film is about a dapper, silver-streaked hitman (Brosnan) gradually falling for a Thelma Ritter-ish 40something taxidermist who's seen it all (Baccarin).

Meshing it all together is director Phillip Noyce (*Salt*, *Rabbit-Proof Fence*, *Clear and Present Danger*), known for his exceptional talent in crafting compelling narratives.

"Pierce Brosnan and I chose to premiere FAST CHARLIE at MVFF because of such fond mutual memories of our previous screenings at this wonderful celebration of cinema," remarked Phillip Noyce, underlining the special connection both he and Brosnan have with the Mill Valley Film Festival.

MVFF46 World Premiere // *Fast Charlie*

Saturday, October 7 • 7:30 PM

Smith Rafael Film Center

1118 Fourth Street, San Rafael

MVFF is honored to present the world premiere of *Fast Charlie*, a film that promises an exciting evening, keeping the audience captivated from beginning to end. We're delighted to welcome back Phillip Noyce to the Rafael stage for an insightful discussion after the screening, marking his return to MVFF (following *Catch a Fire* MVFF29 and *Rabbit-Proof Fence* MVFF25).

About *Fast Charlie*:

Charlie Swift, aka "Fast Charlie," is a fixer with a problem: the target he's whacked is missing his head. And he must prove it's the intended target to the man who paid for the hit - New Orleans' most prominent and most ruthless mobster, Beggar Mercado. Charlie enlists Marcie Kramer, the victim's ex-wife and a woman with the backbone and skillset Charlie needs. Dragging Marcie back into a past she was determined to escape sends the two of them on a wild and unpredictable odyssey that's unexpectedly amusing, action-propelled, and ultimately heartfelt. Along the way, Charlie and Marcie fight to protect the legacy of Charlie's best friend and mentor, Stan Mullin, while bringing down Beggar and his entire operation.

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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 Now

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