

MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL 53-13 O 2024

MEDIA ALERT

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MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES EMILIA PÉREZ SPOTLIGHT ENSEMBLE TO RECEIVE MVFF AWARD



San Rafael, CA (August 20, 2024) – The California Film Institute (CAFILM) is thrilled to announce a Spotlight presentation for Netflix’s exhilarating Spanish-language film **EMILIA PÉREZ** at the 47th Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF). The film will screen on Saturday, October 5, as part of the festival’s opening weekend. Attending the event from the film will be Zoe Saldaña, Karla Sofia Gascón, and Adriana Paz, who, along with the rest of the ensemble, will be honored with the MVFF Award for Outstanding Ensemble Performance.

Winner of the 2024 Jury Prize, **Emilia Pérez**, directed by the acclaimed Jacques Audiard. This audacious fever dream defies genres and expectations, following the journeys of four remarkable women in Mexico, each in pursuit of their own happiness. The story centers around Emilia (Gascón), a formidable cartel leader who enlists Rita (Saldaña), an unappreciated lawyer stuck in a dead-end job; to help fake her death so she can live authentically as her true self. With liberating song and dance sequences and bold visuals, Audiard takes audiences on a thrilling odyssey of identity and transformation.

What: MVFF47 Spotlight | **EMILIA PÉREZ** Screening and Award Presentation
Who: Zoe Saldaña, Karla Sofia Gascón, and Adriana Paz
Date: Saturday, October 5, 2024
Time: 7:00 PM
Screening Location: Smith Rafael Film Center, 1118 Fourth Street, San Rafael, CA

“The film’s life force is irresistible, and the talents of an incredible ensemble drive it. It’s no wonder the Jury at this year’s Cannes Film Festival insisted on creating a special award for them,” said Zoë Elton, MVFF Director of Programming. “They bring passion and commitment to this groundbreaking film, and I’m excited that many will join us as guests. I can’t wait to share this film with our audience: it will be a very special night.”

The star-studded cast also includes Selena Gomez, Adriana Paz, and Édgar Ramírez, all of whom deliver captivating performances. In recognition of their exceptional work, the ensemble cast, represented by Saldaña, Gascón, and Paz, will receive the MVFF Award for Outstanding Ensemble Performance, celebrating their collective contribution to the film’s success.

Jacques Audiard (Paris, 1952) is a renowned French director and screenwriter. He has twice won both the César and BAFTA Awards for Best Film Not in the English Language, for *De battre mon cœur s’est arrêté* (2005) and *Un prophète* (2010), the latter also winning the Grand Prix at Cannes. His film *De rouille et d’os* (2012) competed for the Palme d’Or, was BAFTA-nominated, and won the BFI London Film Festival Award. Audiard’s *Dheepan* won the Palme d’Or in 2015. His recent films include *Sister’s Brothers*, *Les Olympiades*, and *Emilia Perez*, the latter earning double honors at Cannes 2024.

The MVFF Spotlight program honors and celebrates exceptional work by film artists in their most current projects. Honorees may be in early, mid, or late careers. Over the years, MVFF has spotlighted extraordinary talents such as Nikiyatu 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, among others.

Stay connected:

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YouTube: [@CaliforniaFilmInstitute](#)

Letterboxd: [@CAFILM](#)

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 that honor and celebrate distinguished artists and innovators in the filmmaking community. Corning describes her artwork as a representation of “the power and dignity of a human being... much like great work in film.”

About Mill Valley Film Festival

Presented by the California Film Institute (CAFILM), the 47th Mill Valley Film Festival runs October 3-13, 2024. 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 the California Film Institute

The California Film Institute (CAFILM) is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing film and media arts through acclaimed programs like the Mill Valley Film Festival and DocLands Documentary Film Festival. CAFILM Education provides students of all ages with opportunities to learn about the world through the art of film and filmmaking. Our premier independent theater, the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, engages over 275,000 guests annually with compelling cinema and storytelling on pressing social, environmental, and cultural issues. Additionally, CAFILM now owns and operates the Sequoia Cinema, reinforcing our commitment to preserving cinematic heritage and access to fine films locally. The organization relies on the generosity of its community; the invaluable support from our sponsors, foundations, donors, and members ensures our ability to continue expanding and sustaining our vital programs. Join us in celebrating, exploring, and championing the art of film. For more information, visit [cafilm.org](#).

Supporters | Mill Valley Film Festival

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 of the Mill Valley Film Festival: Raymond James, Delta Air Lines, Jackson Square Partners, Lucasfilm, Ltd., Wareham Development, and Bellam Self Storage and Boxes.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

47th Mill Valley Film Festival

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

Thursday, October 3 to Sunday, October 13, 2024

Ticket On-Sale Dates

Early Bird Tickets and Passes are on sale now

General Public Single Tickets on sale September 18, 2024

CFI members can purchase single tickets in advance of the public beginning Mid-September

MVFF47 Bay Area Screening Venues:

San Rafael: Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center – Thurs, Oct. 3 – Sun, Oct. 13, 2024

Mill Valley: Sequoia Cinema – Thurs, Oct. 3 – Sun, Oct. 13, 2024

Larkspur: Lark Theater – Sat, Oct 5 & Sun, Oct 6 + Fri, Oct 11, Sat, Oct 12 & Sun, Oct 13, 2024

Berkeley: Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive – Sat, Oct 5 & Sun, Oct 6 + Thurs, Oct 10 – Sun, Oct 13, 2024

General Admission Information:

General \$18.50 | CAFILM Members \$16.00 | Seniors (65+) \$17.00 | Students with ID and Youth (12 & under) \$9.00 | Shorts Programs: \$11.50