

MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL 53-13 O 2024

MEDIA ALERT

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CONCLAVE TO OPEN THE 47th MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024 DIRECTOR EDWARD BERGER AND RALPH FIENNES TO ATTEND



San Rafael, CA [August 23, 2024] — The California Film Institute is thrilled to announce Focus Features' highly anticipated film **CONCLAVE** is set to open the 47th Mill Valley Film Festival on Thursday, October 3.

CONCLAVE, directed by acclaimed Edward Berger, will have its West Coast premiere at the festival. The film delves into the enigmatic and captivating world of a papal conclave, offering a compelling narrative and stellar performances. Berger and Ralph Fiennes will attend the opening night festivities.

The evening will kick off with the screening of **Conclave** at both the Sequoia Cinema in Mill Valley and the Smith Rafael Film Center in San Rafael, setting the stage for a thrilling night. Following the screening, guests are invited to the Opening Night Gala, a festive celebration at the Marin Country Mart in Larkspur. This exclusive party allows attendees to mingle with industry professionals, filmmakers, and fellow cinema enthusiasts while enjoying gourmet food, drinks, and live entertainment.

What: MVFF47 Opening Night Screening and Gala | **CONCLAVE**
Who: Director Edward Berger and Ralph Fiennes
Date: Thursday, October 3, 2024
Time: 6:30 PM (Screening) | 9:00 PM (Gala)
Screening Locations: Sequoia Cinema, 25 Throckmorton Avenue, Mill Valley, CA
Smith Rafael Film Center, 1118 Fourth Street, San Rafael, CA
Gala Venue: Marin Country Mart, 2257 Larkspur Circle, Larkspur, CA

"Thank you, Edward Berger, for allowing us to enter the secretive world of the Papal conclave. **Conclave**, with all its intrigue and significance, beautifully portrays the human side of the cardinals, reminding us that despite their rise to the highest levels of the Catholic Church, they remain human, possessing the same strengths and weaknesses as the rest of us. This humanity only deepens the drama, enriched further by superb performances from Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, and Isabella Rossellini, along with brilliant supporting roles. While the ritual of MVFF Opening Night (which has been in effect for only 47 years) is in its infancy, I have no doubt our audience will feel the weight and importance of this sacred and ancient ritual, exemplified by your masterful filmmaking." -Mark Fishkin, Founder, MVFF.

"I'm thrilled that we're opening this year's Mill Valley Film Festival with Academy Award-winning director Edward Berger's latest," said MVFF Director of Programming Zoë Elton. "He's again proving himself a director of note—visually, aurally, and as an actors' director. This film works on so many levels, articulated through an ensemble of actors who are absolutely on the top of their game. Ralph Fiennes's central performance is gorgeously nuanced. In a role both complex and heartfelt, he creates an unforgettable emotional epicenter to this completely gripping film. It's a great reminder of why we love cinema!"

CONCLAVE follows one of the world's most secretive and ancient events – selecting a new Pope. Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is tasked with running this covert process after the unexpected death of the beloved Pope. Once the Catholic Church's most powerful leaders have gathered from around the world and are locked together in the Vatican halls, Lawrence finds himself at the center of a conspiracy and discovers a secret that could shake the very foundation of The Church. In addition to Fiennes, **CONCLAVE** stars Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow, Carlos Diehz, and Isabella Rossellini. Focus will release the film in the US beginning November 1, 2024.



Edward Berger graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts in 1994 and gained early experience working for the US independent production company Good Machine, working on films by Ang Lee and Todd Haynes. His film *Jack* competed at the Berlin International Film Festival, earning three German Academy Award nominations and winning in Silver for Best Picture, along with Best Director at the German Director's Guild Awards.

In 2015, Berger's 8-part television series *Deutschland '83* premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival, becoming the first German television show ever to air in the US on Sundance TV. It won Best International Drama at *Séries Mania*, an International Emmy, and a Peabody Award.

Berger directed Showtime's *Patrick Melrose*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch, which earned five Primetime Emmy nominations and four BAFTAs, including Best Limited Series. His recent film, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, won seven BAFTAs and four Oscars, making it the most awarded international film ever. Berger received an Academy Award® for Best International Feature Film.



Ralph Fiennes made his feature film debut as Heathcliff in *Wuthering Heights* (1992). His film credits include *Schindler's List*, *The English Patient*, *The Constant Gardener*, *The End of the Affair*, *The Reader*, *Quiz Show*, *Oscar and Lucinda*, *Onegin*, *Spider*, *Sunshine*, *Strange Days*, and *The Hurt Locker*. He played Lord Voldemort in the Harry Potter series and the role of 'M' in *Skyfall*, *Spectre*, and *No Time To Die*.

Recent films include *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar*, *The Menu*, and *The King's Man*. Upcoming projects include *The Return* for Uberto Pasolini and *The Choral* for Nicholas Hytner. Fiennes is currently shooting the film trilogy *28 Years Later*, directed by Danny Boyle and Nia DaCosta.

As a director, Fiennes debuted with *Coriolanus* (2011) and later directed *The Invisible Woman* and *The White Crow*. On stage, he has been recognized for his performances in *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Richard III*, and *Hamlet*, which earned him a Tony Award for Best Actor. Recent on stage credits include *Straight Line Crazy* at The Bridge Theatre and The Shed Theatre, in addition to *Macbeth* which played in Liverpool, Edinburgh, London and Washington DC.

Fiennes has received multiple Academy Award, BAFTA, and Golden Globe nominations, winning a BAFTA for *Schindler's List*. His honors include the Variety Award for Film Achievement and the Empire Film Legend Award.

Join us for an unforgettable evening as we celebrate the art of filmmaking and the magic of cinema at the Mill Valley Film Festival. We look forward to welcoming you to this memorable event.

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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, 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 its acclaimed programs, including the Mill Valley Film Festival and DocLands Documentary Film Festival. CAFILM Education offers students of all ages the opportunity to explore the world through film and filmmaking, fostering the next generation of film enthusiasts and creators. Our premier independent theater, the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, attracts over 275,000 guests annually with compelling cinema and storytelling that addresses pressing social, environmental, and cultural issues. Additionally, CAFILM now owns and operates the Sequoia Cinema, furthering our commitment to preserving cinematic heritage and providing local access to quality films. 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:

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

Shorts Programs: \$11.50