



MILL VALLEY
FILM FESTIVAL

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32nd Mill Valley Film Festival Presents The 15th Annual Children's FilmFest

Films From Throughout Northern Europe Open the World to Young Viewers and Their Families

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (September 15, 2009) — Focusing on Northern Europe, the **15th Annual Children's FilmFest**, will present an exceptional selection of family and children's feature and short films from around the world at this year's **Mill Valley Film Festival (October 8–18)**. Held during both weekends of the Festival, the FilmFest will also include an entertaining **Children's FilmFest Party Extravanga at 142 Throckmorton Theatre on Sunday, October 11 at 12:30 pm**. This popular event will feature face painting, balloon art and an organic gourmet finger-food lunch provided by Whole Foods.

For children too young to read or unable to keep up with the fast-paced subtitle text, the Festival supplies complimentary headphones, along with a small broadcasting unit, and subtitles are read aloud by local actors and voice talent.

This year's Festival boasts four feature films that will please the whole family. International award winner (with a Best of Fest from the Chicago International Children's Film Festival) Erna Schmidt's ***Stella and the Star of the Orient*** (Germany 2007) will begin the FilmFest with a time traveling, spunky 10-year-old girl who has to solve a century-old mystery. Norway's ***Ten Lives of Titanic the Cat*** (Grethe Bøe 2007) also travels in time when two youths on an ocean cruise discover ghosts. Preteen romance with all the stumblings, misunderstandings, embarrassments and dramatic crushes is the subject of Finland's ***Ricky Rapper*** (Mari Rantasila 2008), and is based on a very popular young readers' series. Stepping back in time, the beautiful Dutch production of ***The Letter for the King*** (Pieter Verhoeff 2008) follows another boy, a 16 year-old apprentice, who is given a task that will depend on his possible future as a knight.

Wild, entertaining short films accompany three of these features, with Marin filmmaker and dancer Melinda Darlington-Bach's ***The Faeries of Farthingale*** setting the tone of period fantasy, along with Boston filmmaker Jane Gillooly's mystical short ***Dragonflies, Baby Cries***. More contemporary but just as magical, the Swedish short ***Love Child*** pits a family cat against a little girl vying for the family's affection.

The Children's FilmFest programs are supported in part by a grant from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

California Film Institute

The California Film Institute celebrates and promotes film as art and education through the presentation of the Mill Valley Film Festival and year-round exhibitions at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, and by building the next generation of filmmakers and audiences through CFI Education. For more information visit cafilm.org or call 415.383.5256.

32nd Mill Valley Film Festival

Presented by the California Film Institute, the 32nd Mill Valley Film Festival runs October 8–18, 2009 at the CinéArts@Sequoia (25 Throckmorton Avenue, Mill Valley), Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center (1118 Fourth Street, San Rafael) and other venues throughout the Bay Area. Tickets are \$12.50 (CFI Members, \$10) unless otherwise noted and are available for purchase on September 20–23 for CFI members only, and beginning on September 24 for the general public. Regular tickets may be purchased online at mvff.com. For additional information, please visit mvff.com or call 877.874.MVFF.

Sponsors

As a nonprofit arts organization, MVFF relies on the generosity of its community to sustain not only the festival, but also the year-round programs of the California Film Institute. The invaluable support of our sponsors, foundation, and individual donors ensures our continued success as we celebrate our 32nd year. CFI is once again proud to acknowledge the leadership support of Christopher B. and Jeannie Meg Smith, and the continued major support of the Bernard Osher Foundation, the Gruber Family Foundation, Jennifer Coslett MacCready, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Marin Community Foundation, the Zecca Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. We are also fortunate to have the continued contributions of the following Major Sponsors of the Mill Valley Film Festival: Qantas Airways, Maroevich, O'Shea & Coghlan Insurance Services, Frantoio Ristorante and Olive Oil Co., Zaentz Media Center/Wareham Development, Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), and CFI Membership Sponsor, Wells Fargo. Longtime friend and dedicated supporter of the festival, Bellam Self Storage & Boxes, is also returning as a major sponsor, and will be receiving this year's Distinguished Sponsor Award.

This release and other press materials are available at <http://filmmakers.mvff.com>.

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