



MILL VALLEY
FILM FESTIVAL

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Jason Reitman Steps into the Spotlight at the 32nd Mill Valley Film Festival

*Reitman to Receive the Mill Valley Film Festival Award in an Onstage Spotlight Event at the
Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center*

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (September 15, 2009) — The MVFF Spotlight Award is a celebration of great work in film. It recognizes the exceptional creative talents of a film artist as exemplified by their current work, regardless of whether they are in early, middle or late career. This year an innovative newcomer, director **Jason Reitman**, will be honored at a special Spotlight event during the **32nd Mill Valley Film Festival (October 8–18, 2009)**. He will receive the **Mill Valley Film Festival Award** for his upcoming release ***Up in the Air***. The program, sponsored by Jennifer Coslett MacCready, will include an onstage interview and a screening of Reitman's latest film, followed by a Q&A with the audience at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center on **Wednesday, October 14 at 6:30 pm**. After the event, a special reception will be held for film and party ticket holders at Piatti Ristorante & Bar.

Reitman's newest work is a dramatic comedy called ***Up in the Air***, starring Oscar winner George Clooney as Ryan Bingham, a corporate downsizing expert whose cherished life on the road is threatened just as he is on the verge of reaching ten million frequent-flier miles and after he's met Alex (Vera Farmiga), the frequent-traveler woman of his dreams.

Jason Reitman (Director/Screenwriter/Producer) is an Oscar®-nominated director who has established himself as an original, smart and funny storyteller known for his pitch-perfect commentaries on society. Reitman recently produced the horror comedy *Jennifer's Body* for Fox. The Diablo Cody-scripted film was directed by Karyn Kusama and stars Amanda Seyfried and Megan Fox. In addition, Reitman executive-produced Atom Egoyan's *Chloe* starring Liam Neeson and Julianne Moore, also set for release in 2009. Reitman is also set to executive-produce Max Winkler's directing debut *Ceremony*. Through his company, Right of Way Films, Reitman is developing new scripts by Jenny Lumet and the Duplass brothers. He is also developing a feature film based on the cult children's television show *Yo Gabba Gabba*. He made his feature film directing debut with the 2006 hit *Thank You for Smoking*, based on the acclaimed novel by Christopher Buckley, which Reitman adapted for the screen. The film had its world premiere at the 2005

Toronto Film Festival, where it was acquired by Fox Searchlight. *Thank You for Smoking* went on to earn a Golden Globe nomination for Best Picture, an Independent Spirit Award for Best Screenplay and a WGA nomination for Best Adapted Screenplay. In 2006, Reitman was named Best Debut Director by the National Board of Review. In December 2007, Fox Searchlight released Reitman's second feature, *Juno*, which follows the story of a pregnant teenager. *Juno* has earned widespread praise since its debut at the 2007 Toronto Film Festival, and has grossed over \$230 million worldwide.

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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