



MILL VALLEY  
FILM FESTIVAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Preeminent Filmmakers' Festival Returns for its 32nd Edition October 8–18, 2009**

*Mill Valley Film Festival Celebrates the Best of Independent and World Cinema with  
143 Films from 41 Countries with 24 Official Premieres*

**SAN RAFAEL, Calif.** (September 15, 2009) — The internationally acclaimed **Mill Valley Film Festival**, greatly anticipated by cinema fans and film industry veterans alike, offers a high-profile, prestigious, noncompetitive environment that is perfect for celebrating the best of independent and world cinema. Considered by many to be a launching pad for the Oscar® campaign, this year's film festival promises to be no exception.

**Opening Night** debuts with two feature films - ***The Boys Are Back***, directed by **Scott Hicks** (*Shine*, MVFF 1996), is a deeply moving, wryly confessional tale of fatherhood that intimately evokes both the fragility and wonders of family life. Showing on two screens at CinéArts@Sequoia in downtown Mill Valley on **Thursday, October 8 at 7:00 pm and 7:15 pm**, Director **Scott Hicks** and actor **Clive Owen** will be in attendance. ***Precious: Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire***, from director **Lee Daniels** (*Shadowboxer*), is a vibrant, honest, and resoundingly hopeful film about the human capacity to grow and overcome adversity. The film will be shown at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center in downtown San Rafael on **Thursday, October 8 at 7:00 pm**. Director **Lee Daniels** and actresses **Gabourey Sibide** and **Paula Patton** are expected to attend. After the screenings, join us for the **Opening Night Gala** at the Mill Valley Community Center at **9:30 pm**.

On **Closing Night, Sunday, October 18**, the Festival draws its curtains with two new feature films that are guaranteed to be crowd-pleasers. ***The Young Victoria***, from director Jean-Marc Vallé, is a stunning film that focuses on the early days of Queen Victoria's reign over the United Kingdom. Light years from the aged, widowed Queen Victoria of popular imagination, Emily Blunt is radiant, vivacious and enchanting as the sheltered princess who ascended the British throne in 1837 at age 18. ***The Young Victoria*** will screen on **Sunday, October 18 at 8:00 pm** at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center in downtown San Rafael. ***Looking for Eric*** (Ken Loach) is the tale of a man on the edge of a midlife crisis. Lonely postman Eric Bishop (Steve Evets) feels as if his very existence is slipping through his fingers. His chaotic family, his wild stepsons, and the cement mixer in the front garden don't help, but it is Eric's

surreal encounters with a famous French footballer-philosopher that are driving him to the brink. Despite outrageous efforts and misplaced goodwill from his football-fan mates, Eric continues to sink. In desperate times it takes a spliff and a special friend to challenge Eric to journey into the most perilous territory of all—the past. ***Looking for Eric*** will screen on **Sunday, October 18, at 8:00 pm** at CinéArts@Sequoia in downtown Mill Valley. After the films the Festival sails off with Hornblower Cruises & Events for a **Closing Night Party** aboard the *California Hornblower* for a San Francisco Bay Cruise.

MVFF 32 is also proud to announce three tribute events – **Anna Karina**, the Danish-born, French actress, will receive the **Mill Valley Film Festival Award** for her exceptional contributions to world cinema. The program will feature career retrospective film clips and an onstage conversation, followed by the North American premiere of her first directorial effort in more than 30 years, ***Victoria*** (2008), at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center on **Friday, October 16 at 6:30 pm**. Academy Award® nominee and Golden Globe® winner **Uma Thurman** will also receive the MVFF Award for her esteemed 25-year film career. The program, sponsored by major donors Christopher B. and Jeannie Meg Smith and Frantoio Ristorante & Olive Oil Co, will include a screening of her latest film ***Motherhood***, directed by Katherine Dieckmann, an onstage interview and a Q&A with the audience at the Smith Rafael Film Center on **Saturday, October 10 at 6:00 pm**. On **Thursday, October 15 at 7:00 pm** Academy Award® nominee and Emmy Award winning actor **Woody Harrelson** will be honored at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center. The award celebrates Harrelson's dynamic onscreen presence, noting the ease in which he switches between dramatic and comedic roles. The program, presented with support from the Gruber Family Foundation, will include career highlights and an onstage interview followed by a Q&A. Harrelson will also introduce his newest film, ***The Messenger***, alongside Director **Oren Moverman** and actor **Ben Foster**. A reception follows directly after the event at the Tiburon Grill, featuring wine, cocktails and a delicious array of contemporary cuisine.

The MVFF Spotlight Award is a celebration of exceptional creative talents of a film artist as exemplified by their current work, regardless of whether they are in early, middle or late career. Director **Jason Reitman**, will be honored this year for his upcoming release ***Up in the Air***. The program will include an onstage interview and a screening of Reitman's 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. Accompanying Reitman under the Spotlight is Academy Award® nominee and Golden Globe® winner **Clive Owen** who, in addition to introducing and starring in one of the opening night films, will be recognized for his excellence in cinema on **Friday, October 9 at 7:00 pm**. The event includes an onstage interview, Q&A with the audience and a screening of Mike Hodges' ***Croupier*** (1998) at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center.

Live Events include **Troupers: 50 Years of the San Francisco Mime Troupe** on **Friday, October 16,**

**7:30 pm.** Long before the Summer of Love, the iconic San Francisco Mime Troupe was bringing free theater to Bay Area parks and spawning cultural change-makers like Bill Graham and Peter Coyote. To honor the SFMT's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we'll revive *Troupers*, Glenn Silber and Claudia Vianello's intimate, inspiring 1985 documentary. On a musical note, **A Sweeter Music: A Live Concert by Sarah Cahill with Video by John Sanborn** will include avante-garde pianist Cahill performing composer's visions of peace and war against a stunning backdrop of visual poems on **Sunday, October 18 at 3:30pm.** In honor of the inspirational soundtrack to the MVFF film *Soundtrack for a Revolution* we present **Concert for a Revolution** following the first screening of the film. This all-star evening, **Saturday, October 10 at 9:30pm,** will feature legendary, multiple Grammy-winning **Blind Boys of Alabama** among other musical surprises guaranteed to deliver a dynamic tribute to the songs that powered the Civil Rights Movement. **Jazz Icons Among Us** is a celebration of the theatrical version of the outstanding jazz documentary series *Icons Among Us: jazz in the present tense*. MVFF will present a special live event showcasing the future of jazz music and its multivarious offshoots. Join eclectic bass virtuoso Rob Wasserman (frequent collaborator of Rickie Lee Jones and Bob Weir), phenomenal guitarist Will Bernard, Living Daylights drummer Dale Fanning and other special guests as they explore the ways that jazz and rock improvisation interact in the twenty-first century.

Held during both weekends of the Festival the **15th Annual Children's FilmFest** presents an exceptional selection of family and children's feature and short films from around the world. This year features a special focus on children's films of Northern Europe. The FilmFest also includes 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.

In addition to screening the very best in new independent and world cinema, MVFF also maintains a reputation for presenting world-class panels and workshops featuring renowned filmmakers. This year MVFF is proud to offer an engaging slate of events for both film lovers and professionals. The **New Movies Lab** offers workshops focusing on the art, technology and business of cinema. At **How to Get It Done: A Seminar for Young Filmmakers** five working filmmakers will discuss how the making of their films and what young directors need to know about the festival and distribution markets. **Girl Geeks** explores the intersection of technology and creativity as seen by the women at the forefront of the digital industry. The always popular **Cinemasports** provides the opportunity to make a film in a day, for anyone interested in participating. **Distribution: Rapid Evolution and the Search for a New Model** focuses on the rapidly developing landscape etched by Web-based and alternative distribution streams.

**Insight** is a series of panels designed to explore the art and craft of master filmmakers. Panelists will discuss their work in depth and in detail, giving audiences the opportunity to gain an insider's understanding of their creative processes. **Henry Selick and the art of Coraline** presents Henry Selick,

director/screenwriter of *Coraline*, as he discusses his most recent animated feature, his distinguished career and the carefully nurtured art of stop-motion animation. **The Cassel Touch: Character Acting from Cassavetes to Now, Seymour Cassel in Conversation with Rob Nilsson** is an intimate conversation between acclaimed character actor Seymour Cassel and iconic independent filmmaker Rob Nilsson.

**Active Cinema: Strategies for Change** is a creative-brainstorming and makeover panel designed to look at strategies for the distribution and marketing of films on social, environmental and human rights issues, as well as ways to get audiences engaged with the issues seen off screen. This year's program features over a dozen films that address compelling issue and profile inspiring individuals. Screenings will include Q&A sessions with filmmakers and other guests, including **Daniel Ellsberg, Wavy Gravy, Karina Epperlein, John Knoop, Rick Goldsmith, Judith Ehrlich** and **Denise Zmekhol** and are presented in partnership with organizations that address the issues represented onscreen. For a complete list of Active Cinema films see dedicated release.

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### **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](http://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](http://mvff.com). For additional information, please visit [mvff.com](http://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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