



MILL VALLEY
FILM FESTIVAL

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32nd Mill Valley Film Festival Recognizes Uma Thurman for Her Remarkable Work in Cinema

*Thurman to Receive the Mill Valley Film Festival Award in a Unique Tribute Event at the
Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center*

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (August 2009) — In her 25-year film career, Academy Award® nominee and Golden Globe® winner **Uma Thurman** has proven her versatility by playing a wide variety of compelling characters. Thurman will be honored at a special Tribute event during the **32nd Mill Valley Film Festival (October 8–18, 2009)** and given the **Mill Valley Film Festival Award** for her remarkable work in cinema. The program, sponsored by major donors Christopher B. and Jeannie Meg Smith and Frantoio Ristorante & Olive Oil Co, will include a clip reel highlighting Thurman's career, a screening of her latest film ***Motherhood***, directed by Katherine Dieckmann, and an onstage interview followed by a Q & A with the audience at the Smith Rafael Film Center on **Saturday, October 10 at 6:00 pm**. The evening will conclude with a gourmet dinner and party at Frantoio Ristorante & Olive Oil Co.

“Uma Thurman has graced some of the most iconic films of the last two decades—we're thrilled to celebrate both her incredible career and help launch her latest film at this year's festival,” says Mill Valley Film Festival's Founder and Executive Director, Mark Fishkin.

Motherhood is a bittersweet comedy about Eliza Welch (Thurman), a fiction-writer-turned-mom-blogger who has put her creative ambitions on hold to raise her two children. Over the course of one pivotal day, Eliza prepares for her daughter's sixth birthday party; battles royally for a parking spot; navigates playground politics with overbearing moms; and tries to mend a developing rift with her best friend. On top of it all, Eliza decides to enter a contest run by an upscale parenting magazine, asking her to write 500 words answering the deceptively simple question, “What Does Motherhood Mean to Me?” Co-starring **Anthony Edwards** and **Minnie Driver**, *Motherhood* is equal parts *Mrs. Dalloway* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*—at once hilarious and poignant. It is a hymn to the joys and sorrows of raising children and the necessity of not losing yourself in the process.

Born in Boston and raised in Amherst, Massachusetts, Thurman entered into mainstream film with her role as the goddess Venus in Terry Gilliam's *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*, but it was her

portrayal of Cécile de Volanges, a virginal 18th-century convent girl, in Stephen Frears' *Dangerous Liaisons* which brought her international attention. From there she immediately went on to star in such box-office hits as *Henry & June*, *Final Analysis*, *Jennifer Eight*, *Mad Dog and Glory*, and perhaps her most eccentric role to date in Gus Van Sant's *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*. In 1995, Thurman received an Academy Award® nomination for her performance in Quentin Tarantino's critically acclaimed *Pulp Fiction*. She starred in and produced *Hysterical Blindness*, directed by Mira Nair, which netted her the 2003 Golden Globe® for Best Actress. She has also appeared in *Les Misérables*; *Batman & Robin*; *Sweet and Lowdown*; *Prime*; *The Producers*; and *Kill Bill, Vols. I & II*, for which she received another Golden Globe® nomination.

For special event tickets and information, visit <http://www.cafilm.org>.

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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