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UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL SEPTEMBER 9, 10:30am (PST)

**The Mill Valley Film Festival Returns for its 37th Year
Celebrating the Best in Independent and World Cinema
October 2 – 12, 2014**

**Festival press conference will be held
Tuesday, September 9, 2014 10:00 AM in San Francisco**

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (July 22, 2014) - Returning for its 37th year, the Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF), presented annually by the California Film Institute (CFI), will be held Thursday, October 2 – Sunday, October 12, 2014. Internationally recognized for showcasing the best in independent and world cinema, every fall thousands of festival attendees flock to Marin County for 11 days of films, panel discussions, and musical performances. The Mill Valley Film Festival provides attendees with a chance to catch an early glimpse at the Academy Award® contenders and discover some of the best films from around the world. Five out of the last six Academy Award winners for Best Picture (SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE, THE KING'S SPEECH, THE ARTIST, ARGO and 12 YEARS A SLAVE) made their Bay Area premiere at the Festival.

Music film premieres and live concerts have played an integral part of MVFF's long history. Live music events have featured artists from the films and other special guests which have included Elvis Costello, Bob Weir & RatDog, Bonnie Raitt, Dan Hicks, Don Was, Charlie Haden, Blind Boys of Alabama, Taj Mahal, Les Claypool, Thomas Dolby, Maria Muldaur, Narada Michael Walden, among many others.

Early confirmed films for the 2014 MVFF include:

An official selection of the 2014 Berlin International Film Festival, **THE LAMB** (US Premiere) is a Turkish drama from director Kutluğ Ataman depicts village life in one of Turkey's poorest communities.

Local filmmakers Robert Campos and Donna LoCicero's documentary, **3 STILL STANDING** (World Premiere) follows local comedians Will Durst, Larry "Bubbles" Brown, and Johnny Steele. After Robin Williams and Dana Carvey spearheaded a new era of stand-up comedy in San Francisco, these three were next in line for the "big time". However, the comedy "crash" soon followed, and now like millions of other downsized Americans, they scramble to survive, while also staying funny, relevant, and true to the art form they love.

Dr. Grace Dammann's life changed forever when a driver passed out while on the Golden Gate Bridge, crashing head-on into her car. After a 48-day coma, and nine surgeries, Grace regained consciousness with her cognitive abilities intact but her body shattered and severely disabled. **STATES OF GRACE** (World Premiere) from local



filmmakers Helen S. Cohen and Mark Lipman, follows Grace as she struggles to reinvent herself, and find meaning in her radically altered life.

In **FINDING THE GOLD WITHIN** (World Premiere) local director Karina Epperlein follows six black men from Akron, Ohio through their first two years of college. Probing what it means to be a young, black male, the film gives a voice to these young men, who are often the most marginalized in our society.

East Bay video maker John Sanborn returns to MVFF with his latest project **ALLoT (A LONG LIST OF THINGS)** (World Premiere). The film developed with musician David Meyer, is based on their 40th high school reunion and investigates the lives of 17 of their classmates.

DYING TO KNOW: RAM DASS & TIMOTHY LEARY is an intimate portrait celebrating two complex, controversial characters in an epic friendship that shaped a generation. In early 1960s Harvard psychology professors Timothy Leary and Richard Alpert began probing the edges of consciousness through their experiments with psychedelics.

Former KQED Forum host Dave Iverson's feature documentary **CAPTURING GRACE** (World Premiere) examines the Mark Morris Dance Group as they do choreography work with Parkinson's disease patients. The film is a deeply personal story for Dave, as his family has been afflicted with the disease.

Nicole Boxer, daughter of California Senator Barbara Boxer, will screen her documentary **HOW I GOT OVER**, which follows 15 formerly homeless women as they craft an original play, based on their harrowing true-life stories, and perform them at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC.

RACING TO ZERO brings a new perspective to the garbage problem confronting the world today and the growing threat that it imposes on the environment itself. Director Christopher Beaver researched the damaging affects of human waste on the environment for more than a year, and begins to explain what is happening, and the steps being taken to find solutions.

For more than 50 years, Jerry Ross Barrish has been San Francisco's best-known bail bondsman and in William Farley's film **OBJECTS OF DESIRE: THE LIFE AND ART OF JERRY ROSS BARRISH** (World Premiere), his story comes to the big screen. Known for his slogan "Don't Perish in Jail—Call Barrish for Bail", Jerry devoted the strategy to bail out hundreds of protesters for civil rights, free speech and anti-Vietnam war efforts. In addition to his work as a bail bondsman, Jerry is an artist fashioning sculptures out of found recycled materials. The film also chronicles his prevailing over his learning disability, dyslexia, and his decade-long career as an independent filmmaker.

IN PLAIN SIGHT seeks to raise awareness of the thousands of women and children who are forced, coerced, or deceived into the commercial sex trade each year in the United States. San Francisco based filmmaker Erica Jordan uses the documentary and an accompanying music album to open the eyes of the average American to see the exploitation of thousands of people in their own communities. Mill Valley based photographer Lisa Kristine is a subject in the film.

The Emmy Award Winning series, narrated by Robert Redford, returns to MVFF with its latest edition, **THE NEW ENVIRONMENTALISTS: FROM ITHICA TO THE AMAZON**. The Mill Valley Film Group, comprised of directors John Antonelli, Tom Dusenbery, and Will Parrinello, will screen the film which features true environmental heroes who have placed themselves squarely in harm's way, to battle intimidating adversaries while building strong grassroots support.



Spotlight on Latin American and Spanish Cinema

The 37th Mill Valley Film Festival will feature a special spotlight on new Latin American and Spanish cinema. This program aims to enrich and enliven the cultural resources of our community to foster the understanding of Spanish and Latin American cultures. MVFF37 will include feature-length narratives, documentaries, short films, and family programming throughout Marin County during the Festival. With special support provided by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, this program will include many filmmakers in attendance to introduce and discuss their work.

The complete schedule for the 37th Mill Valley Film Festival will be announced and available online at www.MVFF.com on Tuesday, September 9, 2014.

About the 37th Mill Valley Film Festival

Presented by the California Film Institute, the 37th Mill Valley Film Festival runs October 2-12, 2014 at the CinéArts@Sequoia (25 Throckmorton Ave., Mill Valley), Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center (1118 Fourth Street, San Rafael), and other venues throughout the Bay Area. With a reputation for launching new films and creating awards season buzz, MVFF has earned a reputation as a “filmmakers’ festival” by celebrating the best in American independent and world cinema, alongside high profile and prestigious award contenders. MVFF welcomes more than 200 filmmakers representing more than 50 countries.

Tickets are \$14.00 (CFI Members, \$11.50), unless otherwise noted and are available for purchase by the general public on September 14, 2014.

CFI members have an opportunity to purchase tickets prior to the general on-sale date by level beginning on the following dates:

- September 7 –Premier Patron Members and above
- September 8 – Director’s Circle Members
- September 9 – Gold Star Members
- September 11 – Film Fan and Associate Members

For tickets and additional information, please visit www.mvff.com or call 877.874.MVFF (6833).

About the California Film Institute

The non-profit 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, film distribution by CFI Releasing, and building the next generation of filmmakers and audiences through the CFI Education program. For more information visit www.cafilm.org or call (415) 383-5256.

For Calendar Editors

The 37th Mill Valley Film Festival

**One of the Nation’s Top 10 Film Festivals, celebrating the Best of Independent and World Cinema
Marin County, California**

Thursday, October 2 through Sunday, October 12, 2014

On-Sale Date

For CFI Members: Starts Sunday, September 7, 2014 (dates vary by level)

For the General Public: Sunday, September 14, 2014

www.MVFF.com, www.CAFilm.org

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