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For Immediate Release

**37TH MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL WRAPS WITH RECORD ATTENDANCE
AUDIENCE AWARD WINNERS INCLUDE: *THE IMITATION GAME*, *THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING*, *ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL*, *WHIPLASH*, *IMPERIAL DREAMS*, *CAPTURING GRACE AND F R E E*
OCTOBER 2 – 12, 2014**

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (October 13, 2014) - Presented annually by the California Film Institute (CFI) the 37th Mill Valley Film Festival came to a close last night with a special screening of *Wild*, Jean-Marc Vallée's adaptation of Cheryl Strayed's best-selling memoir starring Reese Witherspoon and Laura Dern. Dern was also on hand for a Special Tribute: her MVFF Award for lifetime achievements was presented to her by Pixar's Andrew Stanton, Dern cited MVFF as being the first festival she ever attended, with *Smooth Talk* (1985). After 11 days filled with screenings of Oscar Contenders, World Premieres and Special Guests, the festival saw attendance soar to 61,000, the highest total in the festivals history.

"Although it is impossible to be all things to all people, I think the 37th Mill Valley Film Festival came as close to achieving that goal as I could ever hope to achieve," said festival Founder and Director Mark Fishkin. "Many of the most highly anticipated awards season films, world premieres, striking international films, and cutting edge American indies are smartly and lovingly curated by our veteran Programming team to create a spirited collection of films that somehow blend into a perfect well balanced mix. From Metallica's curated programs to our special Spotlights and Tributes, to inspired Children's Programming, riveting documentaries and beyond, the 37th Mill Valley Film Festival offered something for everyone." "The feedback that we have received from our festival goers gives us affirmation that we've gotten as close as possible to that mythical "perfect festival" that we aspire to be."

After a successful start with Co-Opening Night Films *The Homesman* and *Men, Women & Children* with actress Hilary Swank and director Jason Reitman & actress Kaitlyn Dever representing their respective films, audiences enjoyed Spotlight presentations of *Low Down* with actress Elle Fanning in attendance and *The Theory of Everything* with actor Eddie Redmayne in attendance. Both Fanning and Redmayne received MVFF Awards for their career-defining performances. The MVFF Award was also presented to filmmaker Chuck Workman in a Tribute honoring his lifetime achievements: the program included a screening of his latest documentary *Magician*, a chronicle of the life and career of Orson Welles. In other big nights at the festival, director Mike Binder was in attendance for the Centerpiece presentation of his latest film *Black and White*, Director Wayne Wang was in attendance with subject Cecilia Chiang for a special screening of *Soul of a Banquet* and Billie Joe Armstrong and Leighton Meester were on hand with Writer/Director Frank Whaley for a special screening of his new film *Like Sunday, Like Rain*. MVFF37 Tribute & Spotlight Award Presentations and Arrival Video: <http://bit.ly/1DagPLI>

"MVFF has become a festival that filmmakers around the world aspire to," said Zoe Elton, Director of Programming, "Great connections get made here, Academy members make this their go-to festival for first-time screenings of important fall releases, newcomers get to hang out with seasoned vets. We're blessed with one of the world's greatest team of curators, who program with an astute eye on what's up in cinema. Put that together



with the kind of audiences we have here in the San Francisco Bay Area—smart, supportive, engaged—and it’s no surprise that word is out!”

The internationally acclaimed festival continues to impress filmmakers and actors from around the globe. After receiving his MVFF Award, actor Eddie Redmayne, visibly moved, remarked that “this part of the world is incredibly beautiful and the Mill Valley Film Festival is renowned as the gem of this area...”

Industry vets like Geoff Gilmore and Paul Cohen were eloquent in their praise of MVFF during their visit to the festival. Cohen said, “There’s no regional festival outside of New York and LA that is even remotely close to this festival’s curation, the level of content, the level of talent that the community gets to hear and meet. You have Variety’s editor doing Q&As along with you [MVFF curators] who are knowledgeable, and they’re informative Q&As. You have diversity of films, from foreign language, to foreign interest, to documentary, that are current and interesting, and not the same from region to region. That you have a sense of cinema that’s inherently your own, rooted in your curation. And then, the quality of the atmosphere—that it’s all there, today. This has a spectrum: It’s amazing.”

The festival was also pleased to showcase 10 of the films vying for the Best Foreign Language Oscar at this year’s Academy Awards. They include; Australia’s entry **Charlie’s Country**; Belgium’s entry **Two Days, One Night**; Canada’s entry **Mommy**; Croatia’s entry **Cowboys**; Germany’s entry **Beloved Sisters**; Israeli’s entry **Gett: The Trial Of Viviane Amsalem**; the Mauritania entry **Timbuktu**; Spain’s entry **Living Is Easy With Eyes Closed**; Sweden’s entry **Force Majeure**; and Taiwan’s entry **Ice Poison**. “We are so proud of our curatorial staff for seeking out and finding these exceptional films from all corners of the globe,” said Director of Programming Zoe Elton. “Our program is locked weeks before the countries start submitting their films for consideration so, we were pleasantly surprised when we learned we had programmed so many submissions. It really speaks to the strength of our programming team to find quality films from around the world.”

Additional highlights and “Only-in-Mill-Valley” moments include:

- At the MVFF’s special focus on films from Spain and Latin America, supported by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Spanish actress Natalia de Molina (**Living is Easy With Eyes**) charmed audiences so much that she got four proposals of marriage. The strong Spanish and Latino showings included guests Rodrigo Sorogoyen, presenting **Stockholm**, and Jorge Pérez Solano, with **Perpetual Sadness (La Tirisia)**.
- Audiences were wowed, following the World Premiere screening of Suzanne LaFetra and David Collier’s **FREE**, with a stunning dance performance by two-dozen dance members from Oakland California’s Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company.
- When lead actor Ahmed Ibrahim (aka Pino) was refused a US visa to attend the screening of **Timbuktu** - a film about the militant Islamic rebel insurgency in Mali - Senator Barbara Boxer, a long-time supporter of MVFF, stepped up: his visa was fast-tracked and he was taken off the “restricted” list. An added screening late in the Festival, thanks to distributor Cohen Media, meant that musician-turned-actor Ibrahim was able to attend—and begin trying to get an American talent agent.
- Meanwhile, Boxer’s daughter Nicole Boxer had her own ovations for her screenings of the documentary, **How I Got Over**, about a DC theatre program for homeless women.
- Actress Kristin Davis was in attendance for the World Premiere of **Gardeners of Eden**, a look at the travesty of elephant poaching, which she executive produced. Following the screening an audience



member was so inspired they pledged \$10,000 to the foundation in Kenya working with the elephant rescue.

- The Festival was delighted to welcome Metallica, locals and longtime friends of the festival, as Artists in Residence. Kirk Hammett, James Hetfield, Lars Ulrich and Robert Trujillo each selected a film to host at the festival.
 - Kirk Hammett, a noted horror movie aficionado thrilled MVFF audience members with his selection, the unadulterated, schlock-filled, Z-movie euphoria, late-night screening of the 1971 favorite ***Dracula vs. Frankenstein***. Prior to the screening Kirk was on hand to sign autographs and talk about his love for horror movies.
 - James Hetfield brought a classic to the MVFF audience with his selection of ***The Good, The Bad And The Ugly***.
 - Director Damien Chazelle and Metallica drummer Lars Ulrich engaged the audience in a lively Q&A following MVFF's sold out ***Whiplash*** screening.
 - Metallica bassist turned producer Robert Trujillo presented a sneak peek at ***Jaco***, which brings the story of legendary bassist Jaco Pastorius to the big screen. A standing room only musical celebration followed the film, which featured a line-up with performances by the likes of MAERIC with Mary Pastorius, David Pastorius & Eric Young; Kirk Hammett & Robert Trujillo of Metallica and Stephen Perkins of Jane's Addiction, and Rodrigo y Gabriela, who had been seen on screen in ***For Those About To Rock – The Story of Rodrigo y Gabriela*** the previous night.
- Actors Wes Bentley and Jason Isaacs were on hand with director Saar Klein for the screenings of their film ***After The Fall***.
- Director Darren Aronofsky, visual effects supervisor Ben Snow and animation supervisor Marc Chu talked with *Variety* Senior Features Editor Steve Chagollan about the creation of the visual effects on ***Noah***.
- Additional *Variety* panels included two "Focus on Animation" discussions with Vice President and Executive Editor Steven Gaydos. The first with ***The Boxtrolls*** co-directors Graham Annabel and Anthony Stacchi, and the second moderated by Senior Features Editor, Steve Chagollan ***The Lego Movie*** with co-director Phil Lord.
- Writer/Director Theodore Melfi was in attendance for a screening of his latest film ***St. Vincent*** and delighted the audience with a vibrant Q&A following the film.
- Israeli director Shlomi Elkabetz was on hand for the U.S. premiere of ***Gett: The Trial of Vivian Amsalem***, the Israeli Foreign Language Oscar submission.
- Spiritual advisor and Eastern philosopher Ram Dass joined festival audiences via Skype to speak following a screening of Gay Dillingham's ***Dying to Know: Ram Dass & Timothy Leary***.
- Gail and Diva Zappa, wife and daughter, respectively, of the late Frank Zappa, represented the family, along with friend, Massimo Bassoli, at ***Summer '82: When Zappa Came to Sicily***.



- Beloved local bail bondsman and artist Jerry Ross Barrish was present for the World Premiere of William Farley's *Plastic Man: The Artful Life Of Jerry Ross Barrish*, a documentary about his life as a bail bondsman, filmmaker and artist.
- Former KQED Forum host Dave Iverson presented the World Premiere of his film *Capturing Grace*, a look at the Mark Morris Dance Group and their work with people living Parkinson's disease.
- Along with Helen S. Cohen and Mark Lipman, subject Dr. Grace Dammann was on hand for the World Premiere of *States of Grace*, a look at Grace's journey following a near-fatal collision on the Golden Gate Bridge.

The complete information and recaps from the festival are available at www.MVFF.com.

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.

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.

Supporters

As a nonprofit arts organization, CFI relies on the generosity of its community to sustain not only the Festival, but also the year-round programs of the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center and CFI Education. The invaluable support of our sponsors, foundations, and individual donors ensures our continued success as we celebrate our 37th year.

CFI is once again proud to acknowledge the leadership support of Christopher B. and Jeannie Meg Smith, and the continued major support of Jennifer Coslett MacCready, Ken and Jackie Broad Family Fund, The Bernard Osher Foundation, the Gruber Family Foundation, the Marin Community Foundation, the Christine Zecca Foundation and the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation. We are also fortunate to have the contributions of the following Major Sponsors of the Mill Valley Film Festival: Wells Fargo, Sharp Electronics, Delta Airlines, Lucasfilm, Ltd., Maroevich, O'Shea & Coghlan Insurance Services, Frantoio Ristorante and Olive Oil Co., Zaentz Media Center/A Wareham and Development.



THE 37th MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL
AUDIENCE AWARDS WINNERS

Sponsored by:



The MVFF Audience Awards represent the people's choice favorites at this year's festival. The overall prizewinner scored highest across all categories; other winners scored top in each of the festival's sections: US Cinema, World Cinema, Valley of the Docs, and Children's FilmFest, as well as specialty categories.

The MVFF Gold Audience Favorite 2014

THE IMITATION GAME

Morten Tyldum

•

MVFF Audience Favorite - World Cinema Gold

THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING

James Marsh

•

MVFF Audience Favorite - World Cinema Silver

MARIE'S STORY

(Marie Heurtin)

Jean-Pierre Améris

•

MVFF Audience Favorite - World Cinema Indie Gold

ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL

(Sur le chemin de l'école)

Pascal Plisson

•

MVFF Audience Favorite - World Cinema Indie Silver

The 100-YEAR-OLD MAN WHO CLIMBED OUT THE WINDOW AND DISAPPEARED

(Hundraåringen som klev ut genom fönstret och försvann)

Felix Herngren

•

MVFF Audience Favorite - US Cinema Gold

WHIPLASH

Damien Chazelle

•

MVFF Audience Favorite - US Cinema Silver

THE JUDGE

David Dobkin

•

MVFF Audience Favorite - US Cinema Indie Gold

IMPERIAL DREAMS

Malik Vitthal

•



MVFF Audience Favorite - US Cinema Indie Silver

THE YOUNG KIESLOWSKI

Kerem Sanga

•

MVFF Audience Favorite - Valley of the Docs Gold

CAPTURING GRACE

David Iverson

•

MVFF Audience Favorite - Valley of the Docs Silver

STATES OF GRACE

Helen S. Cohen & Mark Lipman

•

MVFF Audience Favorite – Active Cinema Gold

FREE

Suzanne LaFetra & David Collier

•

MVFF Audience Favorite – Active Cinema Silver

GARDENERS OF EDEN

Austin Peck & Anneliese Vandenberg

•

MVFF Audience Favorite – Children’s FilmFest Gold

MINUSCULE: VALLEY OF THE LOST ANTS

(Minuscule: La Vallée des Fourmis Perdues)

Thomas Szabo & Hélène Giraud

•

MVFF Audience Favorite – Children’s Filmfest Silver

THE BOY AND THE WORLD

(O Menino e o Mundo)

Alê Abreu

•

MVFF Audience Favorite - ¡Viva el Cine! Gold

LIVING IS EASY WITH EYES CLOSED

(Vivir es Fácil con los Ojos Cerrados)

David Trueba

•

MVFF Audience Favorite – Animation Gold

THE TALE OF PRINCESS KAGUYA

(Kaguya-Hime No Monogatari)

Isao Takahata

Press materials for audience award winners: <http://bit.ly/1w5vQdc>

MVFF37 Photo Gallery: <http://www.mvff.com/mvff37-photo-gallery/>

MVFF37 Tribute & Spotlight Award Presentations and Arrival Video: <http://bit.ly/1DagPLI>