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30TH MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS A TRIO OF SPECIAL NIGHTS

MILL VALLEY, CA—Throughout its three decades, the Mill Valley Film Festival (October 4–14, 2007) has become well respected and anticipated for its selection of Opening Night and Closing Night films—and their accompanying parties. With an impressive line-up of films, parties and guests, the Festival promises a celebratory vibe worthy of its 30th birthday.

Opening Night features two first-rate features: **THE SAVAGES** (US), the latest from acclaimed independent filmmaker Tamara Jenkins, is a poignant family drama with two exceptional actors navigating some emotionally turbulent terrain. Weighed down by a family history of dysfunction and rivalry, adult siblings Wendy Savage (Laura Linney, MVFF Spotlight 2004), an aspiring playwright, and her brother John (Philip Seymour Hoffman), a literature professor, become reluctant caretakers for their estranged father. **THE SAVAGES** will be shown on both screens of the CineArts@Sequoia, at 6:45 pm and 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 4.

Screening at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center on Opening Night at 6:30pm will be **LUST, CAUTION** (China/US), the latest from Oscar-winning filmmaker and this year's Festival Tributee, Ang Lee (*THE ICE STORM*, MVFF 1997). With an erotic espionage thriller, Lee proves, once again, that his filmmaking excels in any genre. Loyalties are spread thin in Shanghai during World War II, as political tension mounts between Chinese Nationalists and Japanese occupiers. For a young stage actress, Wong (Tang Wei), this tension comes to a head when she finds herself in a deadly game of espionage and sexual intrigue with Mr. Yee (Tony Leung), a powerful political figure and Japanese collaborator. Wong goes deep undercover to expose Yee, quickly earning the trust of his neglected wife (San Francisco's Joan Chen)—while becoming the man's mistress.



In honor of its 30th anniversary, the Festival returns to the downtown Mill Valley plaza for an Opening Night Gala. With music from Con Alma vocal jazz group and culinary delights from Ora, E&O Trading Co., Robin Scott Catering, Pizza Antica and Cocina Poblana, the starlit sky provides a perfect canopy for an elegantly casual Festival start. Film and Gala tickets are \$125; Film-only tickets are \$25.

With two screenings of **THE KITE RUNNER** (US) on Sunday October 14 at 5:00 and 5:15 pm at the CineArts@Sequoia, Closing Night offers an equally dramatic viewing experience. Director Marc Forster's (FINDING NEVERLAND, MVFF 2004) reverent envisioning of Khaled Hosseini's best-selling novel is that rare example of refined literary adaptation. This heartrending story of friendship and redemption begins in Afghanistan in 1978, where two boys are inseparable, but unequal: Amir is the privileged son of a wealthy businessman, and Hassan is his loyal servant and a member of the disdained Hazara minority. Their social inequality, and a brutal incident, ultimately tarnish their joyful youth together, and when the Soviets invade in 1979, Amir and his father flee the country, completing the boys' separation. As an adult, Amir finds the past resurfacing, along with long-buried feelings of shame and failure, but is given a chance to return to his homeland and make things right again.

After the film, the Festival winds down at the Mill Valley Community Center. Feet First Entertainment DJs will provide music for dancing the night away, and delicious delicacies will be provided by From Soup to Nuts Catering, Cocina Poblana and sweet desserts from "Take a Dip" Fondue Fountains and Edible Arrangements. Exclusive wines for the evening are from the award-winning Bonterra and Five Rivers Vineyards. Tickets for the film and gala are \$65; film-only tickets are \$25.

Midway between Opening and Closing is the Centerpiece selection, Michael Schroeder's **MAN IN THE CHAIR** (US), which screens on Thursday, October 11 at 6:30 pm at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center. With more than 200 films and movies under his belt, the superb Christopher Plummer plays a curmudgeon with a hankering for classic movies and booze. Cameron (Michael Angarano) is a volatile teen who commits grand theft auto just because the



car is an exact replica of Stephen King's CHRISTINE. Their relationship is forged in the darkness of a movie theater and fueled by a mutual appreciation of rebellion and cinema. Plummer is outstanding as the cantankerous cynic who becomes Cameron's ardent mentor.

After the screening, the Festival celebrates the beginning of its second full weekend of film with a party at one of Sausalito's finest, Gaylord India Restaurant. A taste of India on the Bay, Gaylord is consistently rated one of the top Indian restaurants in America. Filmmaker Michael Schroeder will attend the screening and party, along with other special guests. Tickets for the film and reception are \$35; film-only tickets are \$15.

California Film Institute

The California Film Institute celebrates and promotes film as art and education through the presentation of the Mill Valley Film Festival, year-round exhibition at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center and building the next generation of filmmakers and audiences through CFI Education. For more information, visit cafilm.org or call 415.383.5256.

Mill Valley Film Festival

Known as a filmmakers' festival, the annual Mill Valley Film Festival offers a high profile, prestigious, non-competitive environment perfect for celebrating the best independent and world cinema. Presented by the California Film Institute, the 30th Festival runs October 4–14, 2007 at the CinéArts@Sequoia and 142 Throckmorton Theatre (Mill Valley) and at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center (San Rafael). Tickets are \$12 for individual ticket buyers or \$10 for members, unless otherwise noted, and are available to members starting September 12 and to the general public on September 16. Tickets may be purchased online at mvff.com or by phone at 1-877-874-MVFF (6833). For additional information, please visit mvff.com or call 415.383.5256.

Sponsors

The Mill Valley Film Festival is pleased to announce the return of the following major sponsors: Christopher B. and Jeannie Meg Smith, Qantas Airways, Maroevich, O'Shea & Coghlan, and Fireman's Fund, as well as the addition of three new major sponsors: U.S. Trust, Sherman Clay, and Kerner Optical. Dolby, a longtime supporter of the Festival, will receive this year's Distinguished Sponsor Award. Frantoio Ristorante is our returning major event sponsor, and we welcome new event sponsors Events Ondine and Gaylord India Restaurant. Additionally, the Festival would like to welcome back our returning major media sponsors: Comcast, CBS 5, the Marin Independent Journal, the Pacific Sun, SF Weekly, KGO Newstalk AM810, San Francisco magazine and WIRED magazine, as well as our new media sponsors KDFC, Marin Magazine, and Boxoffice Magazine. The Festival gratefully acknowledges the generous major foundation, individual and special support it receives from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Linda Gruber Foundation, Jennifer Coslett MacCready, the Marin Community Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Bernard Osher Foundation, the County of Marin, the Miranda Lux Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. As always, the Festival would like thank our ongoing membership sponsor, Tamalpais Bank. The Mill Valley Film Festival trailer, interstitials, and 30th year tribute were produced by Scheyer/SF, and the poster and Web site, mvff.com, were designed by MINE of San Francisco.