OLLI Goes to the Movies:
The Mill Valley Film Festival Experience

Step into the buzz of the 49th annual Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF)! In this second-annual collaboration between OLLI and the California Film Institute, you'll go behind the scenes then experience the magic firsthand with a shared day of film in Mill Valley.

🍿 Part 1: **The Preview**

- **Friday, Sept. 18, 10:30–noon on Zoom (recording available for those unable to join)**
- Learn about the history of the Festival, the films to be shown, and what goes into curating an international film festival.
- This session will be livestreamed and recorded. The Zoom link will be in your Member Dashboard

🍿 Part 2: **The Festival Experience**

- **Friday, Oct. 9, 11 AM–5:30 PM**
- Spend the day at MVFF! We'll gather in Mill Valley, watch two films together, and enjoy a break between screenings to relax, reflect and connect.
- Film-goers are responsible for their own transportation.

Festival Venue Location

Sequoia Cinema, 25 Throckmorton Ave, Mill Valley

- ***Also:*** The gorgeous Bernard Maybeck-designed **Outdoor Art Club** directly across the street from the theater will be open to Festival-goers, and food, beverages, bathrooms, shade and garden seating is available in between the two screenings.

Parking suggestions on Page 3.

Schedule: Day at the Festival (Oct. 9)

11 AM:
We gather at the Outdoor Art Club: 1 West Blithedale at Throckmorton, Mill Valley, directly across from the Sequoia Cinema.

11:30 AM
We walk across the street to the Sequoia Cinema, 25 Throckmorton Ave, Mill Valley to be seated in the theater

12 PM (Sequoia Cinema 2)
***QUERIDA FATIMA*: 93min. Mexico/US (Spanish with English Subtitles) directors: Colectiva Varinia**
A decade after the murder of her 12-year-old daughter, Lorena Gutiérrez refuses to let Fátima's story disappear. Camping outside Mexico's National Palace, she waits for an audience with the country's first female president, carrying a question that has nagged at Lorena for years: What does justice look like when nothing can bring back your child? Lorena is among the directors of this documentary that transforms personal grief into a deeply intimate act of remembrance and resistance. The film moves between Lorena's recollections, her family's struggle, and the stories of other mothers who have also lost daughters to violence, creating a portrait that is as much about love and memory as it is about the search for accountability. Most importantly, Fátima emerges as no mere statistic, but as a girl with dreams, a daughter remembered with tenderness and determination. This triple Guadalajara International Film Festival award winner is a powerful testament to a mother who never imagined becoming an activist but found in that fight a way to keep her daughter's memory alive. - João Federici

INTERMISSION: (approximately 45mins)
We will reconvene at the Outdoor Art Club where light lunch fare is available for sale in a garden setting. This is the chance to share your thoughts in a group discussion about the film just viewed. ***OR*** grab lunch on your own: options within a quick walk from the theater include: Mill Valley Market/Deli (12 Corte Madera Ave – sandwiches, takeout), The Depot Café (87 Throckmorton Ave, Mill Valley).

3 PM: (Sequoia Cinema 1)
***MOUSE:* 120min US directors: Kelly O'Sullivan, Alex Thompson**
With their third collaboration, filmmakers Kelly O'Sullivan and Alex Thompson continue to caress our deepest reserves of humanity and deftly intertwine heartbreak with humor; this time, through a tender portrayal of teen life in turmoil. The duo's *Ghostlight* breakout Katherine Mallen Kupferer sensitively plays Minnie, a shy Arkansan braving a crushingly abrupt end to her lifelong best-friendship to the popular, multitalented Callie (Chloe Coleman) at the start of their once hope-filled senior year. Deeply lived-in observations on amity, family, and class glimmer everywhere in this uniquely perceptive coming-of-age tale, from Minnie's bonds with the two mothers in her life—her own, bighearted veterinarian parent, Barbara (Tara Mallen), and Callie's orderly and elegant mom, Helen (Sophie Okonedo, delivering another breathtaking performance this year along with *Clarissa*)—to the analog rhythms of high school before

touchscreens and social media swarmed in. Attuned to the mysterious ebbs and flows of grief, *Mouse* is a gentle stunner. —Tomris Laffly

5 PM: (Outdoor Art Club)
For those able to stay, we will gather after the second film at the Outdoor Art Club to discuss the films and conclude the Mill Valley Film Festival Experience.

Parking Suggestions

Please try to arrive in Mill Valley by 10:30 AM to allow ample time for parking!

For a weekday stay of up to 8 hours in Mill Valley, your best options are regional **Park & Ride** lots for a completely stress-free free stay, or the **Depot Plaza public lot** if you must park directly downtown. Downtown street parking and most merchant lots strictly enforce a 2-hour limit on weekdays, making them unsuitable for an 8-hour stay.
The top recommended parking choices to fulfill your time requirements include:

1. Free Commuter Park & Ride Lots (Best for 8+ Hours)
These locations allow free all-day parking, making them ideal if you plan to carpool, take public transit, or bike/walk into the downtown core.

- **Manzanita Park and Ride:** Located at 40 Shoreline Hwy, Mill Valley, CA 94941. This is a massive, free lot offering 302 spaces. It is open 24 hours a day and serves as a major hub for Golden Gate Transit and Marin Transit buses.
- **Seminary Drive Park and Ride (West Lot):** Located at Seminary Dr, Mill Valley, CA 94941. Another free option operating 24/7 along the Highway 101 corridor.

2. Paid Downtown Parking (Best for Direct Downtown Access)

- **The Depot Plaza Public Lot:** Located at 87 Throckmorton Ave, Mill Valley, CA 94941. This public parking lot sits right across from the Depot. **Unlike the surrounding metered street parking which caps visits at 2 hours, this central lot accommodates longer visitor stays through modern pay-by-text or digital kiosk terminals.**
- **411 Miller Ave Parking:** Located at 411 Miller Ave, Mill Valley, CA 94941. A dedicated parking lot situated on a primary arterial road that provides walking access to lower downtown businesses.

Important Parking Rules to Avoid a Ticket

- **Avoid Residential & Business Streets:** Standard un-metered spaces downtown change into strictly enforced **2-hour employee/shopper zones** between 9:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

- **The "E" Spaces:** Do not park in spaces marked with an "E" on the pavement or signpost. These are reserved strictly for local workforce members holding an authorized Mill Valley Employee Parking Permit.
- **Do Not Rely on Grocery Lots:** Nearby retail lots like Whole Foods or Safeway utilize time limits (typically capping free customer usage at 2 hours) and actively monitor vehicles to prevent all-day commuter parking.