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**CALIFORNIA FILM INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES
2017 INAUGURAL DOCLANDS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL
DATES AND CALL FOR ENTRIES**

SAN RAFAEL, CA (December 22, 2016) – Mark Fishkin, Founder of the internationally known Mill Valley Film Festival and Executive Director/Founder of the California Film Institute (CFI), announced today that the inaugural **DOCLANDS** Documentary Film Festival, will be held Wednesday, May 10 – Sunday, May 14, 2017 in Marin County, California.

DOCLANDS programming team also announced the Festival's **Call for Entries** for traditional and innovative feature length (40 + minutes) and short documentary films. The widely respected and talented team behind DocLands includes Mark Fishkin along with Director of Programming, Joni Cooper (former Program Director, Banff World Media Festival and Banff Mountain Festival Director), Janis Plotkin (Senior Film Programmer, Mill Valley Film Festival and former Co-Director of the SF Jewish Film Festival), and Kelly Clement (Film Programmer for both the Mill Valley Film Festival & Starz Denver Film Festival and Instructor, University of New Mexico, Taos)

Expanding upon the exchange of ideas and inspiration through public screenings, engaged conversations and grassroots networking events, DOCLANDS aims to build an active, involved, fully supportive community around documentary film, dedicated to initiating connections and partnerships that will illuminate and invigorate the business and art of non-fiction filmmaking. The Festival will showcase documentary films in a variety of genres and a diversity of content.

DOCLANDS regular submission period begins Friday, January 6th and ends Friday, March 17th, 2017. Entries will only be accepted via upload through the Film Freeway submission platform. No DVDs or external links will be considered. Presentation formats accepted are 35mm and DCP.

“Despite the current challenges to independent filmmaking, it is an exciting time for documentaries — and without question, documentaries are more important now than ever,” said Mark Fishkin. “From capturing the beauty of our fragile planet and its undeniable connection to mankind’s quality of life, to subject matter that has direct impact on the most pressing issues of our time, whether widely known or acknowledged, documentary filmmakers are searching for truth through storytelling. It is an innate need of humans to share stories and filmmakers are expanding the definition of documentary form in ways that are both creative and entertaining.”

Festival screenings will be held in Mill Valley at the CinéArts Sequoia and San Rafael at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center.

About DOCLANDS

Presented by the California Film Institute, the inaugural DOCLANDS Documentary Film Festival brings compelling stories and the provocative insights behind them to Marin County, California May 10 - 14, 2017. Expanding upon the exchange of ideas and inspiration through public screenings, engaged conversations and grassroots networking events, DOCLANDS aims to build an active, involved, fully supportive community around documentary film, dedicated to initiating connections and partnerships that will illuminate and invigorate the business and art of non-fiction filmmakers.

About the California Film Institute

The non-profit California Film Institute celebrates and promotes film by presenting the annual Mill Valley Film Festival and DocLands Documentary Film Festival, exhibiting film year-round at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, and building the next generation of filmmakers and audiences through CFI Education. For more information please visit www.cafilm.org.

Supporters

As a nonprofit arts organization, the California Film Institute relies on the generosity of its community to sustain not only the Mill Valley Film 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.

CFI is proud to acknowledge Genuine Article Pictures and Nancy and Rich Robbins for their generous support of DOCLANDS.

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