

MVFF 2010 • Local Films

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San Francisco

CANHEAD TRILOGY

Animated Stop Motion Shorts

Director **Tim Hittle**

Tim is the creator of Jay Clay and Blue the lead characters of his shorts. Canhead was nominated for an Academy Award in 1997 for Best Animated Short. Tim currently lives in San Francisco with his wife Emily and young son Henry. **San Francisco, Outer Sunset**

OPAL

Feature Film

Director **Dina Ciraulo**

Inspired by true events, the film tells the controversial life of Opal Whiteley, who is a self-taught naturalist who grew up in a logging camp. **San Francisco, Mission District**

QUEEN OF THE SUN

Documentary

Director **Taggart Siegel**

This documentary feature that takes an unconventional look into the tragic global bee crisis. Siegel is the co-founder of Collective Eye Inc., a non-profit media production and distribution organization located in the Mission.

San Francisco, Mission District

EVERYDAY SUNSHINE: THE STORY OF FISHBONE

Documentary Feature

Directors **Chris Metzler, Lev Anderson**

Co-Director Chris Metzler lives in the Panhandle (Divisadero corridor) and his office is located in the Mission. Co –Director Lev Anderson is temporarily living in Orange County but will soon return to his home in Nob Hill.

San Francisco, Haight and Mission District

ED HARDY TATTOO THE WORLD

Documentary Feature

Director: **Emiko Omori**

This documentary chronicles the amazing life journey of California artist Don Ed Hardy. Emiko Omori lives in **San Francisco, Bernal Heights**

Fanny, Annie & Danny

Feature film

Director: **Chris Brown**

When three adult siblings are forced by their powerful mother to reunite for a holiday dinner, everyone's worst fears are realized.

San Francisco Pacific Heights

Space, Land and Time: Underground Adventures with Ant Farm

Documentary feature

Director: **Laura Harrison and Beth Federici**

A film to consider the work of the renegade art/architecture collective Ant Farm. Ant farm was founded in San Francisco by Chip Lord and Doug Michels in 1968.

San Francisco

CHILD OF GIANTS

Documentary Feature

Director **Tom Ropelewski**

Tom is married to screenwriter Leslie Dixon, who is the grand-daughter of Maynard Dixon and Dorothea Lange. Dixon was a colorful fixture in the bohemian art world of San Francisco, and Dorothea Lange a successful portrait photographer during the depression era.

East Bay

SAND

Feature Film

Director: **Rob Nilsson**

Snake and Zelda have no business being with each other. Zelda is aging and Snake is without means, but they get together in spite of everything.

Berkeley

CRUZ REYNOSO: SOWING THE SEEDS OF JUSTICE

Documentary Feature

Director- **Abby Ginzberg**

Berkeley Filmmaker Abby Ginzberg film's portrays the life of the UC Berkeley law school graduate **Cruz Reynoso**. During his extraordinary life, Cruz Reynoso, has been a man who felt the sting of injustice as a child and later, as a lawyer, judge and teacher, and fought for over five decades to eradicate discrimination and inequality for all. **Berkeley**

GUESTS OF SPACE

Documentary Feature

Director: **Alba Mora Roca**

This film explores the first encounter between the Nukak Maku people and the white man in 1988. This was a thesis film at UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism.

Berkeley

FOOD STAMPED

Documentary Feature

Directors **Yoav and Shira Potash**.

The film takes place mostly in Berkeley where the subjects of the film spend no more than one dollar per meal for a seven-day period. The weeklong commitment is known as the food stamp challenge. The directors lived in Berkeley during the filming and continue to live in Berkeley during the summer months. **Berkeley**

ATOMIC MOM

Documentary Feature

Director/Producer **M.T. Silvia**

Oakland filmmaker **M.T. Silvia** shares her mother's story about two women in the 1950s who have parallel life experiences due to the atomic bomb.

M.T. Silvia has worked professionally as an engineer at Skywalker Sound and Pixar Animation Studios. **Oakland**

JOURNEY FROM ZANSKAR

Documentary Feature

Director **Frederick Marx**

Oakland filmmaker **Frederick Marx's** film tells the story of two Buddhist monks who lead a group of children on a journey from Zanskar, India through the Himalayas in search for a cultural education. **Oakland**

OLD PEOPLE DRIVING

Documentary Feature

Director: **Shaleece Haas**

Oakland director Shaleece Haas gets into the passenger seat and asks, "Can a person be simply too old to drive?" The film chronicles the adventures of Milton and Herbert as they confront a grim milestone: the end of their driving years.

Oakland

Stinking Ship

Documentary Feature

Director: **Bagassi Koura**

a graduate of the U. C. Berkeley School of Journalism Bagassi Koura chronicles the humanitarian catastrophe that occurred after a Swiss-based oil and commodity shipping company unloaded its cargo of toxic waste in the middle of the largest city in Cote d'Ivoire, causing one of the worst environmental crises of the last decade.

North Bay/Marin

THE RIVER WHY

Feature Film

Director **Matthew Leutwyler**

The director was born in San Francisco and now lives in Los Angeles.

Producer: Kristi Denton Cohen lives in **Mill Valley**

Set against a gorgeous landscape, **The River Why** is the story of 20-year-old Gus Orviston <<http://www.TheRiverWhy.com/Cast/zach-gilford-as-gus.htm>> , the Mozart of fly-fishing, who leaves his big city home to live in a secluded cabin on the banks of a wild river. Co-writer **John Jay Osborn, also a Marin native**, is best known for his first novel *The Paper Chase*, which was turned into a feature film that was nominated for three Oscars®. **Mill Valley**

THE SILK ROAD

Feature Film

Director **Cynthia Pepper**

San Rafael filmmaker **Cynthia Pepper** has had a film in the MVFF for the past four years. This year's feature film is set around a 5th grade classroom that is surprised by a substitute teacher who shares with the students the magic of the historical *Silk Road*.

San Rafael

TRUST: Second Acts in Young Lives

Documentary Feature

Directors **Nancy Kelly and Kenji Yamamoto.**

These Filmmakers fell in love in 1980 when working on "A Cowhand's Song," a documentary that screened at the MVFF in 1982. TRUST is a feature-length verité documentary about 18-year-old Marlin, a survivor of rape who – propelled by theater – experiences a very healthy movement away from identifying herself with that trauma. They live in **Greenbrae**

LEAVE THEM LAUGHING –

Feature film - Musical Comedy

Director **John Zaritsy**

A Musical Comedy compiled of songs about life and death from the perspective of living in a wheelchair. The subject of the film, who lived in Berkeley, was the artistic director and coordinator of the drama department at the College of Marin.

SENIORS ROCKING

Documentary Short

Director **Rudy Gerber**

The film unveils the artistic process and communal energy behind the unique performance created by American dance pioneer Anna Halprin. Subject of the film **Anna Halprin** resides in Kentfield, **Marin**.

South Bay

LESSON PLAN: The Story of The Third Wave

Documentary feature

Directors **Philip Neel and David H. Jeffery.**

The film was primarily shot at **Cubberley High School in Palo Alto.**

Producer Robert DelValle was born in San Francisco and Director Philip Neel was born in Palo Alto, both currently live in Los Angeles. In 1967, at the Cubberley High School in Palo Alto, California, World History teacher Ron Jones was asked about the Holocaust by a student. "*Could it happen here?*" Jones came up with an unusual answer. He decided to have a two week experiment in dictatorship. His idea was to explain fascism to his class through a game where his class would be turned into a Fascist environment. Overnight, Jones became the subject of national controversy, sparking discussion on the appropriateness of exposing young adults to life's realities. To some, he was an innovative hero and teacher; to others he was a Communist. Many people were shocked and embarrassed that the same mentality which led to the Holocaust could develop so quickly, in 1967, in a pristine all-American setting, and an academic town no less, home to Stanford University. **Palo Alto**