

Keeping it reel

Annual Mill Valley Film
Festival returns to Marin

By Mal Karman



Master-director Ousmane Sembène's first feature film, 'Black Girl,' is one of many international films that will be shown at this year's Mill Valley Film Festival.

Autumn and the Mill Valley Film Festival are upon us, and like Wagner's Valkyries, the ladies are about to storm into town, take over the big screen and practically commandeer the 38th annual event with their own style of cinematic thunder and lightning. (OK, we got that one out of our system—now let's take a look at what the El Niño of Marin events has brewing from October 8-18.)

There are films by women, for women and about women. No less than 40 percent of the features credit female directors. Three Spotlight evenings shine on auspicious actresses Sarah Silverman, Brie Larson and Carey Mulligan, who is already a headliner; there is fanfare for Catherine Hardwicke, best known

for directing the teen vamp flick *Twilight*; five of nine panel discussions will be run exclusively by women or focus on women's issues; there are two exhibitions—one honoring the legendary actress Ingrid Bergman, the other an exploration of how females are depicted in movies; two special premieres with female leads; and a closing night film about women

