

# PacificSun

YEAR 53, NO. 40 OCTOBER 7-13, 2015

## Feast for the Eyes

38TH ANNUAL  
MILL VALLEY  
FILM FEST  
KICKS  
OFF P12



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### Keeping it reel 13

The fest has again courted those films that not only tell it like it is but show it like it oughtta be, issue-oriented cinema that threatens to wake the dormant activist in each of us.

Oakland filmmaker Elizabeth Sher's **Penny** (Oct. 10, 2pm and Oct. 16, 11:45am) is a smart, brash, left-wing, lesbian legal eagle and avid collector of art (by women only) whom, she describes as being "at the center of profound changes in society from the 1940s to the present." Working in the public defender's office during the height of the Vietnam War, Penny Cooper recalls her own story of planning to march in solidarity with protesters and was told by her boss to back off. "For exercising my civil rights?" Penny exclaimed. She quit and threw up her own shingle in Berkeley, just in time to represent defendants in the People's Park demonstrations.

To be sure, she has also gone to court on behalf of some dubious clients: Hell's Angels, a murderer who escaped life in prison, a defendant known as the crossbow killer. But she says, "You judge a society by how it treats its worst, and constitutional rights are meaningless unless they apply to the worst of society." All right then, lawyers for mosquitoes!

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