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The California Film Institute (CAFILM) names Rose Kuo as Artistic Director

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

The California Film Institute (CAFILM) just named Rose Kuo as Artistic Director, a newly created leadership position established earlier this year to guide the organizationâ??s artistic vision and ensure a seamless program leadership transition in the years ahead.



Rose Kuo recently named The California Film Institute (CAFILM) Artistic Director, a newly created leadership position to guide the organizationâ??s artistic vision and ensure a seamless program leadership transition in the years ahead.

Kuo is an internationally recognized leader in cinematic arts with a broad background in film festival programming and curatorial work. She previously served as Executive Director of the Film Society of Lincoln Center and the New York Film Festival, was Publisher of *Film Comment* magazine, and held the position of Artistic Director at AFI FEST (AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival).

At her previous stops, Kuo has developed a reputation as an innovator and risk taker. Notable highlights included Kuo being the architect of AFI FESTâ??s free festivals, which was the first time a film festival of that size had offered free tickets to film screenings. At Film Society of Lincoln Center (now called Film at Lincoln Center), she instituted a requirement for the gala selections to be world premiere screenings, which instantly upped the ante for the film festival to have more press relevance. In addition, she added a â?•secret screeningâ?•, which also heightened the anticipation for the film festival to a level it hadnâ??t seen for decades. Finally, she stewarded FSLCâ??s Filmmaker in Residence program, which brought an acclaimed up-and-coming filmmaker to NYC to assist developing their next film project.

In her new role, Kuo will oversee the artistic and curatorial direction of CAFILMâ??s acclaimed programs, including the **Mill Valley Film Festival**, **DocLands Documentary Film Festival**, the **Smith Rafael Film Center** in San Rafael, the **Sequoia Cinema** in Mill Valley, and **CAFILM Education** initiatives.

â??Rose brings a remarkable combination of international experience, artistic vision, and deep commitment to the cinematic arts,â?• said **Mark Fishkin**, CAFILM Founder and Executive Director. â??Her leadership will ensure that CAFILM continues to champion independent voices, engage audiences, and inspire the next generation of filmmakers.â?•

Most recently, Kuo founded **FESTWORKS**, a film consultancy organization, where she has advised major studios on global festival strategies and collaborated with nonprofit cinema arts groups to strengthen their programming and audience engagement.

Earlier in her career, Kuo worked as a programmer and curator for leading film festivals and cultural institutions, including the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, the San Francisco International Film Festival, and the Mill Valley Film Festival â?? a return that underscores her deep connection to CAFILMâ??s mission.

CAFILM announced earlier this year that longtime Mill Valley Film Festival Program Director Zoe Elton will transition to a new part-time curatorial role after leading the 48th Mill Valley Film Festival, scheduled for October 2-12, 2025. CAFILM stated that Kuo and Elton will work together to ensure a smooth transition of the festivalâ??s curatorial responsibilities, maintaining the quality of films and patron experiences, including the Mind the Gap gender equity initiative that Elton championed ten years ago.

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1. Rose Kuo
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