

9th Annual United Nations Association Film Festival to Screen 31 Documentaries from Around the World

October 25-29, 2006 at Stanford University

Cubberley Auditorium/School of Education and Annenberg Auditorium/Cummings Art Building

With screenings in San Francisco on October 18 & 22 and in East Palo Alto on October 20

Find out why celebrities like Ted Turner, Alec Baldwin, Lolita Davidovich, Danny Glover, Peter Coyote, John Savage, Susan Sarandon and Zuccherò believe in UNAFF and became members of the UNAFF Honorary Committee.

The 9th annual United Nations Association Film Festival with the theme **SPARKS OF HUMANITY** offers unique stories from 30 countries giving a voice to the voiceless and bringing diverse communities together. UNAFF hosts academics and filmmakers from around the world to discuss films at the festival with audiences and groups of individuals who are often separated by geography, ethnicity and economic constraints. From stories about refugees in the Sierra Leone and humanitarian aid in the Congo to the war in the Middle East and Iraq, from the status of women in Rwanda, Nicaragua and India to the fight against AIDS in Africa and China, from stories about environmental devastation on Native American reservations to the Tsunami tragedy in Indonesia, UNAFF presents images which will stay with us forever.

Screenings will be held in **San Francisco on Wednesday, October 18 at the Delancey Screening Room on 600 Embarcadero** and on **Sunday, October 22 at the Roxie Cinema on 3117 16th Street**. UNAFF will also be holding screenings in **East Palo Alto on Friday, October 20 at the Eastside Theatre on 2101 Pulgas Avenue**, in an effort to create a dialogue with future generations and promote global understanding.

The Festival opens on **Wednesday, October 25** at Stanford University with award winning documentaries from around the world. In **They Chose China**, Academy Award nominated filmmaker Shuibo Wang tells the story of a group of American soldiers held in POW camps during the Korean War. Ben Lewis's film **Blowing Up Paradise** traces 30 years of French atomic tests in Tahiti. Marcelo Bukin's short film **Lima's Streets** focuses on homeless children in Peru. **Between Two Stones: Nepal's Decade of Conflict** deals with the toll on the civilian population caught in the conflict between Maoist rebels and monarchy security forces. And Paul Cowan's film **The Peacekeepers** is a behind the scenes depiction of UN peacekeeping operations in the Congo.

The films on **Thursday, October 26** focus on women's issues. Lauren Greenfield makes her directorial debut with **Thin**, a cinema verité documentary exploring eating disorders. **Malaria: Killer Number One** attempts to understand the malaria epidemic in countries south of the Sahara. **The Shape of Water** directed by Kum-Kum Bhavnani and narrated by Susan Sarandon, documents the lives and work of women in Brazil, India, Senegal, and the Middle East. **Rosita**, a film by Barbara Attie and Janet Goldwater, is the story of a nine-year-old Nicaraguan girl who becomes pregnant as a result of rape. **Busting Out** by Francine Strickwerda and Laurel Smith explores the history and politics of breast obsession in America.

War, inner city violence and the road to peace is the focus of films on **Friday, October 27**. John Reilly's

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Bystander portrays three individuals who intervened to thwart the mass murder of innocent victims. Scott Dalton and Margarita Martinez film **La Sierra** is an intimate look at the violent barrios of Medellín, Colombia. Tom Eldridge's short film **Beyond Iraq** follows young soldiers, severely injured during the war in Iraq, as they find freedom and adventure in the Rocky Mountains. **Baghdad ER** by Emmy award winners Jon Alpert and Matthew O'Neill chronicles two months at the 86th Combat Support Hospital in Iraq. Mikael Lubtchansky uses digitally painted press photos to create a poetic memorial to 9/11 in **Epitaph**. And a Norwegian filmmaker questions US media coverage in **Independent Intervention** of the war in Iraq.

Environmental, health issues and stories about children take center stage on **Saturday, October 28**. Kate Riedl follows Professor Cres Eastman, a world-renowned endocrinologist visiting Tibet in **The Man Who Saved a Million Brains**. Ruby Yang's documentary **Blood of the Yingzhou District** follows the lives of orphans with AIDS in China. **The Tsunami Generation** focuses on the Aceh province in the wake of the Tsunami disaster in which 200,000 people perished and about half a million became homeless. **The Tribe** directed by Tiffany Shlain and narrated by Peter Coyote, takes audiences through the complex history of both the Barbie doll and the Jewish people. James Cullingham's film **Lessons in Fear** attempts to make education a positive force in the Israeli and Palestinian Territories. **Pilgrimage**, directed by Iranian filmmaker Bahman Giarostami and produced by Bay Area filmmaker Marjaneh Moghimi, offers a fly-on-the-wall look at a border town where Iranian pilgrims illegally enter Iraq on their way to the holy city of Karbala. Valerie Red-Horse's **True Whispers** narrated by William H. Macy and produced by Gale Ann Hurd, tells the moving and personal stories of the World War II Navajo Code Talkers. The day comes to a close with Malcolm Ingram's **Small Town Gay Bar**, which takes us to spaces where small-town gay and lesbian lives can be celebrated rather than hidden.

The Festival roundtable **"Fair Use, Free Speech and Digital Future in Documentary Filmmaking"** takes place on Saturday afternoon, invited to the roundtable are representatives from Bullfrog Distribution, Center for Social Media, Film Arts Foundation, International Documentary Association, Jaman, Movie Picture Magazine and local and international filmmakers in attendance at the festival.

The festival closes on **Sunday, October 29** by devoting itself to films about Liberties and Securities. **America's Brutal Prisons** directed by Nick London visits correctional institutions in Texas, Florida and California, uncovering penal systems with deeply ingrained cultures of punishment rather than rehabilitation. Amnesty International's Terry McCaffrey talks with Penitentiary Superintendent Don Cabana about the death penalty, in Ken Russell and Nancy Brown's **Interview With an Executioner**. Karen Bernstein and Ellen Spiro's documentary **Are the Kids Alright?** is the first documentary in Texas to address issues surrounding children's mental healthcare. **In the Tall Grass** tells the story of Rwanda's search for redemption after genocide as the country sits down to make reconciliation through community courts. In **Beyond the Call**, Academy Award nominated director Adrian Belic travels with three American men from the humanitarian organization Knightsbridge Intl. delivering aid to places like Afghanistan and Cambodia. **Rights on the Line: Vigilantes at the Border** exposes the anti-immigrant politics behind the Minuteman project on the border between Mexico and the US. The festival will close with the screening of **Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars** followed by a Closing Night Party. Directed by Zach Niles and Banker White **Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars** is the remarkable story of a group of musicians who bring hope and happiness to their fellow refugees.

The United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) was conceived in 1998, the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, at Stanford University by film critic and educator Jasmina Bojic. UNAFF screens documentaries by international filmmakers dealing with topics such as human rights, environmental survival, women's issues, children, refugee protection, homelessness, racism, disease control, universal education, war and peace.

Information about the festival is available on our website at www.unaff.org or by phone at 650-724-5544. For press materials, interviews with filmmakers or festival Founder and Director Jasmina Bojic, **please contact Seema Arora by e-mail at seemaarora@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 510-482-4350**. The main sponsors of the 9th annual UNAFF are the Stanford Film Society and the UNA Midpeninsula Chapter.