



9TH UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL  
OCTOBER 25-29, STANFORD UNIVERSITY  
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*The Role of the Bystander, the Options of Urban Youth, Rehabilitation of War Veterans, the Human Context of War, Psychological Healing and the Damage by Mass Media is the focus of the Third day*

9th Annual United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF)  
*SPARKS OF HUMANITY*

Friday, October 27, 2006

Stanford University (Annenberg Auditorium/Cummings Art Building)

Films on Friday reflect the ongoing need to raise questions about war and violence and the important role documentary filmmakers play in countering images by the mass media.

**Bystander** portrays three individuals who intervened to thwart the mass murder of innocent victims as the crimes were unfolding. The film questions the moral courage of human beings during genocide and war crimes. *Bystander* is John Reilly's first documentary. Steve Holtje the Brooklyn-based poet and composer, provides the original soundtrack to the film. (Screening at 6:00 pm)

**La Sierra** traces a year in the life of three young people defined by violence in the small Colombian neighborhood ruled by paramilitary thugs. The film gives war and violence a more human context by exploring the effects on families and communities. Over the course of a year, these lives and the life of the barrio undergo change, experiencing victory, despair, defeat, death, love and hope. Filmmakers Scott Dalton and Margharita Marinez spent a year filming in La Sierra as a result of their previous work as journalists in Colombia. (Screening at 6:40 pm)

Tom Eldridge's (*From Fear to Faith: Ordinary People Extra Ordinary Lives*) short film **Beyond Iraq** follows soldiers who suffered severe injuries in the war in Iraq to find activities to help them deal with their new lives. The filmmaker follows them to Colorado to participate in an adaptive winter sports program with Challenge Aspen. The veterans return to their lives of rehabilitation in hospitals with revitalized spirits and a new sense of purpose. *Beyond Iraq* includes awe-inspiring footage of severely disabled veterans as they ski, snowboard, and sit-ski. (Screening at 8:20 pm)

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Jon Alpert and Matthew O'Neill were allowed unprecedented access to the 86<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital in Iraq in 2005. For two months the filmmakers followed the doctors, nurses, medics, soldiers and chaplains at this premier Army medical facility. Located in Baghdad's Green Zone, the facility was formerly the site of an elite medical center for Saddam Hussein's supporters. **Baghdad ER** allows viewers to experience the physical and emotional toll of war by offering personal moments among soldiers and care providers. **Baghdad ER** is a raw and rarely seen look at the day-to-day hardship, humanity, heroism, and sacrifice of the US Military and medical personnel "just doing their jobs" in Iraq. (Screening at 8:40 pm)

Mikael Lubtchansky creates a poetic memorial to 9/11 in **Epitaph** by using digitally painted press photos, a short video and a music track. From candles lighting New Yorker's faces and smoke billowing up from the lower Manhattan to the sound of the first plane flying low over the city, the film is a voyage through time, questioning the moment, the past and the future. Mikael Lubtchansky developed a fascination with analog and digital image-making in his childhood and has been exploring various aspects of documentary filmmaking ever since. **Epitaph** is his first personal project to be screened in public. (Screening at 9:50 pm)

**Independent Intervention** brings awareness to the disparity between the war the American people see through the corporate controlled media and the realities on the ground in Iraq. The film also explores how the growing media democracy movement in the US works to challenge the mass media. **Independent Intervention** features Amy Goodman, Noam Chomsky, Dahr Jamail, Danny Schechter, Norman Solomon, David Barsamian, Kalle Lasn, James Zogby and Jim Hightower. It also includes the voices of Howard Zinn, Michael Moore, Bill Moyers, Arundhati Roy, Jeremy Scahill, US Senators and the Iraqi people. (Screening at 10:10 pm)

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](http://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](mailto:seemaarora@sbcglobal.net) or by phone at 510-482-4350**. The main sponsors of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual UNAFF are the Stanford Film Society and the UNA Midpeninsula Chapter.