



Media Contact:

Tim Etheridge 415.786.1377

tim@etheridgpr.com

August 30, 2010

**13th Annual United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF)
to Screen 60 Documentaries from 60 Countries with more timely stories
than ever - *climate refugees, religion and terrorism, immigration through
the eyes of children, the pirate fishing industry, internet and the social
media in poor countries, photo images and politics, forbidden arts in
Russia, Afghanistan and Iran.***

This year's UNAFF theme is **POPULATION – MIGRATION - GLOBALIZATION.**

October 22-31, 2010 with Opening Night in Palo Alto, screenings in

San Francisco on October 27, East Palo Alto on October 26

and Stanford University October 28-31

Palo Alto, CA.—The United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) opens its **13th year** with an inspired array of documentaries from around the globe with a broad range of topics. Highly anticipated by its loyal and passionate audiences, championed by civic and community leaders and **voted by MovieMaker Magazine as “one of the 25 Film Festivals worth the entry fee”**, **UNAFF** is one of the most important events on the Bay Area's cultural calendar and an important stop on the festival circuit. Also, it is one of the oldest purely documentary film festivals in the US. **UNAFF** runs **October 22-31** with **60 documentaries from 60 countries.**

Opening Night begins with **CLIMATE REFUGEES** (*Bangladesh/China/Tuvalu/USA*), a startling look at those persons who have been displaced by climatically induced environmental disasters. The UN currently states that more refugees are now displaced by environmental disasters than by war, more than 25 million climate refugees (ecologically induced migrants), and experts have projected that number will double within the next five years to over 50 million. Before the screening the Opening Night Party will be held at one of the best Bay Area restaurants Junnoon in downtown Palo Alto.

A major screening during the run of the Festival will be on **Saturday, October 23**. The film, **BHUTTO** (*Pakistan*) tells the story of the first woman in history, Benazir Bhutto, to lead a Muslim nation, Pakistan. It has been called the most dangerous place in the world and the home of nuclear war heads and the Taliban. Benazir Bhutto's life changed forever when her father, Pakistan's first

democratically elected president, chose Benazir to carry his political mantle over the family's eldest son. Her two terms in power saw acts of courage and controversy as she eradicated polio and stood up for women, while fighting the male-dominated political elite, and a nervous military leadership, while battling accusations of corruption and scandal. Also screening on **October 23** is **WAR AND LOVE IN KABUL** (*Afghanistan*), revealing the broader context of family life in a deeply traditional society, one in which the chances of personal happiness are very small.

Another highlight of the UNAFF is the not-to-be missed screening of **THE RAGES OF IMAGES** (*Germany/Italy*), which examines the work of pioneer photographer Oliviero Toscani, a man who brought topics such as war, racism, the death penalty, and the misery of refugees into the business of advertising. His provocative images were used heavily in Benetton ads throughout the 1990s. **THE RAGES OF IMAGES** will be a part of the **San Francisco screenings on Wednesday, October 27 at the Variety Club**. A panel discussion "IMAGES THAT PROVOKE" will accompany the screening. Other films screening on **October 27** include: **SECRETS OF THE TRIBE** (*Brazil/UK*), examines scandalous tale of academic ethics and infighting in the field of anthropology in the investigation of the seminal research on Yanomami Indians. **KITES** (*Afghanistan/Poland*) tells the story of young Afghans and their yearning for modernity through the lens of the cameras that they received from the Polish film professor. And **STRANGE BIRDS OF PARADISE** (*Australia/West Papua, Indonesia*) follows three friends as they defeat the odds and break the rules to gather in Melbourne to record outlawed folk songs with renowned Australian rock musicologist David Bridie.

Continuing the Festival's longstanding tradition of bringing **Women's Issues** front and center, a selection of cinematic gems will be shown. They include: **SATELLITE QUEENS** (*Egypt/Lebanon/Palestine/Saudi Arabia*) screening on **Thursday, October 28**. "Kalam Nawaem" or "Sweet Talk" (in English) is a popular Arab television show that has been called the Middle East's version of "The View". This lively and hilarious documentary explores how Arab satellite TV influences lifestyles and public opinion in the Middle East. Hosted by four women from different Arab countries, this hugely successful prime time TV show brings the world seen from the vantage point of women to millions of Arab viewers worldwide. **CAFWA** (*Uganda*), narrated by Oprah Winfrey, is an intimate look into the lives of brave Ugandan women, exposing the difficulties they face and revealing a remarkable organization that is helping to rebuild their lives. **THREE SONGS ABOUT MOTHERLAND** (*Russia*) depicts a dramatic collision between the past, the present, and the future in contemporary Russia by focusing on three different women in three different cities in this vast land.

This year UNAFF presents a very special screening at the Cantor Museum on Saturday, October 30 at 11:00AM **THE DESERT OF FORBIDDEN ART** (*Russia/USA/Uzbekistan*)

During the era of Soviet rule artists who stay true to their vision are executed, sent to mental hospitals or to Gulags. Their plight inspires young Igor Savitsky who rescues 40,000 forbidden works and creates a museum in the desert of Uzbekistan. Ben Kingsley, Sally Field and Ed Asner voice the diaries and letters of Savitsky and the artists

The **U.S. premiere** of **RAPPING IN TEHRAN** (*Iran*) will be a highlight of the **Youth Programming** on **Saturday, October 30**. This high energy film focuses on the lifestyle and activities of forbidden rap music singers in Iran. The Sundance hit, **GASLAND** (*USA*) follows a filmmaker as he embarks on a cross-country odyssey uncovering a trail of secrets, lies and contamination in the natural gas drilling industry. **QUEEN OF THE SUN** (*USA*) weaves an unusual and dramatic story of the heart-felt struggles of beekeepers, scientists and philosophers from around the world.

The Festival's **Closing Night** falls on **Sunday, October 31—Halloween**. If you want to see something truly scary, be sure to catch **SCIENTEST UNDER ATTACK – GENETIC ENGINEERING IN THE MAGNETIC FIELD OF MONEY** (*Germany/USA*), a documentary thriller about how Agro-Chemical multinational corporations victimize international scientists to prevent them from publishing their scary findings. Two distinguished scientist find their careers in ruins when they investigate the phenomenon of genetic engineering. Another frightening topic for All Hallows' Eve is money—or rather where does our money go once it enters the worldwide financial system? What do our retirement savings have to do with the property blow-up? **LET'S MAKE MONEY** (*Austria/Ghana/Spain/Switzerland*) examines how the average consumer becomes part of the worldwide finance market—whether they like it or not. The Closing Night Party is sponsored by *Douce France and Hobee's*.

PANELS

The Festival continues fostering opportunities for audiences to interact with the ideas raised by films and filmmakers with panel discussions. Six panels will be held throughout the course of the Festival. Admission is **FREE** for all the screenings which are part of the panels presentations. They include:

Monday, October 25

5:20 PM Panel: **"Climate Change Impact on Population"**

co-presented with Freeman Spogli Institute

Stanford University, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies

Encina Hall, 616 Serra Street

6:30 PM Reception with the filmmakers

Tuesday, October 26

5:55 PM Panel: **"Ethics and Politics of Immigration Issues"**

co-presented with Freeman Spogli Institute and Center for Latin American Studies and School of Education

Stanford University, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies

Encina Hall, 616 Serra Street

6:30 PM Reception with the filmmakers

Tuesday, October 26

6:30 PM **"Pros & Cons of Global Social Media"**

East Palo Alto, Eastside Theater, 1041 Myrtle Street

Wednesday, October 27

5:45 PM Panel: **"The Fight for Health – Global and Local"**

Stanford University, Stanford Medical School (Li Ka Shing Center Building)

291 Campus Drive

co-presented with Physicians for Human Rights Student Group

7:00 PM Reception with the filmmakers

Wednesday, October 27

6:45 PM Panel: **"Images that Provoke"**

San Francisco, Variety Screening Room, 582 Market Street

co-presented with Rotary San Francisco, Afghan Coalition and Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco

Saturday, October 30

2:30 PM Panel: **"Deregulation – Solution or Problem?"**

Stanford University, Annenberg Auditorium

Cummings Art Building - 435 Lasuen Mall

For the full program and details visit www.unaff.org or call 650-724-5544.