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**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL (UNAFF) CELEBRATES 16 YEARS OF GROUNDBREAKING DOCUMENTARIES WITH 70 FILMS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE**

*10 WORLD PREMIERES AND 11 U.S. PREMIERES TO BE SCREENED*

*OCTOBER 17-27 WITH "INDIVIDUAL TO UNIVERSAL" AS THE THEME*

*OVER 40 FILMMAKERS TO BE IN ATTENDANCE THROUGHOUT 11 days FESTIVAL*

**PALO ALTO, CA** (September 19, 2013) **The United Nations Association Film Festival** (UNAFF) is proud to present its program for the 16<sup>th</sup> year. Established in 1998 to honor the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNAFF stands out as one of the most reputable film festivals in the US, exclusively dedicated to documentary filmmaking. Throughout the years, UNAFF has earned the respect of audiences and filmmakers alike for its courageous independence and integrity. In addition to providing advance outlets for films, many of which have gone on to win major awards and accolades, UNAFF prides itself in creating a community forum for discovery and dialogue about different cultures, issues and solutions.

UNAFF's mission has also developed broad, year round programs to augment its reach. In addition to the annual film festival, UNAFF organizes panel discussions, initiates programs that address children, students and seniors, created a traveling festival which keeps the films alive well beyond their initial festival showings and opened its doors to documentary film students and researchers.

This year, as part of the ongoing celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we have chosen the theme INDIVIDUAL TO UNIVERSAL. We not only believe that global issues affect each of us individually, but that significant positive change is always initiated locally.

**In the eleven days of UNAFF 2013 we will present timely and valuable themes from the streets in Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran and Syria. Other topics will include renewable energy, the impact of social media and cyberbullying, the disappearance of online privacy, LGBT refugees and asylum, human trafficking and modern slavery. The ethics of photography and**

**how The New York Times, a Jewish owned newspaper, buried more than one thousand articles about The Holocaust during WWII will also be shown.**

From **October 17-27**, the films will be screened in various Bay Area locations: **Palo Alto, Stanford University, East Palo Alto and San Francisco**. The Festival opens on **Thursday, October 17** in Palo Alto with three films: **ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: CLOSE TO HOME (USA)** at 7:00pm; **TIMBAKTU (INDIA)** at 7:30pm; **ALIAS RUBY BLADE: A STORY OF LOVE AND REVOLUTION (EAST TIMOR/INDONESIA/USA)** at 8:10pm. All three films will be screened at the Aquarius Theatre in Palo Alto.

**ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: CLOSE TO HOME (USA)**, directed by the award winning filmmaker Anne Makepeace, is an overview of the inspirational life of one of the most important women in American history, Eleanor Roosevelt and highlights her dedication as champion of social justice and racial equality.

**TIMBAKTU (INDIA)**, directed by Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh. By showcasing the exemplary efforts of farmers of a tiny village in India, the film explores critical issues of food security and sovereignty. At its heart, this documentary looks at the relationship that a farmer shares with the land and the seeds and raises vital questions about food – the very essence of human life.

**ALIAS RUBY BLADE: A STORY OF LOVE AND REVOLUTION (EAST TIMOR/INDONESIA/USA)** directed by Alex Meillier. Intrigue. Romance. Revolution. This action-packed documentary chronicles the tumultuous birth of a new nation in East Timor through a never-before-seen perspective. Kirsty Sword, a young Australian activist, aspired to be a documentary filmmaker, but instead became an underground operative for the Timorese resistance in Jakarta code named “Ruby Blade.”

After the screenings the Opening Night Party will be held in Palo Alto famous bar **GRAVITY** with a special performance by international recording artist, John Lester.

The City of Palo Alto, Mayor Gregory Schraff will deliver opening remarks with all invited filmmakers and celebrities present. The Opening Night is sponsored by **FACT**.

The Festival continues with **10 WORLD** premieres including:

**Blessed Fruit Of The Womb (Guatemala/USA)**  
**Call Me Ehsaan (Afghanistan/USA)**  
**Extreme By Design (Bangladesh/Indonesia/USA)**  
**Familia Ayara (Colombia/Spain)**  
**Hot Water (USA)**  
**Nowhere To Run: Naheed's Story (Iran/Turkey/USA)**

**Nowhere To Run: Paul's Story (Jamaica/USA)**  
**Standing on the Edge of a Thorn (Indonesia/USA)**  
**Where Is My Home? (Czech Republic/USA)**

11 documentaries will have their U.S. premieres in the Festival including:

**The Comic King of Guatemala (Australia/Guatemala)**  
**Correcting The Chalkboard (Canada)**  
**Irish Folk Furniture (Ireland)**  
**My City Pizza (Iran/UK)**  
**Shady Chocolate (Denmark/Ivory Coast)**  
**The Story Of An Egg (USA)**  
**Strong Enough To Fight (USA)**  
**Terms And Conditions May Apply (USA)**  
**Timbaktu (India)**  
**Track by Track (USA)**  
**The War Campaign (Denmark/Iraq/USA)**

**On October 27** the closing night film will be **GORE VIDAL: THE UNITED STATES OF AMNESIA (USA)** directed by Nicholas D. Wrathall. "Life is short but the art is long." -Gore Vidal. No twentieth-century figure has moved as easily and confidently and had a more profound effect in the worlds of literature, drama, film, politics, historical debate and the culture wars than Gore Vidal. This film will incorporate TV clips of Vidal spanning some fifty years, from his historic encounters with William F. Buckley at the 1968 Democratic National Convention to his legendary interviews on Dick Cavett and David Susskind.

The film will be followed by an Awards Ceremony and Closing Night party sponsored by Garden Court Hotel.

UNAFF is committed to not only presenting films but also creating spaces where audience members can engage in ongoing dialogue about the topics at hand. Seven FREE panel discussions will take place during the course of the Festival covering topics such as the impact of social media, cyberbullying, disappearance of online privacy, the ethics of photography, extreme acts of compassion, the failing brain, nuclear trade-offs and alternative economic models.

For the full program, press material, photos and other details visit [www.unaff.org](http://www.unaff.org) or call 650-724-5544.

*The award winning UNAFF (the United Nations Association Film Festival) held annually in October at Stanford, Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and San Francisco, now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year has grown to be one of the oldest and most respected documentary film festivals in the United States. UNAFF was originally conceived to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. "The recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." (Preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights). It was founded by Stanford educator and film critic Jasmina Bojic with the participation of the Stanford Film Society and the UNA Midpeninsula Chapter.*