



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AFTER SATURDAY'S MATINEE FOR KIDS, UNAFF CONTINUES THE PROGRAM
ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17th**

**AT THE CUBBERLEY COMMUNITY CENTER IN PALO ALTO
WITH FILMS SHOWING ART'S ABILITY TO TRANSFORM VIOLENCE, POVERTY
AND ISOLATION; SANCTIONES, HUMANITY AND HUMOR AMONG THE PEOPLE
IN GAZA; PROJECT TO PRESERVE YELLOW STARS PAINTED DURING THE
HOLOCOUST IN FRANCE; RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS IN AFGHANISTAN;
THE HISTORY OF LYBIA; DRONES BEING USED IN TODAY'S WARS**

CIRCUS WITHOUT BORDERS (*Canada/Guinea/USA*)

Using circus arts as a means of self-expression and cultural exchange, the two circuses, Artcirq in the Canadian Arctic and Kalabante in West Africa, give youth in two of the world's most challenged communities the tools to travel beyond their borders and succeed. The film is a beautiful performance piece, a portal into two remote cultures, and an inspiring story of joy and heartbreak with universal relevance. Directed by Susan Gray. 1:00pm

FREE (*USA*)

Capturing the raw beauty and powerful grace of a dance company for at-risk youth, *FREE* journeys behind the curtain to spotlight the intimate stories of five teenagers in Oakland, California. This uplifting feature-length documentary showcases art's ability to transform violence, poverty and isolation. Directed by David Collier and Suzanne LaFetra. 2:20pm *FILMMAKER PRESENT*

YELLOW STARS OF TOLERANCE (*France/USA*)

This film documents a project to preserve yellow stars that were painted during the Holocaust in World War II on a synagogue exterior wall in Normandy, France to terrorize the Jewish community. While the intent of the project was to serve as a testament to that terrible chapter of history and a reminder of the dangers of intolerance,

the recent, tragic increase in anti-Semitism gives this story continuing significance.
Directed by Curt Fissel. 4:00pm *FILMMAKER PRESENT*

WHERE SHOULD THE BIRDS FLY (*Palestinian Territories/USA*)

The story of two young women, survivors of Israel's Operation Cast Lead: Mona Samouni, now thirteen years old and the filmmaker, Fida Qishta, now twenty-nine. The film reveals the strength, hope, humanity and humor that flourishes among the people of Gaza and the impact of modern warfare and sanctions on a civilian population. Directed by Fida Qishta. 4:40pm *FILMMAKER PRESENT*

DRONE (*Norway/Pakistan*)

The film follows people who live under drones in Pakistan and the drone pilots who struggle with the new warfare. Covering diverse ground including the recruitment of young pilots at gaming conventions, the moral stance of engineers behind the technology, the world leaders giving the “green light” to engage in the biggest targeted killing program in history, and the people willing to stand up against the violations of civil liberties and fight for transparency, accountability and justice. Directed by Tonje Hessen Schei. 5:50pm

THE GIRLS OF THE TALIBAN (*Afghanistan/UK*)

With a new wave of privately run religious schools being opened across Afghanistan, there is a growing feeling among women's rights groups that basic rights and education for girls are again under threat. The girls are taught by male teachers, who they are forbidden from meeting face-to-face, and full hijab must be worn. Directed by Najibullah Quraishi. 7:20pm

LIBYA: AN IMPOSSIBLE NATION-STATE? (*France/Libya*)

For forty-two years, Colonel Gaddafi ruled alone over Libya and with his death the world seemed to lose all interest in Libya. With Libya once again sinking into war, is any kind of coexistence still possible? Directed by Anne Poiret. 8:20pm

DIRTY WARS (*Afghanistan/Iraq/Somalia/Yemen*)

This Academy nominated film follows investigative reporter Jeremy Scahill, author of the international bestseller *Blackwater*, into the heart of America's covert wars, from Afghanistan to Yemen, Somalia and beyond. What begins as a report into a US night raid gone terribly wrong in remote Afghanistan quickly turns into a global investigation of the secretive and powerful Joint Special Operations Command. Directed by Richard Rowley. 9:30pm

For the full program, press material, photos and other details visit www.unaff.org

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 18th 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. It was founded by Stanford educator and film critic Jasmina Bojic with the participation of the Stanford Film Society and the UNA Midpeninsula Chapter.

In 2014 the ICFT (International Council for Film, Television and Audiovisual Communication of UNESCO) presented the UNESCO Fellini Medal to Jasmina Bojic, Founder and Executive Director of UNAFF, in recognition of her exceptional contribution in promoting the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through the art of documentary film.