



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GARBAGE, AIR POLLUTION, DISAPPEARING NATURAL RESOURCES –
THE EXTINCTION OF THE PASSENGER PIGEON – THE GEOLOGICAL SCANDAL
AND FIGHT FOR MINERALS IN CONGO - THE POLITICS BEHIND BUYING LAND
FOR PROFIT – ECUADOR’S WORST TOXIC DISASTER - THE UNSAFE
CHEMICALS BEING USED IN THE PRODUCTS ON OUR STORE SHELVES -**

ARE UP NEXT ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18th

**AT THE 18th UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL AT
THE CUBBERLEY COMMUNITY CENTER IN PALO ALTO**

GARBAGE OR RESOURCE? A DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EXPERIENCE (*Dominican Republic/USA*)

The Dominican Republic has more than 340 open-air landfills without any type of management or control, which have become highly-concentrated areas of air and water pollution. Fortunately, the country is witnessing cultural changes which are creating initiatives that convert this "problem" into an opportunity for development and how recycling has become an important economic opportunity for Dominicans. Directed by Natasha Despotovic. 1:00pm

RACING TO ZERO: IN PURSUIT OF ZERO WASTE (*USA*)

Garbage, air pollution, disappearing natural resources, destroyed oceans — the stakes are higher than ever. Is there anything we, individually, can still do about it? Directed by Christopher Beaver. 1:30pm *FILMMAKERS PRESENT*

FROM BILLIONS TO NONE: THE PASSENGER PIGEON’S FLIGHT TO EXTINCTION (*USA*)

A mostly forgotten story of how the passenger pigeon, the most abundant bird species in North America for thousands of years, became extinct by human hands in a geologic heartbeat. It retells the remarkable story of the passenger pigeon and explores its striking relevance to conservation challenges today, and plans for its possible revival. Directed by David Mrazek. 2:45pm *FILMMAKER PRESENT*

WHEN ELEPHANTS FIGHT (*Bermuda/Congo/USA*)

The Democratic Republic of Congo has been called a geological scandal due to its mineral rich soil that is necessary to sustain today's technology, but is funding the deadliest war since WWII. Narrated by Golden Globe award winner, Robin Wright, film follows the fight for minerals in Congo which has brought poverty, war and corruption to the Congolese while corporations, nations and armed groups have made billions. Directed by Michael Ramsdell. 3:55pm *FILMMAKER PRESENT*

LAND GRABBING (*Ethiopia/Romania/Saudi Arabia/USA*)

Demand for land has soared as investors look for places to grow food for export, grow crops for biofuels or simply buy up land for profit. This film gives an inside look into the world of investors in the international agro-business and how the politics of the European Union is involved. Directed by Kurt Langbein. 5:35pm

OIL AND WATER (*Ecuador/USA*)

The true story of two boys from opposite ends of the oil pipeline coming of age as they each confront one of the world's worst toxic disasters. Hugo comes to America to fight for the survival of his Cofan tribe in the Ecuadorian Amazon, while David goes to Ecuador to launch the world's first company to certify oil as "fair trade." Directed by Francine Strickwerda and Laurel Spellman Smith. 7:45pm

STINK! (*USA*)

A first-person story about one father's absurd journey to find out what kinds of chemicals are hidden in a pair of his kid's pajamas. But instead of getting a straight answer, director Jon Whelan stumbles on an even bigger issue in America, which is that some products on our store shelves are not safe—by design. Directed by Jon J. Whelan. 8:50pm

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.