



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CLOSING NIGHT

19th ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL (UNAFF) COMES TO A CLOSE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30th

WITH FILMS ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF DEPORTATION ON CHILDREN – THE RELEASE OF OMAR KHADR FROM GUANTANAMO BAY DETENTION CENTER – WOMEN’S ROLE IN COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY –AND THE IMPACT HUMAN ACTIVITY HAS ON THE OCEAN’S ACOUSTIC HABITAT AT CUBBERLEY AUDITORIUM AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

CLOSING NIGHT PARTY AT GARDEN COURT HOTEL

CHILDREN DEPORTED: FARIDA (*Afghanistan/Norway*)

Nine-year-old Farida was deported to Afghanistan in February of 2015, after almost four years in Norway. A country she has never been to before, with a language and a culture that is foreign to her. She misses her friends, her school and the safety of the small town Dokka. We follow her new life in an unknown Kabul, where she talks about her longing for Norway and the future that so abruptly was taken away from her. Directed by Ragnhild Sørheim. 1:00pm.

GUANTANAMO’S CHILD: OMAR KHADR (*Canada/Cuba*)

After spending nearly half his life behind bars, including a decade at the Guantanamo Bay Detention Centre, Khadr is suddenly released. In 2002, Khadr was captured by Americans in Afghanistan and charged with war crimes. In October 2010, Khadr pleaded guilty to five war crimes, including “murder in violation of the laws of war,” in return for a plea deal that gave him an eight-year sentence and chance to return to Canada. Khadr later recanted his confession. His Guantanamo conviction is being appealed in the US courts. Khadr is the only juvenile ever tried for war crimes. Directed by Patrick Reed and Michelle Shephard. 1:30pm. *FILMMAKER PRESENT*

THE COMPUTERS (*USA*)

In the United States, women are vastly underrepresented in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) fields, holding under 25% of STEM jobs and a

disproportionately low share of STEM undergraduate degrees. This film shows how women revolutionized the computing and Internet technology we use today, inspiring female students to believe that programming careers lie within their grasp. Directed by Kathy Kleiman. 3:10pm. *FILMMAKER PRESENT*

FEMINISM INSHALLAH: A HISTORY OF ARAB FEMINISM

(Algeria/Egypt/Lebanon/Morocco/Tunisia/Saudi Arabia)

The struggle for Muslim women's emancipation is often portrayed stereotypically as a showdown between Western and Islamic values, but Arab feminism has existed for more than a century. This groundbreaking documentary recounts Arab feminism's largely unknown story, from its taboo-shattering birth in Egypt by feminist pioneers up through viral Internet campaigns by today's tech-savvy young activists during the Arab Spring. Directed by Ferial Ben Mahmoud. 3:40pm.

WHY ARE THE BEES DYING? (Germany)

For years bees have been dying. All over the world, silently and unobtrusively. The mysterious death of the bees occupies scores of scientists at the bee institutes and in the pesticide firms. Using old-fashioned radar technology the professor is looking into modern insecticides. Their impact is subtle and almost indiscernible. But beekeepers say that it is disastrous. The toxins are everywhere. They are a bestseller for firms producing agricultural chemicals—a worldwide market worth billions. Directed by Christoph Wuerzburger. 4:50pm. *FILMMAKER PRESENT*

SONIC SEA (Bahamas/Canada/Madagascar/Norway/USA)

Sonic Sea tells the story of Ken Balcomb, a former US Navy officer who solved a tragic mystery involving a mass stranding of whales in the Bahamas, and changed the way we understand our impact on the ocean. In the darkness of the sea, whales depend on sound to mate, find food, migrate, raise their young and defend against predators. Over the last century, human activity has transformed the ocean's acoustic habitat, challenging the ability of whales and other marine life to prosper and survive. Narrated by Rachel McAdams and features the musician, human rights and environmental activist, Sting. Directed by Michelle Dougherty and Daniel Hinerfeld. 5:40pm.

HOW TO LET GO OF THE WORLD AND LOVE ALL THE THINGS CLIMATE CAN'T CHANGE (USA)

Oscar-nominated director Josh Fox continues, in his deeply personal style, investigating climate change—the greatest threat our world has ever known. Traveling to twelve countries on six continents, the film acknowledges that it may be too late to stop some of the worst consequences and asks, what is it that climate change can't destroy? What is so deep within us that no calamity can take it away? Directed by Josh Fox. 6:50pm.

The closing night film will be followed by an Awards Ceremony at 9:00pm.

9:30 PM Closing Night Party • Music by Potential Jazz Ensemble

sponsored by Garden Court Hotel

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 19th 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.

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.