



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 20, 2016

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OPENING NIGHT

19th ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL (UNAFF) KICKS OFF WITH THE THEME *COMPASS FOR A BETTER WORLD* ON OCTOBER 20 AND THE MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION TO THE 19th UNAFF AS ONE OF THE OLDEST PURELY DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVALS IN THE USA WHICH EDUCATES AND ENGAGES LOCAL COMMUNITY THROUGH UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS STORIES

Palo Alto, CA (September 20, 2016) The 19th Annual United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) will begin **THURSDAY, October 20** in historic downtown Palo Alto at the **Aquarius Theatre, 430 Emerson Street** with three films: **POSTER GIRL (USA)** at 6:30pm; **APACHE 8 (USA)** at 7:20pm; **SEED: THE UNTOLD STORY (India/Mexico/US)** at 8:30pm.

POSTER GIRL (USA), directed by Sara Nesson. Academy Nominated documentary, *Poster Girl*, tells the touching story of a young female soldier on a journey of self-discovery and redemption. *Poster Girl* speaks to a national concern for veterans who are left alone to suffer with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Eighteen veterans commit suicide every day, a grossly unknown fact which was only recently labeled an "epidemic," proving that veterans' health and well-being is not just a military issue, but also, a humanitarian necessity. Through Robynn's story, viewers gain an understanding of the challenges soldiers face when they return home from war, and explores what veterans can do to take responsibility for their own healing.

APACHE 8 (USA), directed by Sande Zeig. Apache 8 has been fighting fires on the White Mountain Apache reservation and throughout the United States for over thirty years. Four extraordinary women from different generations of the Apache 8 crew share their personal narratives with humor and tenderness. **FILMMAKER PRESENT**

SEED: THE UNTOLD STORY (USA), co-directed by Jon Betz and Taggart Siegel. With ninety-four percent of our seed varieties extinct, film passionate seed keepers protecting

our 12,000 year-old food legacy. As biotech chemical companies control the majority of our seeds, farmers, scientists, lawyers, and indigenous seed keepers fight a David and Goliath battle to defend the future of our food. These reluctant heroes rekindle a lost connection to our most treasured resource and revive a culture connected to seeds.

The Mayor of the City of Palo Alto Patrick Burt will deliver opening remarks with all invited filmmakers present. Opening Night is generously sponsored by *FACT*.

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.