



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CLOSING NIGHT**

**20<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL (UNAFF) COMES TO A CLOSE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29<sup>th</sup>**

**WITH FILMS ABOUT A TRANS WOMAN FROM MEXICO CONFRONTING GENDER IDENTITY WITH HER FAMILY – US VETERANS BEING DEPORTED – AN INDIAN ACID ATTACK SURVIVOR’S DREAM TO START A FASHION BOUTIQUE FOR OTHER SURVIVORS – AND A LOOK INTO WORLD-WIDE SOLUTIONS TO SAVE OUR PLANET**

**AT CUBBERLEY AUDITORIUM AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY**

*CLOSING NIGHT PARTY AT GARDEN COURT HOTEL*

**THE SWAN** (*Mexico/USA*)

Sthefany Galante is a Mexican trans woman who migrated to the US after experiencing gender discrimination in her hometown. After being away from home for six years, Sthefany is preparing for an imminent trip to Hidalgo, Mexico to confront her parents about her gender identity. Directed by Daniel Chavez Ontiveros. 1:00pm. **Filmmaker present.**

**CLIFF SUPERFAN!** (*USA*)

In the last twenty-two years, 68-year-old Clifford Hayashi has attended over 4,000 Stanford games. Nicknamed “Stanford’s Superfan,” Cliff leads cheers, imparts statistics and travels the country to attend games. His devotion to multiple sports and the athletes is unshakable and legendary. Although most know who Cliff is, the man himself remains a mystery. Usually attending games alone, Cliff does not own a phone or computer. Until a year ago, he did not own a car. Rivaling his love for Stanford sports is Cliff’s passion for writing about the Japanese concentration camp in Tule Lake, California where his mother was imprisoned during World War II. Determined to identify every Tule Lake prisoner in the thousands of nameless photos he’s collected, Cliff will often use sports to share stories of the camps — introducing many to a forgotten piece of history. Whether it’s cheering on the sidelines or pouring over books in the library, Cliff follows his passions. Viewers will discover an intriguing, enigmatic man — generous

despite challenges along the way. Everyone should have a fan like Cliff. Directed by Diane Moy Quon. 1:30pm. **Filmmaker present.**

### **EXILED** (*Mexico/USA*)

*Exiled* tells the stories of two deported US military veterans in Tijuana, Mexico. These honorably discharged “green card” soldiers had already served out sentences for convictions in the US, only to be deported to their birth country. With sweat, tears and grassroots organizing, deported paratrooper Hector Barajas is on a mission to raise awareness about the deported veteran issue, and reunite with his 11-year-old daughter in Compton. Mauricio Hernandez struggles with severe PTSD as a result of his time as a US soldier combat in Afghanistan, but stuck in Mexico, he has no access to the mental health care he is entitled to as a veteran. These soldiers who were willing to die for their country are now fighting to be heard and return to the US, the country they consider home. Directed by Mike Seely. 2:10pm. **Filmmaker present.**

### **THROUGH MY EYES: HANI'S JOURNEY** (*Canada/Lebanon/Syria*)

*Through My Eyes* follows the journey of blind Syrian refugee Hani Al Moliya from the camps in Lebanon to Canada. Told through his photos, it is a story of triumph against adversity, set against the backdrop of the Syria crisis. Directed by Zahra Mackaoui. 2:50pm. **Filmmaker present.**

### **A SERENADE FOR HAITI** (*Haiti*)

The story of the Sainte Trinite Music School of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, whose extraordinary students and faculty have been since 1956 overcoming the staunchest obstacles of poverty, pandemics, political chaos, natural disasters and economic instability to give children a formal music education, turning out healthy, motivated and remarkable young musicians and citizen of the world. Directed by Owsley Brown. 3:30pm. **Filmmakers Present.**

### **RUPA'S BOUTIQUE** (*India*)

According to the activists of Stop Acid Attacks helping the victims, in India there are three to five attacks each week. Many victims do not report the crimes to the police because they are afraid of being socially stigmatised. Rupa, living in the city of Agra in India, wanted to be a fashion designer since her childhood. The girl would like to open her own boutique so that she could become independent financially. In the boutique she would like to employ her fellow victims of acid attack. In the film we are getting to know her and her fellow victims' life stories and dreams, meanwhile they are preparing for a monumental fashion show, where the Rupa designed clothes are showcased by the survivors. They all found a way back to society, became independent and visible. Directed by Gloria Halasz. 4:50pm. **Filmmaker present.**

### **HOLY (un)HOLY RIVER** (*India*)

Once celebrated for its purity, the Ganges River of India now carries contaminants from its glacial headwaters, where freshly fallen snow contains zinc from industrial emissions. Downriver, the river is dammed sixteen times (with another fourteen dams under construction) to provide hydroelectric power and flood control. All along its course, water

is diverted from the river for agriculture and other uses, and the 500 million people in the Ganges basin further pollute the river with household trash, industrial waste, raw sewage and the remains of the dead. Still, the Hindu faithful revere the river as Ma Ganga—or “Mother Ganges”—a physical embodiment of the divine. Millions flock to her banks to bathe and absolve their sins with Ganga jal (Ganges water). And, almost magically, the river does cleanse itself, perhaps through dilution, perhaps through biology and the help of bacteriophages. *Holy (un)Holy River* examines the paradox of this sacred river—the intricacies of a waterway that is divine and defiled, revered and reviled—and asks the essential question: Can the Ganges survive? Co-directed by Peter McBride and Jake Norton. 5:50pm. **Filmmaker present.**

**TOMORROW** (*France/Germany/Kazakhstan/India/UK/USA*)

In 2012, *Nature* published a study led by more than twenty researchers from the top scientific institutions in the world predicting that humankind could disappear between 2040 and 2100. It also said that it could be avoided by drastically changing our way of life and take appropriate measures. French actress and director Mélanie Laurent (*Inglorious Basterds*) and activist Cyril Dion decided to travel the world in search of solutions that can help save the next generations. The result is *Tomorrow*, an inspiring documentary that presents concrete solutions implemented throughout the world by hundred of communities. Co-directed by Cyril Dion and Mélanie Laurent. 7:00pm.

**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](http://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 20th 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.*