



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2017

Media Contact:

Meghan Hurder, Publicist

meghan@unaff.org

THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA AND THE HORRORS OF THE SOVIET AND US NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING, A STORY OF A MAN WITH NO NATION, AND THE STORY OF NOBEL PRIZE WINNER JOHN HUME AND HIS FIGHT FOR PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND ARE PART OF THE EVENT ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24th AS THE 20th UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL CONTINUES AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY WITH SCREENINGS AT FREEMAN SPOGLI INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

VILLAGE VERSUS EMPIRE (*South Korea/USA*)

We live in a MAD world—we live with the threat of nuclear warfare, where mad stands for Mutually Assured Destruction. Where the theatre of war shifts across the globe and is part of our reality, no matter who we are or where we live. We are all at risk and all, to some extent, implicated. Which is why South African filmmaker, Mark J Kaplan went to Jeju island, off the South Korean mainland. This ecologically unique island is a paradise with a dark side. Where a Cold War genocide just after the Second World War has been followed by a new and different kind of massacre, the construction of a massive naval base that has devastated the environment and placed the islanders in the cross-hairs of a potential future global conflict between the two world superpowers: the US and China. Through the memories and actions of a range of political activists, religious leaders and artists the film explores the interconnectedness of past, present and future and the universal relevance of a village resisting an empire. Directed by Mark Jeremy Kaplan. 4:00pm. **Filmmaker Present.**

WHERE THE WIND BLEW (*Kazakhstan/USA*)

The story of how the Cold War superpowers, in their race to develop more and more deadly bombs, spent forty years developing weapons capable of wiping out entire nations, while sacrificing their own vulnerable populations in the name of national security. It narrates the horrors of the Soviet and US nuclear-weapons testing and the damage it has inflicted upon the health of populations living around or downwind from the testing sites in Kazakhstan and the United States. It also tells the story of the popular anti-testing movement that brought together victims and activists from the two countries and helped achieve the closing of the

Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. The film serves as a stark reminder of the grave humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons and implicitly underscores the importance of achieving the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Directed by Andre Singer. 5:10pm

Panel discussion to follow “The Threat of Nuclear Power”

MY COUNTRY IS THE WORLD – SHORT FILM (USA)

The epic true story of a “World Citizen #1” Garry Davis who spent sixty-five years of his life as a citizen of no nation, only Earth—traveling the planet on his “World Passport” and using his thespian skills to engage in adventures so unique that his life made a front-page headline story in the *New York Times* and provoked major stories in *The Washington Post*, the *LA Times* and other media around the globe. Hailed by Albert Einstein for “the sacrifices he has made for the well-being of humanity,” extolled by Buckminster Fuller as the “New World Man,” and egged on by Eleanor Roosevelt to start “a worldwide international government,” Garry Davis was a pioneering thinker, an author of ten books, and founder of the World Service Authority—an organization in Washington, DC that issues World Passports to stateless refugees and to people who think global—above the nation-states that carve up our one globe. Directed by Arthur Kanegis. 8:00pm. **Filmmaker present.**

HOTEL EVEREST (Israel/Palestine)

Hotel Everest is a documentary about individuals who have the courage to overcome ancient hatreds, fear and mistrust to strive for self-determination and peace. It follows the story of Israelis and Palestinians who come together to understand the humanity in “the other,” forge connections that promote empathy, understanding and, in their wildest hopes, peace. Our film is not a historical account of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict but a contemporary, experiential film about living within it. Directed by Claudia Sobral. 8:20pm. **Filmmaker present.**

IN THE NAME OF PEACE: JOHN HUME IN AMERICA (Ireland/USA)

In the Name of Peace: John Hume in America is a documentary which includes wide-ranging and insightful interviews with President Bill Clinton, President Jimmy Carter, as well as Irish leaders, Bono and Prime Ministers John Major and Tony Blair among others, who helped to wrest peace from war in Northern Ireland. **Narrated by Liam Neeson** with original composition by Bill Whelan, this is the story of the extraordinary work of Nobel Prize-winning John Hume to harness and leverage US support to help to secure peace in Northern Ireland. Through the relationships he cultivated with the White House and US Congress, John Hume created the framework for peace in Northern Ireland. Directed by Maurice Fitzpatrick. 9:10pm. **Filmmaker present.**

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.