



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2017

Media Contact:

Meghan Hurder, Publicist

meghan@unaff.org

**AFTER SATURDAY'S MATINEE FOR KIDS, UNAFF CONTINUES THE PROGRAM
ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21st
AT THE MITCHELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER AND THE MIDPENINSULA
COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER IN PALO ALTO
WITH FILMS SHOWING A FEMALE INDIAN TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETE BANNED
FROM COMPETING FOR HIGH TESTOSTERONE LEVELS, A VETERAN'S 3,600-
MILE RUN ACROSS THE US, AN UNDOCUMENTED CITIZEN'S QUEST FOR THE
AMERICAN DREAM, AND THE UNTOLD STORY OF JEWS IN IRAQ.**

DUTEE (*India*)

In 2014, elite Indian track and field athlete, Dutee Chand, was told she was banned from competing in sports due to naturally high levels of testosterone in her body. Her medical test results were released to the press and her gender identity was questioned throughout the media. Dutee was forced to fight for her dream to return to the track and compete in the Olympics. In this historical case, Dutee challenged policies that govern gender testing in female athletes, opening doors for not only herself, but for the future of all women in sport. Directed by Vanessa Hudson. 1:15pm. **Filmmaker Present.**

RUNNING ON EMPTY (*USA*)

A cross-country journey intended to make a difference, in the beginning, was certainly looked upon as an ambitious dream of young wanderers; however, when O'Toole reached Dallas, TX, people started to believe it was possible. Mile by mile, America arose to show its true colors within the people along the route. These unique interactions inevitably kept Brendan pushing through the toughest days on the road. Told from the perspective of two brothers, Joey and Timmy Dwyer, the film depicts SGT Brendan O'Toole during his passion driven pursuit. After a grueling year on the road Brendan completed his 3,600-mile run from Oceanside, CA to Portland, ME with a greater understanding of his country and himself. Co-directed by Joey Dwyer and Timmy Dwyer. 2:30pm. **Filmmakers Present.**

In collaboration with our longtime community partner TV Media Center, Palo Alto 900 San Antonio Road, we have the screenings, a panel, filmmakers reception and the tour of the TV station.

OUR CANADA, MY STORY: ALI DUALE (*Canada/Somalia*)

"If I had stayed in Somalia, I believe I would not be alive today," shares Ali Duale, a refugee who fled Somalia in 1990. Duale, who lived with his wife in a Kenyan refugee camp for seven years, now calls Halifax, Nova Scotia home. He recalls arriving in Canada in the middle of winter in 1997: "I remember there was snow on the ground." Duale learned English and became a firefighter with Halifax Fire and Emergency Services. A practicing Muslim, Duale describes his desire to give back to the country who accepted him and gave him a second chance. "Being Canadian is being who you are." Directed and produced by Salima Stanley-Bhanji. 4:15pm. **Filmmaker Present.**

THE OTHER SIDE (*Mexico/USA*)

Just like every other weekend at Friendship Park, dozens of people have come to meet and greet one another on both sides of the US-Mexico border fence, an experience that many describe as being "bittersweet". Access to physically touch the wall on the US side is limited to a small area and families lean against the fence trying to catch a glimpse of their loved ones through the steel mesh which is so tightly woven they can barely touch fingertips. Couples quietly whisper in each other's ears while Border Patrol agents walk back and forth in what can be compared to a prison yard on visiting day. On the Mexican side of the wall, the atmosphere is more relaxed. Among those present is Jose Marquez, a 67-year-old Mariachi singer, who has come to see his daughter Susanna. Although they live just a few miles apart, they have been separated by the US-Mexico border for almost fifteen years. Directed by Griselda San Martin. 4:30pm.

UNDOCUMENTED (*Colombia/USA*)

Born and raised in what was the drug and murder capital of the world, Medellin, Colombia, Harold's parents fled the violence with the same dream that all immigrants hold—to make a better life in a new land. Harold faced years of separation from his parents as a young boy, grave danger on the open seas, and hardship, fear, bullying and bigotry in America. As he and his family lived "in the shadows" as undocumented immigrants, Harold was determined to achieve The American Dream. Through hard work, perseverance and the support of compassionate people, Harold Fernandez and his family became legal citizens of the US, with Harold graduating from Princeton University and Harvard Medical School. He is now one of the top cardiac surgeons in New York. He saves countless lives, literally holding the hearts and the lives of his patients and their families in his hands. His story is not a typical one, yet it holds out hope for the millions of immigrants who have come—and have yet to come—to the land of their dreams. Directed by Patricia Shih. 4:45pm. **Filmmaker present.**

Panel discussion to follow "The Other Side of the Border"

GUANGZHOU DREAM FACTORY (*China/Cameroon/Kenya/Nigeria/Uganda*)

Guangzhou, aka Canton, is southern China's centuries-old trading port. Today the booming metropolis of 14 million is a mecca of mass consumption—its vast international trading centers crammed with every “Made in China” good imaginable. Every year more than half a million Africans travel to Guangzhou where they buy goods to sell back in Africa. Over time, some have chosen to stay, and for these Africans China looks like the new land of opportunity, a place where anything is possible. But is it? Featuring a dynamic cast of men and women from Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda, *Guangzhou Dream Factory* weaves the stories of Africans chasing alluring, yet elusive, “Made in China” dreams into a compelling critique of 21st century global capitalism. Directed by Christiane Badgley. 8:00pm. **Filmmaker Present.**

REMEMBER BAGHDAD (*Iraq/Israel*)

This is the untold story of Iraq, an unmissable insight into how the country developed through the eyes of the Jews, Iraq's first wave of refugees. From picnics on the Tigris and royal balls, to hangings, imprisonment and escape, moving individual stories take us from past to present unfolding onto the wider story of the Middle East. In their lives are played out the consequences of the self-serving monarchy imposed by the British, Nazi influence, and the creation of Israel. After 2,600 years living peacefully in the area, in one generation the community vanishes. With vivid testimony, home movies and news archive, as well as footage from Iraq today, we follow the lives of four families trying to make sense of turbulent times. Directed by Fiona Murphy. 9:15pm.

Filmmakers 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 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.