



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Meghan Hurder, Publicist

meghan@unaff.org

OPENING NIGHT

20th ANNUAL UNAFF (UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL) KICKS OFF WITH THE THEME *RESPECT* ON OCTOBER 19 AND THE MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION TO THE 20th UNAFF AS ONE OF THE OLDEST PURELY DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVALS IN THE US WHICH EDUCATES AND ENGAGES LOCAL COMMUNITY

Palo Alto, CA (September 19, 2017) The 20th Annual United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) will begin THURSDAY, October 19 in historic downtown Palo Alto at the **Aquarius Theatre, 430 Emerson Street** with three films: **IN SEARCH OF PERFECT CONSONANCE** (*China/Japan/Vietnam*) at 6:30pm; **AND THEN THEY CAME FOR US** (*Japan/USA*) at 7:20pm; **MANKILLER** (*USA*) at 8:20pm.

IN SEARCH OF PERFECT CONSONANCE (*China/Japan/Vietnam*), directed and produced by Oscar winning filmmaker Ruby Yang. Twenty-five years ago, China was at war with Vietnam, the Chinese and the Japanese were at loggerheads, and relations across the Taiwan Strait were frosty. *In Search of Perfect Consonance* profiles the Asian Youth Orchestra, set up against this backdrop with the aim of connecting the region's young people through music. As we watch the budding musicians of today's Asia learn to work together, we are reminded of the higher ideals that music inspires. **Filmmaker present.**

AND THEN THEY CAME FOR US (*Japan/USA*), co-directed by Abby Ginzberg and Ken Schneider. Seventy-five years ago, Executive Order 9066 paved the way to the profound violation of constitutional rights that resulted in the forced incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans. Featuring George Takei and many others who were incarcerated, as well as newly rediscovered photographs of Dorothea Lange, this film brings history into the present, retelling this difficult story and following Japanese American activists as they speak out against the Muslim registry and travel ban. Knowing our history is the first step to ensuring we do not repeat it. **Filmmakers present.**

MANKILLER (USA), directed by Valerie Red-Horse Mohl and co-produced by one of the most powerful female producers in the world, Gale Anne Hurd. This is the story of an American hero. One who stands tall amongst the likes of Robert Kennedy, Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King, Jr. Someone who humbly defied the odds and overcame insurmountable obstacles to fight injustice and gave a voice to the voiceless. And yet few people know her name. This is the story of an American legend, Wilma Mankiller, who overcame rampant sexism and personal challenges to emerge as the Cherokee Nation's first female principal chief. In 1998, President Bill Clinton awarded her the Medal of Freedom. **Filmmakers present.**

The Mayor of the City of Palo Alto Greg Scharff will deliver opening remarks with all invited filmmakers present. Opening Night is generously sponsored by FACT and iTalico.

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.