



20<sup>th</sup> UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL  
October 19-29, 2017 • Palo Alto • East Palo Alto • San Francisco • Stanford University  
[unaff.org](http://unaff.org)

## UNA Midpeninsula Chapter presents: UNAFF for SENIORS A Documentary Film Series | January – March 2017 | Free Admission

Conceived in 1998 at Stanford University by film critic and educator, Jasmina Bojic, in conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) screens international documentaries dealing with topics such as human rights, environmental survival, women's issues, children, refugee protection, homelessness, racism, disease control, universal education, war and peace. By bringing together filmmakers, the academic community and the general public, UNAFF offers a unique opportunity for creative exchange and education among groups and individuals often separated by geography, ethnicity and economic constraints. [www.unaff.org](http://www.unaff.org)

**Screening Location: Avenidas Senior Center, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto ([www.avenidas.org](http://www.avenidas.org))**

### JANUARY 9, 2017 – MON, 2 PM: MR. DIAL HAS SOMETHING TO SAY

**DIR/PROD: Celia Carey (USA, 60 min)**

Has Afro-American improvisational visual art been disregarded by the mainstream art world as less important? Have terms such as "outsider," "visionary," "primitive," "folk," "self-taught," and "naïve"- downgraded the importance of this art? Are these terms classist, or racist? The film explores the visual arts sibling of jazz, the blues and gospel. As the visual interpretation of life from America's former slave culture, this improvisational style is a unique artistic view in American history-and one of America's few very home-grown artistic styles. The current movement toward recognizing great Southern African-American talents, such as Dial, is causing the artistic intelligentsia to reexamine its own prejudices.



### FEBRUARY 13, 2017 - MON, 2 PM: ON A TIGHROPE

**DIR: Petr Lom PROD: Torstein Grude (China/Norway, 60 min)**

In an orphanage in the Chinese province of Xinjiang, children study tightrope walking. The children are Uyghurs, the largest Muslim minority in China. Fearing the Uyghurs' separatist movement, China rules with an iron fist in Xinjiang. Youngsters are forbidden to profess their religion. Walking the tightrope is an age-old Uyghur tradition, and their feats are spectacular. The children look up to their coach, but his intentions are dubious. After nine months of intense training, most children are told they have failed and will not be able to continue the course. Then, an elderly retired tightrope walker shows up and becomes their new coach. Lovingly and patiently, he teaches the children to walk the tightrope, this time with success.



### MARCH 13, 2017 – MON, 2 PM: THE SHAPE OF WATER

**DIR/PROD: Kum-Kum Bhavnani**

**(Brazil/India/Israel/Palestine/Senegal/USA, 70 min)**

In an intimate encounter with five very different women in Brazil, India, Jerusalem, and Senegal, narrated by Susan Sarandon, *The Shape of Water* offers a close look at the far-reaching and vibrant alternatives crafted by the women in response to environmental degradation, archaic traditions, lack of economic independence, and war. The documentary weaves together the daily life stories of Khady, Bilkusben, Oraiza, Dona Antonia, and Gila who, through candor and humor, infuse their communities with a passion for change.

