



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 18, 2018

Media Contact:

Meghan du Mee (Hurder), Publicist

[meghan@unaff.org](mailto:meghan@unaff.org)

### **CLOSING NIGHT**

**21st ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL (UNAFF) COMES TO A CLOSE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28<sup>th</sup> WITH FILMS ABOUT THE CHANGING FACE OF AMERICA WITH GROWING NUMBERS OF LATINOS; A SYRIAN ACTOR'S ARRIVAL IN HOLLYWOOD; CLASS PRESENTATION ABOUT IRAN; GUN LAWS IN THE UK AND THE US; AND A SUCCESSFUL FOOD TRUCK BUSINESS RUN BY REFUGEE WOMEN IN at OSHMAN HALL at STANFORD UNIVERSITY**

*CLOSING NIGHT PARTY SPONSORED BY PACIFIC ART LEAGUE*

### **KINGSLEY (USA)**

At the age of eighteen, Kingsley accidentally took the life of his friend with his brother's handgun. After being sentenced 8-20 years in prison, he thought his life was over. But while serving his years, he read 400 books, graduated with honors from his prison education program and, after his release, earned Bachelor's/ Master's degrees at NYU, where he now works as a re-entry coordinator. He helps facilitate life after prison for individuals going through their own prison experiences. Kingsley's story touches on the effects of gun violence and life after prison, but more importantly, on the common humanity we all share beneath our labels. Directed and produced by Ingie Enan. 1:00pm. **Filmmaker present**

### **SHARE (USA)**

An 18-year-old Instagram influencer attempts to reconcile his identity online with his identity in real life. Co-directed and co-produced by Barna Szász and Ellie Wen. 1:20pm. **Filmmakers Present**

### **RAINBOW CHILDREN - PORTRAIT OF ELIKA (Iran/Belgium)**

In a class presentation, 5-year-old Erika, with dual origins, wants to give her classmates the most truthful image of her mother's country, Iran. Meanwhile, she encounters many questions from her classmates. Directed by Maryam Bayani. 1:50pm. **Filmmaker present**

### **LESSONS FROM A SCHOOL SHOOTING: NOTES FROM DUNBLANE (UK/USA)**

Following the Sandy Hook Massacre, a priest from Dunblane, Scotland reaches out to Father Bob offering support sixteen years after a school shooting in his own town. The men bond over personal trauma and responsibilities. In the aftermath, the UK reformed its gun laws; the US responded with inaction. Directed and co-produced by Kim A. Snyder. 2:15pm. **Filmmaker present**

### **JIHAD IN HOLLYWOOD (Syria/USA)**

Once a successful Syrian actor, Jihad Abdo has now arrived in Hollywood as a refugee and struggles to reinvent his life and renew his career. Jihad made an off the record comment against the brutal Assad Regime which was publicized and widely disseminated. He was then forced to flee Syria for fear of deadly repercussions. He came to the US to join his wife Fadia who was studying in Michigan and building upon her career in abstract art and human rights activism. *Jihad in Hollywood* is not only a personal window into the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis, but the story of one man's quest to reclaim his career and live the American Dream. Directed by Genie Deez. 3:00pm. **Filmmaker present**

### **LATINO: THE CHANGING FACE OF AMERICA(USA)**

A revolution is occurring in the United States, a demographic revolution, and I am part of it. I'm an American raised to be proud of my Mexican heritage. I'm a Latina. This is the story of my people. Currently, 55 million Latinos live in the US, a number projected to double in approximately thirty-five years when nearly one in three people in the United States will be Latino. *Latino: the Changing Face of*

*America*, explores this demographic revolution through my own story, as a daughter of Mexican immigrants, and through the stories of Hispanic students, teachers, and immigrant families, whom I encounter as I travel across the country. For so long considered second-class citizens, Latinos are now taking their rightful place in society. And, with their fast growing numbers, they're changing the political landscape of the United States. *Latino: The Changing Face of America* examines this new America. Directed and produced by Roxanne Frias. 3:45pm. **Filmmaker present**

### **FREEDOM FIGHTERS** (*Pakistan/USA*)

Pakistan is routinely ranked as the third most dangerous country in the world for women. Much of the nation is extremely conservative, religiously and culturally, and women are often subject to violence at the hands of men. Repercussions are minimal and more than half of Pakistani women who experience violence keep it a secret out of shame and fear. With female literacy at a historic low and patriarchy running deep in the justice system, women across Pakistan continue to be treated as second-class citizens. The filmmakers follow three brave women who are speaking out against inequality and pushing for equal rights. Directed and produced by Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy. 5:10pm. **Filmmaker present**

### **SOUFRA** (*Lebanon/USA*)

The film follows Mariam as she sets out against all odds to change her fate by launching a successful catering company, "Soufra," and then expand it into a food truck business with a diverse team of fellow refugee woman who now share this camp as their home. She is breaking barriers, pulling together Syrian, Iraqi, Palestinian and Lebanese women to work side by side and form beautiful friendships while running this thriving business. Directed and co-produced by Thomas Morgan. 5:50pm. **Filmmaker present**

**The closing night film will be followed by an Awards Ceremony at 7:30pm.**

**9:00 PM Closing Night Party • Music by The Potential Jazz Ensemble**  
*sponsored by the Pacific Art League*

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 21st 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.*