



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AFTER SUNDAY'S MATINEE FOR KIDS, UNAFF CONTINUES THE PROGRAM ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21st

AT THE MITCHELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER AND THE MIDPENINSULA COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER IN PALO ALTO

WITH FILMS SHOWING INDIA'S STREET WORKERS STANDING UP FOR THEIR RIGHTS, THE IMPACT OF THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY ON THE WORLD, THE CURRENT NORTH AMERICAN JUSTICE SYSTEM AND ITS AFFECT ON MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES, AND A RUNNING CLUB FOR THE HOMELESS OF SKID ROW.

LETTER FROM MASANJIA *(Canada/China)*

When a woman in Oregon opens a box of Halloween decorations and finds a distressing letter written by a political prisoner from inside a Chinese labor camp, her discovery makes waves across major news outlets worldwide. Meanwhile, the author of the letter, Sun Yi, breaks through internet firewalls to learn about the attention his letter has received and joins forces with an underground network of journalists and Chinese dissidents to reveal his entire story. From Peabody Award-winning director Leon Lee, *Letter From Masanjia* takes us deep into the horrific realities of China's labour camps through the eyes of Sun Yi, who's de-

terminated to expose these unthinkable human rights violations. Despite being hotly pursued by local authorities, he stops at nothing to find justice, ultimately leading to large-scale reform of China's labor camp system. Directed and produced by Leon Lee. 1:15pm.

SKID ROW MARATHON (USA)

A criminal court judge starts a running club on LA's skid row, where he trains a motley group of homeless people to run international marathons. When a criminal court judge starts a running club on LA's notorious skid row and begins training a motley group of addicts and criminals to run marathons, lives begin to change. *Skid Row Marathon* follows four runners as they rise from the mean streets of LA to run marathons around the world, fighting the pull of homelessness and addiction at every turn. Directed by Mark Hayes. 2:40pm.

FROM BAGHDAD TO THE BAY (Iraq/USA)

From Baghdad to The Bay follows the epic journey of Ghazwan Alsharif, an Iraqi refugee and former translator for the US military. Wrongfully accused of being a double agent, tortured by the US military and ostracized from family and country, we follow Ghazwan as he struggles to rebuild his life in the San Francisco Bay Area while coming out as an openly gay activist. Directed and produced by Erin Palmquist. 4:30pm.

FACING THE DRAGON (Afghanistan/USA)

Filmmaker Sedika Mojadidi follows two Afghan women, a member of Parliament and a journalist, as the international community withdraws from Afghanistan, threatening its fragile democracy. Directed by Sedika Mojadidi. 5:50pm.

STREET WORKERS UNITE! (India/USA)

India's street vendors and rickshaw drivers are among the country's most vulnerable citizens. For years they've lived and worked without legal protections and without access to financial services, and have been subject to harassment by the police, the mafia, and others. NIDAN is working to change all that by organizing them to stand up for their own rights and stop "feeding milk to the snake." Directed and produced by Gabriel Diamond. 7:45pm.

DOLLAR HEROES *(Germany/North Korea)*

100,000 forced laborers worldwide are working to provide foreign currency for North Korea's regime even in the European Union. This investigative documentary exclusively shows the inhumane conditions under which North Korean labor brigades are forced to live and work, and it sheds an important light on how this state-organized human trafficking helps to finance Kim Jong-un's nuclear program. Co-directed by Carl Gierstorfer and Sebastian Weis. 8:00pm.

THE TRUE COST *(India/Italy/UK/USA)*

This is a story about clothing. It's about the clothes we wear, the people who make them, and the impact the industry is having on our world. The price of clothing has been decreasing for decades, while the human and environmental costs have grown dramatically. Directed by Andrew Morgan. 9:10pm.

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 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.