



PRESS RELEASE

October 15, 2020

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23rd UNAFF (United Nations Association Film Festival) Opens October 15, 2020 First weekend of Festival presents films tied to important themes Under this year's banner *The Power of Empathy*

PALO ALTO, CA - The United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) celebrates 11 days of film programs in its 23rd year, starting on October 15, 2020. In this year's virtual platform, each film will be scheduled on a specific date, and will be available to be watched any time during that day, which is also the best way for viewers to stay in lockstep with the dense festival program. Each day of the Festival includes a live Zoom panel discussion at 6:00 PM (PDT) for festivalgoers to join and learn more about the films from the filmmakers, subjects of the films and experts. The schedule is online at:

<http://www.unaff.org/2020/schedule.html>

Link for tickets is:

<http://www.unaff.org/2020/tickets.html>

Below is opening day and opening weekend schedule of programs:

Thursday, October 15

Session 1

THE LAST MAMBO (US, 40 min)

THE GREAT AMERICAN LIE (US, 87 min)

A BLACK JESUS (Germany/Ghana/Italy, 92 min)

6:00 PM OPENING NIGHT - Opening words by Palo Alto Vice Mayor, Tom DuBois, and Meet the Filmmakers, Subjects of the Films and Experts (all guests subject to change)

Rita Hargrave, Director of *The Last Mambo*

Wayne Wallace, Co-Producer & Musical Director of *The Last Mambo*

Luca Lucchesi, Director of *A Black Jesus*

Dr. Tomas Jimenez, Stanford Professor and Immigration Expert (*A Black Jesus*)

theme: ***Differences and Tensions***

Friday, October 16

Session 2

LOLLY FONT, YOGA REBEL (US, 14 min)

PANDORA'S BOX (India/Kenya/Uganda/UK/US, 75 min)

Session 3

FROM FARMS TO INCUBATORS (US, 27 min)

RADIO SILENCE (Mexico/ Switzerland/US, 79 min)

Session 4

WHEN WOMEN WON (Ireland, 50 min)

#FEMALE PLEASURE (India/Italy/Japan/Kenya/Switzerland/US, 101 min)

6:00 PM Meet the Filmmakers, Subjects of the Films and Experts (all guests subject to change)

Liz Cane, Director of *Lolly Font*, *Yoga Rebel*

Lolly Font, Star of *Lolly Font*, *Yoga Rebel*

Carinne Chambers-Saini, EP, CEO, & Co-Founder of Diva International (*Pandora's Box*)

Rebecca Snow, Director of *Pandora's Box*

Amy Wu, Director of *From Farms to Incubators*

Jessica Gonzalez, Film Subject of *From Farms to Incubators*

Steven Lee, Local Government Representative

George Csicsery, Director of *Secrets of the Surface*

Dr. Mary McAuliffe, University College Dublin Professor and Expert in Irish Women's History

theme: ***The Fight of Courageous Women***

Saturday, October 17

Session 5 (UNAFF & Kids Program - free admission)

THE EXPERT (Spain, 22 min)

CITIZENKID: EARTH COMES FIRST (Canada/US, 23 min)

Session 6

REWILDING HONEYBEES (US, 9 min)

HOME RESTAURANT (US, 17 min)

FOLLOW THE DRINKING GOURD (US, 61 min)

SHEEP HERO (Netherlands/Romania, 81 min)

Session 7

THE KODIAK QUEEN (British Virgin Islands/US, 17 min)

THE LAST ICE (Canada/Denmark/Greenland/US, 83 min)

MEGAFIRES: INVESTIGATING A GLOBAL THREAT (Belgium/France/Japan, 91 min)

6:00 PM Meet the Filmmakers, Subjects of the Films and Experts (all guests subject to change)

Cosima Dannoritzer, Director of *Megafires*

Scott Ressler, Director of *The Last Ice*

Hannah Alper, Charlene Rocha, Sophia Mathur, and Cooper Price, Film Subjects/Youth Activists in *CitizenKid*

Dr. Ertharin Cousin, Former Executive Director of the World Food Programme (*Follow the Drinking Gourd*)

Shirah Dedman, Director of *Follow the Drinking Gourd*

Jordan Sanders, Film Subject of *Follow the Drinking Gourd*

Eda Benjakul, Director of *Home Restaurant*

Peter Ruddock, Director of Cook Alliance (*Home Restaurant*)

theme: ***Social and Climate Justice***

Sunday, October 18

Session 8

THE SACRIFICE ZONE (US, 32 min)

OVERLOAD: AMERICA'S TOXIC LOVE STORY (US, 71 min)

Session 9

THE THIRD HARMONY (US, 41 min)

IN THE EXECUTIONER'S SHADOW (US, 42 min) ERNIE AND JOE: CRISIS COPS (US, 96 min)

Session 10

SECRETS OF THE SURFACE: THE MATHEMATICAL VISION OF MARYAM MIRZAKHANI
(Iran/US, 60 min)

NAILA AND THE UPRISING (Israel/Palestine/US, 76 min)

6:00 PM Meet the Filmmakers, Subjects of the Films and Experts (all guests subject to change)

Ernie Stevens, Film Subject in *Ernie and Joe: Crisis Cops*

Michael Nagler, Director of *The Third Harmony*

Richard Stack, Director of *In the Executioner's Shadow*

Joel Beinin, Stanford Professor of Middle East History (*Naila and the Uprising*)

Soozie Eastman, Director of *Overload: America's Toxic Love Story*

theme: ***Crises and Responses***

LISTINGS SUMMARY

23rd UNAFF (United Nations Association Film Festival)

October 15-25, 2020

Taking place online

Program and schedule: <http://www.unaff.org>

E-mail: info@unaff.org

Phone: (650) 724-5544

Press photos are available at <http://www.unaff.org/2020/press.html>

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In eleven days from October 15-25, UNAFF will present documentaries spotlighting current events from across the globe, including Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Greenland, Guatemala, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Palestine, Pakistan, Russia, Serbia, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela, UK, and the US..

Topics covered in the films include: Werner Herzog meeting Mikhail Gorbachev gives a fresh insight into one of the most significant happenings of the late 20th Century; how a US value system built on the extreme masculine ideals of money, power and control has glorified individualism, institutionalized inequality, and undermined the ability of most Americans to achieve the American Dream; Wim Wenders about asylum seekers; black food justice movement; redefining policing and its mandate to "keep people safe," while transforming the ways in which law enforcement approach and help those

who suffer from mental illness; how the federal government, with crucial support from medical professionals and civil rights activists, leveraged Medicare funding to bring down the Jim Crow hospital system; Joan Baez learning the power of nonviolence from the Rev. Martin Luther King; young people around the world to put Earth first; how we got to be so overloaded with chemicals; a new generation of startups led by minority women are seeking to solve agriculture's problems with tech innovation; all over the globe, catastrophic wildfires are threatening not only our homes and our lives, but also the climate and our future.

This year's theme THE POWER OF EMPATHY continues the celebration more than two decades long of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, emphasizing our readiness to care about other people's emotional experiences and exploring possible paths emanating from it into the future.

The **UNAFF Visionary Award** will be presented to legendary singer, songwriter, musician and activist, **Joan Baez**, recognizing her life-long unwavering commitment to human rights, and her leadership, creativity, persistence, and vision, which inspired several generations to promote peace and a better future for all. Joan Baez is a key subject featured in *The Boys Who Said No!*, which profiles the young men and women who actively opposed the military draft in order to end the Vietnam War, and offered to stream on the Festival's Closing Day on Sunday, October 25. At the last of the daily panels on zoom that day starting 6pm, Joan Baez will participate and receive the award.

UNAFF 2020 will present 60 documentaries spotlighting current events from across the globe, including through its very popular programs UNAFF AND KIDS and UNAFF IN SCHOOLS. UNAFF is committed not only to presenting films, but also creating spaces where audience members can engage in ongoing dialogue about the subjects at hand. FREE online daily discussions "Meet the Filmmakers, Subjects of the Films and Experts" will take place during the eleven days of the Festival covering broad, timely, and thought-provoking topics.

The award-winning United Nations Association Film Festival 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 addition to providing early outlets for films, many of which have gone on to win major awards and accolades, UNAFF takes pride in creating a community forum for discovery and dialogue about different cultures, social issues and solutions. Over the years UNAFF has screened some of the most awarded and talked about documentaries in the industry, including eight that went on to win Academy Awards and thirty that were nominated. 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.

UNAFF's mission has expanded to broad, year-round programs that augment its reach. In addition to the annual film festival, UNAFF organizes panel discussions, initiates programs that engage children, students, seniors, veterans, hosts a traveling festival which keeps the films alive well beyond their initial festival showings and opens its doors to documentary film students and researchers.