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 or 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

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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.