



PRESS RELEASE

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**23rd UNAFF (United Nations Association Film Festival)
Schedule announced & tickets now on sale
To be held online October 15-25, 2020
with this year's theme *The Power of Empathy*,
emphasizing our readiness to care about other people's emotional experiences
Including World and U.S. Premieres of Groundbreaking Documentaries
which will change your view of the surreal world we live right now**

PALO ALTO, CA - The United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) is proud to announce its program and schedule for the 23rd year, with tickets now on sale. This year's event celebrates THE POWER OF EMPATHY through documentary films that highlight human rights issues, including social justice, climate change, racism, health, women's issues, universal education, war and peace. 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 (PST) for festivalgoers to join and learn more about the films from the filmmakers, subjects of the films and experts. The schedule is now online at:

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

Link for tickets is:

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

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 Festival's WORLD premieres are:

The Accused
Cirque du Cambodia
The Last Mambo
The Third Harmony
Why Doctors Write: Finding Humanity in Medicine

Short documentary films having their world premieres are:

Faith's World
I'm Not Bad Luck (The True Story Of Kesz Valdez)
Who Won the War

Documentaries screening in US premieres at the Festival are:

A Black Jesus
The Boys Who Said NO! (premiere shared with Mill Valley Film Festival)
Bureau 39 - Kim's Cash Machine
Day One
From Durban To Tomorrow
Laila at the Bridge
The Lesson
Line of Life
Marcel Duchamp: Art of the Possible
Tribes on the Edge
Voices of the Rohingya
When Women Won

Short documentary film US premieres are:

From Farms to Incubators
By the River
CitizenKid: Earth Comes First
Expert, The
Kodiak Queen, The
Song Sparrow

Feature and short films in West Coast premiere are:

In the Executioner's Shadow
Missing in Brooks County
Naila and the Uprising

Pandora's Box
Reversal of Fortune: Turkey's Unraveling Democracy
The Sacrifice Zone
Serendipity
Sheep Hero
Sonnie
Susana

Feature and short films in Bay Area premiere are:

Megafires. Investigating a global threat
Radio Silence
When We Walk
Our Flag Will Never Be Red
Overload: America's Toxic Love Story
Irse
Home Restaurant
Lolly Font, Yoga Rebel
Rewilding Honeybees

Completing the Festival schedule are:

#Female Pleasure
Ernie and Joe: Crisis Cops
Follow the Drinking Gourd
The Great American Lie
In My Blood It Runs
The Invisible Line - America's Nazi Experiment
The Last Ice
Meeting Gorbachev
A Normal Girl
Picture of His Life
Power to Heal: Medicare and the Civil Rights Revolution
Reunited States, The
Secrets of the Surface: The Mathematical Vision of Maryam Mirzakhani
This is Home A Refugee Story
Waging Change

UNAFF is delighted to present the work of groundbreaking work by female filmmakers; over 50% of this year's films are by women directors:

#Female Pleasure
The Boys Who Said NO
Day One
Ernie and Joe: Crisis Cops
The Expert
Faith's World
Follow the Drinking Gourd
From Farms to Incubators
The Great American Le
Home Restaurant

In My Blood It Runs
In the Executioner's Shadow
Laila at the Bridge
The Last Mambo
The Lesson
Lolly Font, Yoga Rebel
Megafires. Investigating a global threat
Missing in Brooks County
Naila and the Uprising
A Normal Girl
Overload: America's Toxic Love Story
Pandora's Box
Power to Heal: Medicare and the Civil Rights Revolution
Radio Silence
The Sacrifice Zone
Serendipity
Song Sparrow
Susana
Tribes on the Edge
Voices of the Rohingya
Waging Change
When Women Won
Who Won the War

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.

LISTINGS SUMMARY

23rd UNAFF (United Nations Association Film Festival)

October 15-25, 2020

Taking place online

For program and schedule: <http://www.unaff.org>

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

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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