



PRESS RELEASE

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United Nations Association Film Festival Presents its 23rd UNAFF Visionary Award to Joan Baez

The United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) is proud to announce that its annual **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 UNAFF Closing Night film **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. A passionate nonviolent activist, Joan was married to David Harris who was a leader in the draft resistance movement. **The Boys Who Said No!** is offered to stream on the Festival's **Closing Day** of the eleven days online film festival 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. All details can be found at unaff.org.

The awards and accolades given to Joan Baez over the last six decades are unique in reflecting both her legendary talents as a musical artist, and her dedication to human rights. From Grammys and induction to the Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame, to multiple awards from ACLU and Amnesty International, Joan Baez has been justly acknowledged for her timeless music, and the impact she has made to society and the world.

From the beginning, Joan's life's work was mirrored in her music. At a point when it was neither safe nor fashionable, Joan put herself on the line countless times. She has been among the first to recognize wrongs, and speak out – and sing out – to inspire change. The struggles she stood behind include the 1960s Civil Rights struggle, the Free Speech movement at UC Berkeley, opposition to the Vietnam war, support for migrant farm workers striking for fair wages, opposition to capital punishment, ending the violence in Northern Ireland in the 1970s, support for gay rights, the nuclear freeze movement, opposition to the Iraq war, many environmental causes, and others. She is cited for having an impact on the transition to a peaceful Chile, Czechoslovakia's Velvet Revolution, and the new millennium's protest movement against economic inequality.

The United Nations Association Film Festival was founded 23 years ago at Stanford and Palo Alto as a bridge to connect academia and the community through documentary filmmaking focusing on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. No doubt Joan's cosmopolitanism was informed through the influence of her father, who was a Stanford alumnus who worked for UNESCO. Since UNAFF is based in Palo Alto it is also proud to share Joan as a Palo Alto High School graduate and local resident, and sees

these connections with Stanford and Palo Alto as additional ties that make this choice even more relevant to our mission. As we celebrate the 75th United Nations Anniversary nobody could be more appropriate to embody this year's UNAFF theme THE POWER OF EMPATHY, than the compassionate activist and artist Joan Baez.

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

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