



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **24th ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL (UNAFF) PRESENTS CLOSING NIGHT ON OCTOBER 31**

#### **FILM SCREENINGS FOLLOWED BY AWARDS CEREMONY INCLUDING UNAFF GRAND JURY AWARDS**

#### **UNAFF VISIONARY AWARD PRESENTED TO CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA LEE AND HARRY BELAFONTE**

The United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF), in its 24th year, marks its closing day of documentary films on October 31, 2021, finishing 11 days of in-person film screenings and panel discussions. Three separate film programs screen on UNAFF Closing Day, in the afternoon and evening, followed by the Awards Ceremony, and a closing reception, all taking place at the Mitchell Park Community Center in Palo Alto.

On Closing Day, a special thank you will be given to many local health professionals, as invited guests to the medical care documentary **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**.

The screening of **TO THE STREET (A LA CALLE)** happens at a crucial and exciting time for one of the documentary's subjects. Youth resistance leader and former political prisoner Nixon Leal, featured prominently in the film, was granted asylum in the United States on Thursday, October 28, and is working on obtaining release from ICE detention in South Texas to attend the Closing Day screening. Nixon was imprisoned, tortured and persecuted by Venezuela's Maduro regime before escaping the country. In addition, the film's co-directors/producers Nelson G. Navarrete and Maxx Caicedo will be in attendance, along with producers Shawna Brakefield-Haase and Marcus Cheek.

The final Closing Night film echoes what we often ask of our the issues we face – are there solutions? The film **SOLUTIONS** helps address this, as a perfect complement to this year's UNAFF theme of "Moving Forward."

The annual UNAFF Visionary Award will be presented to two extraordinary leaders in the community dedicated to human rights: unique public servant, Congresswoman Barbara Lee; and legendary singer, songwriter, musician and activist, Harry Belafonte. The award is bestowed to each of them in recognition for their life-long unwavering commitment to human rights; and their leadership, persistence, and vision, which inspired several generations to promote economic, racial and social justice, peace and move us forward to a better and more just society. Congresswoman Lee, who is the subject of the film screened on UNAFF Opening Night, **BARBARA LEE: SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER**, will accept the award via a special recorded message.

Winners of the UNAFF Grand Jury Awards for the Best Documentary, Best Short Documentary, Best Cinematography, Best Editing, and Youth Vision Award will also be announced.

Below is Closing Day schedule of programs:

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 31

Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

### Session 22

1:00 PM / THE SEED (US, 30 min)

1:40 PM / IN CASE OF EMERGENCY (US, 81 min)

### Session 23

3:10 PM / ISRAEL-PALESTINE: A SWISS MAN IN THE EYE OF THE STORM (Israel/Palestine, 53 min)

4:20 PM / TO THE STREET (A LA CALLE) (Venezuela, 111 min)

### Session 24

6:30 PM / A FISTFUL OF RUBBISH (Spain, 14 min)

6:50 PM / SOLUTIONS (Denmark/US, 110 min)

9:00PM / Awards Ceremony and Closing Night Reception

Sponsored by Coupa Café and Hobee's / Music by the Potential Jazz Ensemble

Ticket: \$12 per film session (excludes reception) at <https://tickets.stanford.edu>

For more information: [www.unaff.org](http://www.unaff.org)

Press photos are available at <http://www.unaff.org/2021/press.html>

### THE SEED

Director/Producer: Helene Goupil

Guy Clark's grandfather owned a broom factory in North Carolina, one of the few Black business owners at the time, planted the seed for Clark to start his own business. Clark started his flower stand in 1982, at a time when the AIDS epidemic took over the Castro. He donated flowers for funeral after funeral and continues to show his generosity with people who come by his stand. In 2009, Clark gets evicted and loses his home of 28 years. After winning awards and various recognitions, Clark says he feels like his life is a seed, except in his case, the seed is getting smaller. After 38 years selling flowers in the Castro, Clark, 71, says he's ready for the end of the flower man and says that all one can do in life is prepare for the changing of the seasons.

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Director: Carolyn Jones

All of our country's biggest public health challenges—from COVID-19 to the opioid crisis to gun violence to behavioral health and lack of insurance—collide in emergency departments. Nearly half of all medical care in the U.S. is delivered in E.D.s and nurses are on the frontlines of that care, addressing our physical and emotional needs and sending us back out into the world.

### ISRAEL-PALESTINE: A SWISS MAN IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

Director: Xavier Nicol

Abuse of power, nepotism, management issues, and having an affair with a colleague. These are the accusations that last year forced Swiss national, Pierre Krähenbühl, to resign from his post of Commissioner General of the UNRWA, the UN agency that supports Palestinian refugees. But are they truth or fabrication? What is he really guilty of? Looking at previously unseen documents, Temps Présent picks up the trail of this scandal, detecting more than a whiff of geopolitical score-settling.

### TO THE STREET (A LA CALLE)

Directors: Nelson G. Navarrete, Maxx Caicedo

Film captures the remarkable courage of the Venezuelan people as they unite to restore liberty to their country from the key opposition figures including Leopoldo López — whose arrest and imprisonment inspired a national movement to grassroots activist Nixon Leal. As acting interim President Juan Guaidó works to rally international opposition to the Maduro regime, the corrupt dictator and his allies tighten their hold over a nation already crippled by hyperinflation, blocking life-saving humanitarian aid and repressing dissent with politically motivated arrests, torture and killings.

### A FISTFUL OF RUBBISH

Director/Producer: David Regos

This Western environmental documentary is set in the Tabernas Desert in Spain, Europe's only desert. Known for being the backdrop of many famous Western films, sadly, the area is being trashed. But now, with the help of some locals, an English ex-pat is forming a posse and taking things into his own hands. Literally.

### SOLUTIONS

Director: Pernille Rose Grønkjær

Led by digitalization, followed by new living and intelligent technologies, our world is being transformed in a way that's difficult for us to comprehend. A group of the world's leading scientists isolate themselves for 10 days at the renowned Santa Fe Institute. They come from all corners of science representing environment, economy, democracy, social media, education, status of institutions and artificial technology. Together, they want to start a revolutionary movement: to secure the future of humanity through science by finding the path to a new paradigm.

UNAFF 2021 is being held in total over eleven days, October 21-31, presenting in person 60 documentaries, in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Stanford University, and San Francisco. Details at [www.unaff.org](http://www.unaff.org).

*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 two 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.*