



**UNAFF (UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL)
IN-PERSON 60 GROUNDBREAKING DOCUMENTARIES
FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE THAT
WILL CHANGE YOUR VIEW OF THE WORLD**

OCTOBER 21-31

**24th Annual Event Returns to Theaters with Filmmaker Guests,
Highlighting Important Subjects Under the Theme “Moving Forward”**

The United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) is almost here, with screenings running October 21 through 31. This year’s theme MOVING FORWARD continues UNAFF’s two-decade-long celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, emphasizing our readiness to resume resolute strides towards lasting solutions. In addition to the documentary film screenings featuring 40 filmmakers for Q&A, UNAFF will present **six FREE panel discussions** focusing on issues such as crossing borders, reforming criminal justice, youth action for climate, mental health and sports, censorship and press, technology and our planet.

This year’s **UNAFF Visionary Award** will be presented to two extraordinary people: unique public servant, Congresswoman **Barbara Lee** and legendary singer, songwriter, musician and activist, **Harry Belafonte**, recognizing 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.

LISTINGS SUMMARY

24th UNAFF (United Nations Association Film Festival)

October 21-31, 2021

Venues:

October 21-25 & 30-31: Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

October 26: Stanford University, Stanford Medical School LKC

October 27: San Francisco, Roxie Theater, 3117 16th Street

October 28-29: Stanford University, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies Encina Hall, 616 Serra Street

Ticket prices: **\$12 PER FILM SESSION** (1.5 – 3 hours per session)/ **FESTIVAL PASS – \$220** (all sessions, *excludes Opening and Closing Night Receptions*)/ free admission to discussion panels

Roxie program tickets: \$13

Tickets available at **STANFORD TICKET OFFICE**: <https://tickets.stanford.edu>

Roxie program on 10/27 tickets available at: <https://bit.ly/unaffroxie>

Film programs are announced and listed at www.unaff.org

For more information: www.unaff.org
E-mail: info@unaff.org
Phone: (650) 724-5544

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

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

UNAFF Opening Night on Thursday, October 21 at the Mitchell Park Community Center in Palo Alto kicks off with a welcome by Palo Alto Mayor Tom DuBois. The first film **HUNGER WARD** examines the fight in Yemen to thwart the spread of starvation against the backdrop of a forgotten war, with the multiple Oscar-nominated director Skye Fitzgerald coming from the UK for the screening. Also visiting is director and war correspondent, Julian Sher from Canada for his film very timely film on the “forever war” against the Taliban, **GHOSTS OF AFGHANISTAN**. Rounding out Opening Night is filmmaker Abby Ginzberg’s inspiring **BARBARA LEE: SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER**, with a special message from Congresswoman Barbara Lee accompanying the film screening.

Friday, October 22 brings some diverse global stories, including **THE RETURN: LIFE AFTER ISIS**, a unique opportunity to learn about the Islamic State. **LION ON THE MAT** presents an Asian woman’s story, a single mother committed to martial arts, by local filmmaker Asali Echols. The story of a bold LGBT Muslim activist on sexual issues is told in **SEYRAN**. **ATES: SEX, REVOLUTION AND ISLAM**. Sexuality and sexism are the subject of **DICKTATORSHIP**, a view from Italy, which will be screened with its filmmaker in person.

“Crossing Borders” is the theme on **Saturday, October 23**, with films giving accounts of immigrants and refugees from Syria, India, Japan, and the U.S, followed by a free panel discussion on the subject. Switching to music, the inspiring **FOR THE LEFT HAND** reveals the discovery of a concert pianist discovered at age 78 (with filmmaker in person), and an acclaimed Brazilian jazz musician is featured in **RESURRECTION! AIRTO MOREIRA & THE PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND**, with filmmaker Dale Djerassi in person, with an extra treat of live music by Airto’s accomplished daughter and jazz singer Diana Purim, and her husband, hip hop artist, and bandmate Krishna Booker. Final films on Saturday are full of real life intrigue, as the celebrated “Robert Redford of Soviet cinema” defects to the U.S. in **OLEG**; expected guests are Joan Borsten, the film’s producer and wife of Oleg Vidov, and actor Costa Ronin who narrates as the voice of Oleg Vidov. Local filmmaker Ines Hofmann Kanna will be in person to screen **UNITED STATES VS. REALITY WINNER**.

On **Sunday, October 24**, UNAFF celebrates United Nations Day, with more global and local documentaries. The annual UNAFF & Kids Program presents a free afternoon screening to elementary students of local film **ZERO GRAVITY**, with its film makers and some of its young “stars” of the film in person. The evening finishes later with inspiring women young and old on

different sides of the globe: a Nepalese teen becomes a young woman as she reclaims her voice through filmmaking in **I AM BELMAYA**, and a 100-year-old park ranger in Richmond CA is celebrated in **NO TIME TO WASTE: THE URGENT MISSION OF BETTY REID SOSKIN**.

Criminal justice takes center stage with films screening on **Monday, October 25**, including **BELLY OF THE BEAST**, that reveals illegal sterilizations in California's women's prisons; and **THE FIRST STEP**, with a special focus on activist Van Jones. A free panel on the topic "Reforming Criminal Justice" accompanies the films.

Screenings on Stanford start on **Tuesday, October 26**, with afternoon and evening programs, including a pair of films dealing with disabilities: **GROUNDED**, and **FULL PICTURE** (with filmmaker in person.)

On **Wednesday, October 27**, just one week before the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, the highlight acclaimed **YOUTH V GOV** screens with an accompanying panel discussion on "Youth Action for Climate." This afternoon event in East Palo Alto is partnered with Anamatangi Polynesian Voices, a non-profit focusing on environmental justice for the underrepresented Pacific Islander community. That evening, UNAFF's San Francisco program at the Roxie Theater screens 4 films, including two music-oriented features. Filmmakers Marcia Jarmel and Ken Schneider will be in person to present **THE BROTHERS (LOS HERMANOS)**, following the parallel lives in New York and Havana of musician Afro-Cuban-born brothers. The rock documentary **FANNY: THE RIGHT TO ROCK** celebrates the untold story of a Filipina American garage band that morphed into the ferocious rock group Fanny, the first band of women with a major record label release, with director Bobbi Jo Hart in person, and musical performance by Fanny band member [Brie Darling](#) joined by Bay Area rapper & spoken word artist [Ruby Ibarra](#), in a special intergenerational collaboration of Filipina American artists.

The sports world has an increasing awareness of mental health, apparent in two films screening on Thursday, October 28, **MIND/GAME: THE UNQUIET JOURNEY OF CHAMIQUE HOLDSCLAW**, and **AULCIE**. A free panel discussion led by Stanford medical professors will cover "Mental Health and Sports."

Cuba and Iran films, respectively **FRENEMIES** and **COUP 53**, screen on Friday, October 29, accompanied by the free panel discussion on "From Havana to Tehran – Strained Relations."

Films on Saturday, October 30 tackle free speech, media and censorship, in different countries – Myanmar in **STRIKE WITH THE BEAT**, Hungary in **HELLO, DICTATOR. ORBÁN, THE EU AND THE RULE OF LAW**, and the U.S. in **THESE MOMENTS** and **TELL THE TRUTH AND RUN: GEORGE SELDES AND THE AMERICAN PRESS**. The conversation continues with the accompanying free panel discussion on "Telling the Truth about a Country."

As UNAFF 2021 wraps on **Sunday, October 31**, a special thank you will be given to many local health professionals, as invited guests to the medical care documentary **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**. Closing night also features an urgent report from the streets of Venezuela, **TO THE STREET (A LA CALLE)**. And the final Closing Night film echoes what we often ask of

our the issues we face – are there solutions?...the film **SOLUTIONS** will include Q&A with director Pernille Rose GrønkJær visiting from Denmark, with support by the Danish Consulate.

The films mentioned above are highlights – the entire program is at 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.