



**UNAFF (UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL)
PRESENTS ANNUAL KIDS PROGRAM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24 (the UN DAY!)**

The 24th United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) program in Palo Alto presents its annual award-winning program for elementary school children, UNAFF & Kids, that challenges our youngest to expand their awareness of the world around them, with activities for kids and parents.

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. UNAFF 2021 will be held in total over eleven days, October 21-31, presenting 60 documentaries, in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Stanford University, and San Francisco. The film programs are announced and online, with tickets on sale, at <http://www.unaff.org/2021/films.html>.

UNAFF & Kids

Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto,

Free admission. For more details about this special event please contact UNAFF & Kids Program Coordinator Priya Chandraker priyahd@unaff.org

For more information: www.unaff.org

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

Sunday, October 24, 1:00 PM

ZERO GRAVITY (US, 74 min)

Director: Thomas Verrette

Zero Gravity follows a diverse group of middle-school students from San Jose, CA, who compete in a nationwide tournament to code satellites aboard the International Space Station. Seen through the wondrous eyes of three young students and their first-time coach, they each take an intimate and personal journey to space as their team grows from amateur coders to representing California in the ISS Finals Tournament — the culmination of a summer-long adventure that sees their incredible accomplishment performed by astronauts in orbit. The competition in *Zero Gravity* is called Zero Robotics and is run by the MIT Space Systems Laboratory in collaboration with NASA and CASIS, and their goal is to utilize the International Space Station for student experiments in zero gravity in support of real-world problems facing space scientists today. The mission in the film is to create a GPS system around Mars for future exploration of the red planet.

FILMMAKERS PRESENT WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

For the full program, press material, photos and other details visit 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.