



PRESS RELEASE

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**25th ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL (UNAFF)
PRESENTS CLOSING NIGHT ON OCTOBER 30**

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

**UNAFF VISIONARY AWARD PRESENTED TO WELL-KNOWN DOCUMENTARY
FILMMAKER AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST DOROTHY FADIMAN**

The United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF), in its 25th year, marks its closing day of documentary films on October 30, 2022, 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.

The timely final Closing Night film THE JANES is set in the pre-Roe v. Wade era, and again in 2022, women's reproductive rights are at great risk. Special guest for THE JANES is Dorothy Fadiman, who made an important contribution to the documentary, with the donation of her interview footage shot in 1995 with Ruth Surgal and Jody Parsons, the Jane founders, who are now deceased.

Dorothy Fadiman also attends Closing Night to receive the annual UNAFF Visionary Award, in honor for her work as a well-known documentary filmmaker and human rights activist. UNAFF has screened several of Dorothy's film, including [WHEN ABORTION WAS ILLEGAL: UNTOLD STORIES](#), shown in 2004. UNAFF Founder and Executive Director, Jasmina Bojic said: "As we mark the 25th UNAFF Anniversary with the theme REFLECTIONS, it is very appropriate to give the UNAFF Visionary Award to a veteran filmmaker and human rights activist, recognizing her life-long unwavering commitment to human rights, creativity, persistence and vision, which inspired several generations to promote gender equality, a culture of peace and a better future for all."

Other films with special guests attending Closing Night are:

FOG: filmmakers Eduardo Dolhun and Gabrielle Mouritzen, and subject Chris Fitzsimmons

US KIDS: Director/Producer Kim A. Snyder, Producer Maria Cuomo Cole

KICKING BALLS: Director Vijayeta Kumar

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 30

Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Session 23

1:00 PM FOG (US, 10 min)

1:20 PM THE AMERICAN DREAM AND OTHER FAIRY TALES (US, 87 min)

Session 24

3:00 PM COEXIST (Iran, 12 min)

3:30 PM US KIDS (US, 96 min)

Session 25

5:30 PM KICKING BALLS (India, 37 min)

6:30 PM THE JANES (US, 101 min)

8:30 PM / 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>

Closing night reception with the filmmakers and films: \$40

For more information: www.unaff.org

Press photos are available at <http://www.unaff.org/2022/press.html>

FOG (US, 10 min)

Director: Michael Pedraza

In a city known for innovation and solving some of the world's most difficult challenges, San Francisco is faced with a crisis: how to address the worsening homeless situation.

As thousands of residents flee San Francisco to other parts of the United States, hundreds of homeless arrive in search of a city known for taking in the downtrodden and outcast. Moved to act, a local doctor begins a journey to chronicle the stories of homeless individuals in his community. What he discovers is shockingly transformative.

THE AMERICAN DREAM AND OTHER FAIRY TALES (US, 87 min)

Directors: Abigail E. Disney, Kathleen A. Hughes

In this personal essay documentary, filmmaker and philanthropist Abigail Disney grapples with America's profound inequality crisis. The story begins in 2018, after Abigail encounters workers at the company that bears her name struggling to put food on the table. Could she, a descendent, with no role in the multinational conglomerate, use her famous last name to help pressure Disney and other American corporations to

treat low-wage workers more humanely? Believing her conservative grandfather, Roy Disney, (Walt's brother and company co-founder) would never have tolerated employee hunger at "The Happiest Place On Earth," Abigail reexamines the story of modern American capitalism from the middle of the last century, when wealth was shared more equitably, to today, when CEOs often earn 800 times more than their average employees. What happened? What Abigail learns—about racism, corporate power, and the American Dream—is eye-opening, unexpected, and inspiring in that it illuminates a path to a fairer future for everyone.

[COEXIST](#) (Iran, 12 min)

Director: Komeil Soheili

Dela is a blind captain living on Hormuz Island in Southern Iran. While geopolitical tensions between Iran and the US rise, he practices a unique method of making bread that uses three unexpected elements from the island.

[US KIDS](#) (US, 96 min)

Director: Kim A. Snyder

From director Kim A. Snyder comes an insightful, rousing coming-of-age story of a generation of youth leaders determined to take the reins and fight for justice at a critical time in our nation's history. Sparked by the plague of gun violence ravaging their schools, Us Kids chronicles the March For Our Lives movement over the course of several years. Highlighting X Gonzalez and other young activists as they pull off the largest youth protest in American history, this film follows these changemakers as they set out to build an inclusive and unprecedented movement that addresses racial justice, a growing public health crisis, and a broken political system.

[KICKING BALLS](#) (India, 37 min)

Director: Vijayeta Kumar

Each year, 12 million girls are married before the age of 18. That's 23 girls every minute. In three small villages in Rajasthan, a non-profit organization is trying to change this through football. 200 teenage girls there are playing and training regularly. What sets them apart is that almost all of them are child brides. The film explores their sisterhood and journey as they gain confidence, independence, and agency to stand up to the patriarchy and say no to child marriage. Many have fought to get their marriages annulled. What the future holds for these little girls, nobody knows. But for now, they are in charge, they are confident, and they love kicking balls!

[THE JANES](#) (US, 101 min)

Directors: Emma Pildes, Tia Lessin

In the spring of 1972, police raided an apartment on the South Side of Chicago. Seven women were arrested and charged. The accused were part of a clandestine network; using code names, blindfolds, and safe houses to protect their identities and their work, they built an underground service for women seeking safe, affordable, illegal abortions. In the pre-Roe v. Wade era—a time when abortion was a crime in most states—the Janes provided low-cost and free abortions to an estimated 11,000 women.

ABOUT UNAFF

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-four 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.