



OPENING NIGHT

**25th ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL (UNAFF)
PRESENTS OPENING NIGHT ON OCTOBER 20 WITH THE THEME “REFLECTIONS”
SPECIAL GUESTS EXPECTED: PALO ALTO MAYOR PATRICK BURT,
FILMMAKERS MARGIE FRIEDMAN & BARBARA MULTER-WELLIN**

**UNAFF PRESENTS IN-PERSON SCREENINGS AND PANELS OCTOBER 20-30 OF
60 GROUNDBREAKING DOCUMENTARIES FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE
WHICH WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT THE WORLD**

(Palo Alto, CA) The United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) presents its Opening Night for its 25th anniversary on Thursday, October 20 at the Mitchell Park Community Center in Palo Alto, kicking off with a welcome by Palo Alto Mayor Patrick Burt and the PROCLAMATION for UNAFF’s 25th Anniversary. Three films screen on opening night, beginning with MALDITA. A LOVE SONG TO SARAJEVO, a poetic portrait of unique Balkan artist Božo Vrećo. Also screening is the inspiring ORCHESTRATING CHANGE, the story of Me2/Orchestra, changing the lives of musicians and audiences with mental illness, with the film’s Directors/Producers Margie Friedman and Barbara Multer-Wellin in person for Q&A. Rounding out Opening Night is the Oscar-nominated WRITING WITH FIRE, a look at India’s only newspaper run by women journalists.

“This year’s theme REFLECTIONS continues UNAFF’s enduring devotion to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, emphasizing the 25th Anniversary milestone and creating an opportunity to reflect on the ways UNAFF, our society and the world have changed over the last quarter century.,” said UNAFF Founder and Executive Director Jasmina Bojic.

THURSDAY October 20

Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

5:30 PM Opening Night Reception – sponsored by Adelante Coffee and Judy’s Breadsticks, music by POTENTIAL Jazz Ensemble

6:00 PM Opening words by Palo Alto Mayor, Patrick Burt

6:30 PM MALDITA. A LOVE SONG TO SARAJEVO (Bosnia and Herzegovina/Spain, 27 min)

7:10 PM ORCHESTRATING CHANGE (US, 85 min)

8:50 PM WRITING WITH FIRE (India, 93 min)

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

For more information: www.unaff.org

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

[MALDITA. A LOVE SONG TO SARAJEVO](#)

Directors: Amaia Remírez, Raúl de la Fuente Calle

Neither the weight of weapons, nor the ravages of history, nor the envy of those who want a "pure" world have managed to put an end to Sarajevo, which today resurfaces with more force than ever. In this film, Božo Vrećo, the most revolutionary of Balkan artists, perfectly embodies the soul of the "innocent city", and with his unapologetic attitude, he builds bridges between past and present, between men and women, between origins and regions. This film is an ode to life and to the love story between two cities, Sarajevo and Barcelona, who knew how to find each other in difficult times and never have to say goodbye again.

[ORCHESTRATING CHANGE](#)

Directors: Margie Friedman, Barbara Multer-Wellin

Orchestrating Change tells the inspiring story of Me2/Orchestra, the only orchestra in the world created by and for people living with mental illness and those who support them. The orchestra's mission is to erase the stigmatization of people living with mental illness through the creation of beautiful music, community, compassion and understanding... one concert at a time. Most importantly, it is changing the lives of the musicians and audiences in ways they never imagined. With compelling characters, striking animation, and humor, this film addresses many of the myths about mental illness by showing what living with a mental illness is really like, including both setbacks and accomplishments.

[WRITING WITH FIRE](#)

Directors/Producers: Rintu Thomas, Sushmit Ghosh, Patty Quillin, Hallee Adelman, Anurima Bhargava

This Academy Award-nominated film tells the story of courageous Indian women journalists. In the cluttered news landscape dominated by men emerges India's only newspaper run by Dalit women. Armed with smartphones, Chief Reporter Meera and her journalists break traditions, both on the frontlines of India's biggest issues and within the confines of their homes, redefining what it means to be powerful.

UNAFF 2022 will be held in total over eleven days, October 20-30, presenting 60 documentaries, in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Stanford University, and San Francisco. Details at www.unaff.org.