



PRESS RELEASE

October 17, 2022

MEDIA CONTACT: Steve Indig, UNAFF Publicist, publicist@unaff.org, 415-577-3656

25th UNAFF Visionary Award presented to Dorothy Fadiman

The United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) is proud to announce that its annual **UNAFF Visionary Award** will be presented to well-known documentary filmmaker and human rights activist, **Dorothy Fadiman**, one of whose several films screened at UNAFF was **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.”

Dorothy Fadiman made an important contribution to the new documentary **THE JANES**, with the donation of her interview footage shot in 1995 with Ruth Surgal and Jody Parsons, the Jane founders, who are now deceased. UNAFF Closing Night film **THE JANES** profiles the members of an underground group of women known as Jane, who risked their personal and professional lives to help women in need. In the pre-Roe v. Wade era — a time when abortion was a crime in most states and even circulating information about abortion was a felony in Illinois — the Janes provided low-cost and free abortions to an estimated 11,000 women. **THE JANES** will be presented on the Festival’s **Closing Day** of the eleven days in-person film festival on **Sunday, October 30**. After the film Dorothy Fadiman will receive the UNAFF Visionary Award. **THE JANES** screens at 6:30 PM, and the awards ceremony with reception starts at 8:30 PM. All details can be found at unaff.org.

From the beginning, Dorothy’s life’s work was mirrored in her filmmaking. At a point when it was neither safe nor fashionable, Dorothy put herself on the line countless times. She has been among the first to recognize wrongs, and speak out to inspire change. Dorothy moved to California to pursue graduate work in communication studies at Stanford University. In 1974, while she was trying to write a book about the light of Spirit, she was approached by a filmmaker, Michael Wiese, who suggested they make a film together. That collaboration became **RADIANCE**, her first production. Since then she has produced more than 20 films. Her book PRODUCING with PASSION: Making Films that Change the World follows her career and offers specific suggestions for independent filmmakers to use in their work as they find their unique voices through filmmaking. Dorothy teaches, gives seminars, leads workshops, and trains interns in filmmaking. She founded 40 years ago **CONCENTRIC MEDIA** to document stories of individuals and

communities working toward social justice, human rights and personal growth. Her awards include an EMMY, an OSCAR nomination, and a GOLD MEDAL from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. More details at www.concentric.org. Picture of Dorothy for press is [here](#).

The United Nations Association Film Festival was founded 25 years ago at Stanford and Palo Alto as a bridge to connect academia and the community through documentary filmmaking focusing on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since Dorothy Fadiman is a Stanford alumna and UNAFF is based in Palo Alto/Stanford, UNAFF is proud to share Dorothy's work several times. These connections with Stanford and Palo Alto are additional reasons that make the decision to honor her with the UNAFF Visionary Award even more relevant to the UNAFF mission and community.

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, and 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.

LISTINGS SUMMARY

25th UNAFF (United Nations Association Film Festival)

October 20-30, 2022

Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, San Francisco, Stanford University

For more information: www.unaff.org

E-mail: info@unaff.org

Phone: (650) 724-5544

Like UNAFF: www.facebook.com/UNAFF

www.twitter.com/unaff

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

Picture of Dorothy Fadiman

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2wgsfdf58anqs79/AACeJrNrTCxo6N4iBq3RQOrEa?dl=0>

(photo credit: [Scott R. Kline](#) for [InMenlo.com](#))