



## Announcing the 26th UNAFF

The 26th UNAFF (United Nations Association Film Festival) presents 60 documentary films providing “Solutions” to the world’s current burning problems and awards actor Michael Douglas with its Visionary Award.

**September 22, 2023**—The United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) is excited to announce its program for the 26<sup>th</sup> year. The festival will be held from **October 19-29, 2023** in **Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, San Francisco**, and at **Stanford University**. This year’s theme, [SOLUTIONS](#), emphasizes strategies and approaches that offer remedies for the world’s current burning problems. It continues UNAFF’s enduring devotion to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which celebrates its [75th anniversary](#) this year.

For eleven days, UNAFF will present **60 documentary films** from across the globe with representation from **56 percent women filmmakers** and **60 percent filmmakers of color**. There are **3 World Premieres, 12 US Premieres, 20 West Coast Premieres, and 10 Bay Area Premieres** this year. As one of the oldest documentary film festivals in the nation, the 26<sup>th</sup> UNAFF will spotlight current events from around the world, including Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, US, and Vietnam. For press information and film photo assets, please visit: <http://www.unaff.org/2023/press.html>.

Please find highlights of the festival below, including the program breakdown with locations.

### UNAFF VISIONARY AWARD RECIPIENT: MICHAEL DOUGLAS

The 26<sup>th</sup> UNAFF Visionary Award will be presented to Academy Award Winner and United Nations Messenger of Peace, [Michael Douglas](#). His work with the UN has strengthened peace and security by advocating gun control, protecting children in war zones, halting the illegal trade of arms, eliminating nuclear weapons, and promoting cooperation among nations through the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Douglas has remained committed to reducing military spending while promoting the UN Sustainability Goals. Additionally, he is an inspiration to audiences and communities through his philanthropy and promotion of documentary film projects. He is featured in [DOWNWIND](#), the Closing Night Film at this year’s festival, directed by Mark Samuel Shapiro and Douglas Brian Miller.

Douglas joins previous Visionary Award recipients such as **Congresswoman Barbara Lee**; human rights activist, actor and singer **Harry Belafonte**; singer and human rights activist **Joan Baez**; Academy Award Nominee and women’s rights advocate **Dorothy Fadiman**; philanthropist **Juliette Feeney-Timsit**; and Secretary General of the United Nations **Ban Ki Mun**.



Photo: United Nations

### OPENING AND CLOSING NIGHT REMARKS

Opening Night of the 26<sup>th</sup> annual United Nations Association Film Festival includes films programmed in tribute to those impacted by the Hawaii wildfires and Writers Guild of America Strike. Founder and Festival Director, Jasmina Bojic, states “It was important for me to include [WATERMAN](#) and [STILL WORKING 9 TO 5](#) due to the role climate change and labor issues are impacting our current moment.”



Photo: DOWNWIND, directed by Mark Samuel Shapiro and Douglas Brian Miller

On the heels of OPPENHEIMER, the festival presents [DOWNWIND](#) as its Closing Night Film. Directed by Mark Samuel Shapiro and Douglas Brian Miller, DOWNWIND is a harrowing expose of a Nevada testing site for 928 nuclear weapons on American soil from 1951 to 1992. Bojic explains, “As we seek solutions for our world’s problems, a critical view of what proceeds due to hasty applications of new technologies

is essential. While this film focuses on the impact of nuclear testing on indigenous communities, the ecology, and film industry, it also provokes reflection on the technological advances that cause unforeseen consequences in other areas, like how social media may affect mental health or how the Internet effects our political divides.” The film is narrated by Martin Sheen and features animated scenes from Academy Nominee Bill Plympton.

The [Potential Jazz Ensemble](#) will be providing music at both the Opening Night and Closing Night Receptions. They began as a group of Stanford University students and alumni in the early 1980s who enjoyed playing African-American Classical Music, otherwise known as jazz.

## **FREE EVENTS**

UNAFF is proud to present several free events for audiences to engage in ongoing dialogue regarding this year’s theme, SOLUTIONS.

The **UNAFF & Kids Program**, Session 4, on Saturday, October 21 at 1:00 PM in Palo Alto is free for audiences. Additionally, **six panel discussions** are also available at no cost:

**CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES**, Sunday, October 22 at 3:00 PM  
*Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road*

**THE POWER OF CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENTS**, Monday, October 23 at 6:15 PM  
*Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road*

**SOLVING HEALTH CRISES**, Tuesday, October 24 at 6:20 PM  
*Stanford University, Stanford Medical School Alway Building, 300 Pasteur Drive, Room Alway M106*

**THE WAYS WE LOOK AT ART, CREATIVE SPACE AND HISTORY**, Thursday, October 26 at 6:40 PM  
*Stanford University, Anderson Collection, 314 Lomita Drive*

**MAKING PEACE DURING THE WAR**, Friday, October 27 at 6:30 PM  
*Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road*

**RELIGION AND STATE**, Saturday, October 28 at 6:00 PM  
*Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road*

Students may receive free tickets to films with their student ID. Students and teachers are welcome to attend the **UNAFF in Schools**, Session 14, on Wednesday, October 25 at 3:10 PM in East Palo Alto for free. For more information, contact [info@unaff.org](mailto:info@unaff.org) or call (650) 724-5544.



## 26<sup>th</sup> UNAFF – “SOLUTIONS” – PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Please find the festival program below. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the [website](http://www.unaff.org/2023/schedule.html).

Find the festival program at: <http://www.unaff.org/2023/schedule.html>

Find individual film details at: <http://www.unaff.org/2023/films.html>

### **THURSDAY, October 19**

**Session 1** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

**5:30 PM** Opening Night Reception, sponsored by Oren’s Hummus and Terun with music by Potential Jazz Ensemble

**6:00 PM** Opening words by Palo Alto Mayor, [Lydia Kou](#)

**6:30 PM** [CELEBRATING 15](#) (Azerbaijan, 6 min)

**6:45 PM** [WATERMAN](#) (US, 93 min)

**8:30 PM** [STILL WORKING FROM 9 TO 5](#) (US, 95 min)

### **FRIDAY, October 20**

**Session 2** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

**4:45 PM** [HOME RIVER](#) (Finland, 25 min)

**5:20 PM** [CATEGORY WOMAN](#) (US, 76 min)

**Session 3** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

**7:00 PM** [BAHATI](#) (Canada/Rwanda 11 min)

**7:20 PM** [THE NEIGHBORHOOD STORYTELLER](#) (Jordan/United Arab Emirates, 50 min)

**8:20 PM** [SMOKE SAUNA SISTERHOOD](#) (Estonia, 89 min)

### **SATURDAY, October 21**

**Session 4** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

**UNAFF & Kids Program** (FREE Admission)

**1:00 PM** [LIGHT](#) (Kenya/US, 13 min)

**1:30 PM** [HELLBENT](#) (US, 19 min)

**Session 5** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

**2:30 PM** [ABUNDANCE: THE FARMLINK STORY](#) (US, 25 min)

**3:05 PM** [GREENER PASTURES](#) (US, 82 min)

**Session 6** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

**6:30 PM** [THE ENIGMA OF FAINA](#) (Azerbaijan, 5 min)

**6:45 PM** [IT'S JUST BUSINESS](#) (Greece/New Zealand, 8 min)

**7:00 PM** [TO KILL A TIGER](#) (Canada/India, 120 min)

## **SUNDAY, October 22**

**Session 7** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

**1:00 PM** [THE FOREST BEYOND](#) (Peru/US, 22 min)

**1:30 PM** [EVER GREEN](#) (US, 30 min)

**2:10 PM** [WINDSHIPPED](#) (US, 39 min)

**3:00 PM** **PANEL** "Climate Change Challenges" (FREE Admission)

**Session 8** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

**4:10 PM** [NANOBOTS, A FANTASTIC VOYAGE](#) (US, 30 min)

**4:50 PM** [THE RECYCLING MYTH](#) (Germany/Bulgaria/Turkey, 52 min)

**Session 9** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

**7:00 PM** [13 DRIVER'S LICENSES](#) (Germany/US, 27 min)

**7:40 PM** [ANDREI SAKHAROV ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WINDOW](#) (Israel/Russia, 73 min)

**9:00 PM** [UNARCHIVED](#) (Canda/US, 84 min)

## **MONDAY, October 23**

**Session 10** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

**4:00 PM** [OVERTOWN'S LIVING LEGACY](#) (US, 7 min)

**4:15 PM** [A GUNSHOT'S CRY](#) (US, 7 min)

**4:30 PM** [MOVE WHEN THE SPIRIT SAYS MOVE: THE LEGACY OF DOROTHY FOREMAN COTTON](#) (US, 89 min)

**6:15 PM** **PANEL** "The Power of Civil Rights Movements" (FREE Admission)

**Session 11** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

**7:30 PM** [EZEQUIEL BARAJA](#) (Argentina/Germany, 7 min)

**7:50 PM** [WHAT THESE WALLS WON'T HOLD](#) (US, 39 min)

**8:40 PM** [A CRIME ON THE BAYOU](#) (US, 91 min)

## **TUESDAY, October 24**

**Session 12** | Stanford University, Stanford Medical School Always Building, 300 Pasteur Drive, Room Always M106

**4:00 PM** [YOU ALWAYS SEE MYSELF](#) (US, 15 min)

**4:30 PM** [A STILL SMALL VOICE](#) (US, 97 min)

**6:20 PM** **PANEL** "Solving Health Crises" (FREE Admission)

**Session 13** | Stanford University, Stanford Medical School Always Building, 300 Pasteur Drive, Room Always M106



8:00 PM [UNNAMED](#) (Iran, 13 min)  
8:30 PM [THE HUMAN TRIAL](#) (US, 92)

### **WEDNESDAY, October 25**

**Session 14** | East Palo Alto, Eastside College Preparatory School, Eastside Theater, 1041 Myrtle Street  
**UNAFF in Schools** (FREE for Students and Teachers)

3:10 PM [CITIZENS OF NOWHERE](#) (US, 11 min)  
3:30 PM [BRIEF TENDER LIGHT](#) (Ghana/Nigeria/Rwanda/Tanzania/US/Zimbabwe, 93 min)

**Session 15** | San Francisco, Roxie Theater, 3117 16th Street

6:30 PM [HE HAD WINGS](#) (US, 29 min)  
7:10 PM [WHEN WE WERE BULLIES](#) (US, 35 min)

**Session 16** | San Francisco, Roxie Theater, 3117 16th Street

8:00 PM [MY NAME IS SIRI](#) (US, 15 min)  
8:30 PM [THE SECRET SONG](#) (US, 90 min)

### **THURSDAY, October 26**

**Session 17** | Stanford University, Anderson Collection, 314 Lomita Drive

4:00 PM [TOWN DESTROYER](#) (US, 53 min)  
5:00 PM [KING LEAR: HOW WE LOOKED FOR LOVE DURING THE WAR](#) (Ukraine, 91 min)  
6:40 PM **PANEL** "The Ways We Look at Art, Creative Space and History" (FREE Admission)

**Session 18** | Stanford University, Anderson Collection, 314 Lomita Drive

7:50 PM [WHAT WOULD YOUR SIGN SAY](#) (US, 7 min)  
8:00 PM [BACKLASH: MISOGENY IN THE DIGITAL AGE](#) (Canada/France/Italy/US, 79 min)

### **FRIDAY, October 27**

**Session 19** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

4:00 PM [WHEN THE BOMB DROPS](#) (Iraq/Netherlands, 51 min)  
5:00 PM [ISRAELISM](#) (Israel/Palestine/US, 84 min)  
6:30PM **PANEL** "Making Peace During the War" (FREE Admission)

**Session 20** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

7:40 PM [THEATERS OF WAR: HOW THE PENTAGON AND CIA TOOK HOLLYWOOD](#) (US, 87 min)  
9:10 PM [I WANTED TO BE A MAN WITH A GUN: THREE AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN WORLD WAR II](#) (US/Vietnam 90 min)

### **SATURDAY, October 28**

**Session 21** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

1:00 PM [THE TEST](#) (Ghana/US, 16 min)  
1:30 PM [FEAR NOT](#) (Côte d'Ivoire/US, 21 min)  
2:00 PM [SEEKING ASYLUM](#) (Mexico/US, 70 min)

**Session 22** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

3:20 PM [EVANGELICALS FROM FAITH TO POWER](#) (France/US, 150 min)  
6:00 PM **PANEL** "Religion and State" (FREE Admission)

**Session 23** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

**7:30 PM** [A HAND TO HOLD](#) (US, 23 min)

**8:00 PM** [HOLY PROSTITUTION](#) (Indonesia, 25 min)

**8:40 PM** [LET IT BE LAW](#) (Argentina, 87 min)

### **SUNDAY, October 29**

**Session 24** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

**1:00 PM** [BASEBALL BEHIND BARBED WIRE](#) (Japan/US, 30 min)

**1:40 PM** [THE MOVEMENT AND THE 'MADMAN'](#) (US, 54 min)

**Session 25** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

**3:00 PM** [DON'T COME BACK - IN THE RUINS OF MOSUL](#) (Iraq/Italy/France, 67 min)

**4:20 PM** [STRIPPED FOR PARTS: AMERICAN JOURNALISM AT THE CROSSROADS](#) (US, 90 min)

**Session 26** | Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

**6:10 PM** [BY MY SIDE](#) (US, 30 min)

**6:50 PM** [DOWNWIND](#) (US, 96 min)

**8:30 PM** Awards Ceremony & Closing Night Reception sponsored by Coupa Café and Hobee's with music by the Potential Jazz Ensemble

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

The festival will have film passes and individual tickets available. Students may receive free tickets by presenting their ID. More ticket information will be available on September 30, 2023 at <http://www.unaff.org/2023/tickets.html>.

### **ABOUT UNAFF**

Founded in 1998 by Jasmina Bojic, film critic and educator, UNAFF (United Nations Association Film Festival) is an international documentary film festival originally established to honor the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 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-five that were nominated. For more information about UNAFF, please visit [http://www.unaff.org/2023/files/UNAFF2023\\_About.pdf](http://www.unaff.org/2023/files/UNAFF2023_About.pdf).

The 26th UNAFF will be held from October 19-29, 2023 exploring the theme SOLUTIONS. UNAFF celebrates the power of films dealing with human rights, including environmental themes, women's issues, racism, child welfare, war and peace. Over its 25 years, UNAFF and its year-round programs have attracted a broad audience from around the Bay Area, with many finding the screenings to be a rare chance to engage with different cultures and see the state of human rights around the world and at home. UNAFF promotes education, awareness, and social change through images, dialogue, and action.