26th United Nations Association Film Festival

International Documentary Film Festival



DOCUMENTARIES THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR VIEW OF THE WORLD October 19-29, 2023 Stanford University • Palo Alto East Palo Alto • San Francisco unaff.org Ida international documentary association

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26 YEARS OF PROMOTING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING

UNAFF (UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL) CELEBRATES GROUNDBREAKING DOCUMENTARIES WITH 60 FILMS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR VIEW OF THE WORLD.

3 WORLD PREMIERES AND 12 US PREMIERES TO BE SCREENED OCTOBER 19-29 WITH THE THEME "SOLUTIONS". OVER 40 FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE THROUGHOUT THE IN-PERSON FESTIVAL.

Established in 1998 to honor the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNAFF has grown and earned the respect of audiences and filmmakers alike for its fearless independence and integrity, in the process becoming one of the oldest purely documentary film festivals in the US. In addition to providing early outlets for films, many of which later went on to win major awards and accolades, including Academy Awards, UNAFF prides itself in creating a community forum for discovery and dialogue about different cultures, issues and solutions.

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, of them 56 percent made by women filmmakers and 60 percent by filmmakers of color. It will spotlight current events from around the world, including Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Ćanada, China, Estonia, Finland, France, Ghana, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Rwanda, Tanzania, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, US, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

The 26th 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. He has remained committed to reducing military spending while promoting the UN Sustainability Goals. Additionally, Michael Douglas is an inspiration to audiences and communities through his philanthropy and promotion of documentary film projects. Michael 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; Silicon Valley pioneers William Draper III and Franklin "Pitch" Johnson; philanthropist Juliette Feeney-Timsit and Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki Mun

UNAFF is committed not only to presenting films, but also providing opportunities for audiences to engage in ongoing dialogue about the subjects at hand. In addition to 40 filmmakers available for Q&A, six free panel discussions will take place during the course of the festival, addressing issues such as climate change, racism and hate, making peace during the war, religion and state, creativity and disability, and the power of art to inspire social change.

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.

We are convinced that the 60 films which our jury has selected for you from our 600 submissions will offer you excitement, exhilaration, answers to many questions, and pose even more new ones, while shrinking the world and allowing you to embrace it through SOLUTIONS. We thank you all for your encouragement and with your support we hope to continue UNAFF and its programs in 2024.

asmina boyn

lasmina Boiic Founder and Executive Director **UNAFF & UNAFF Traveling Film Festival**



Founder and Executive Director Jasmina Bojic

Honorary Committee

Joan Baez Alec Baldwin Jeff Bridges Peter Coyote Lolita Davidovich William Draper III Danny Glover Daryl Hannah Gale Anne Hurd Walter Murch Susan Sarandon John Savage Erika Szanto Ted Turner Barbara Trent Zucchero

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UNAFF2023

THURSDAY OCTOBER 19 OPENING

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

5:30 PM Opening Night Reception Sponsored by Coupa Café and Terun music by POTENTIAL Jazz Ensemble

6:00 PM Opening words by Palo Alto Mayor Lydia Kou

SCREENINGS

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6:30 PM CELEBRATING 15 (Azerbaijan, 6 min) 6:45 PM WATERMAN (US, 93 min) 8:30 PM STILL WORKING 9 TO 5 (US, 95 min)

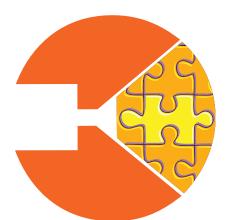
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 **CLOSING**

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

SCREENINGS

6:10 PM BY MY SIDE (US, 30 min) 6:50 PM DOWNWIND (US, 96 min)

8:30 PM Awards Ceremony and Closing Night Reception sponsored by Oren's Hummus and Judy's Breadsticks **Music by the Potential Jazz Ensemble**





FILMS A-Z

DIR: Owen Dubeck

assistance.

(23 min) US



13 DRIVER'S LICENSES DIR: Sue Williams DIR: Ryoya Terao PROD: Vinit Parmar, Elisabeth Gareis

The discovery of 13 confiscated driver's licenses from 1938 leads Lichtenfels, a small town in Germany, to face its horrendous and regrettable past. With no other clue but those licenses, a group of high-school students and their tenacious teacher research the fates of the town's former Jewish citizens. A year later, an unexpected turn takes place. The modern-day Germans and some of the Jewish descendants from overseas gather in "their hometown," and a fortuitous friendship begins. (27 min) Germany/US

S09 SUN OCT 22 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:00 PM



BACKLASH: MISOGYNY IN THE DIGITAL AGE DIR: Guylaine Maroist, Léa Clermont-Dion PROD: Guylaine Maroist, Eric Ruel This bleak opus, reminiscent of a psychological thriller, follows four women across two continents: former President of the Italian parliament Laura Boldrini, former Democratic representative Kiah Morris, French actor and YouTuber Marion Séclin, and Donna Zuckerberg, a specialist in online violence against women and the sister of Facebook's founder. This tour de force reveals the devastating effects such unapologetic hatred has on victims, and brings to light the singular objective of cyber-misogyny: to silence women who shine. (79 min) Canada/France/Italy/US S18 THU OCT 26 SU - ANDERSON COLL. 8:00 PM

BAHATI

DIR: Harun Yasin Tuna, Leila Shifteh PROD: Harun Yasin Tuna Animated docu-short follows a Rwandan refugee's deeply personal story of displacement and survival. Through hand-drawn animation and her own voice, Bahati's journey captures one young woman's attempt to regain control of her life, as she faces her past to make space for her future. (11 min) Canada/Rwanda

S03 FRI OCT 20 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:00 PM



ABUNDANCE: THE FARMLINK STORY

PROD: Chris Temple, Zach Ingrasci, Jenna Kelly As the largest food crisis in a century unfolds, a group of college students decides to take matters into their own hands. They rent uHaul trucks to deliver extra food from farms to their local food bank that is on the verge of closing its doors. The group's grassroots efforts spread like wildfire, inspiring hundreds of other students across the country to join in delivering food to families in need of food

S05 SAT OCT 21 PA - MITCHELL PARK 2:30 PM

ANDREI SAKHAROV ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WINDOW

DIR/PROD: Dmitry Zavilgelsky The film shows the fate of the famous physicist, human rights activist, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Academician Andrei Sakharov. It refers to previously unpublished declassified materials from the archives of the KGB made during exile in the city of Gorky, memories of friends, and Sakharov himself. From the film, the viewer learns not only a lot about the fate of Academician Sakharov, but also about how the hydrogen bomb works and how it differs from the atomic one. (73 min) Israel/Russia

S09 SUN OCT 22 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:40 PM



BASEBALL BEHIND BARBED

DIR: Yuriko Gamo Romer PROD: Yuriko Gamo Romer, Marc Smolowitz It is a story of the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans, through the uncommon lens of baseball. Japanese Americans incarcerees had their citizenship and civil rights taken away and were forcibly confined from 1942-45. Playing baseball was a chance to assert their citizenship and affirm their loyalty as Americans, even as camp guards in towers pointed their rifles inward and the barbed wire kept them confined. (30 min) Japan/US

S24 SUN OCT 29 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:00 PM



At America's elite MIT, a Ghanaian alum follows four African

students as they strive to graduate and become agents

of change for their home countries: Nigeria, Rwanda,

Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. Over an intimate, nearly

decade-long journey, all must decide how much of

America to absorb, how much of Africa to hold on to,

discover about the world and themselves.

and how to reconcile teenage ideals with the truths they

(90 min) Ghana/Nigeria/Rwanda/Tanzania/US/Zimbabwe

S14 WED OCT 25 EPA - EASTSIDE COLLEGE PREP.



BY MY SIDE DIR: Vicki Topaz, Wynn Padula PROD: Vicki Topaz, Michael Collins A story of journey and return, of veterans and their families rescued by their service dogs from the pitfalls of PTSD to a promising sense of hope and restoration. (30 min) US S26 SUN OCT 29 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:10 PM



'identified' female athletes must medically alter their healthy bodies, under the guise of fair play, four champion runners from the Global South, fight back against racism, the policing of women's bodies in sport and the violation of their human rights.

(76 min) Canada S02 FRI OCT 20 PA - MITCHELL PARK 5:20 PM



EVANGELICALS FROM FAITH TO POWER DIR: Thomas Johnson

PROD: Philippe Gonzales, Artline Films Paris How a religious movement became a political weapon. Evangelical Christianity has extended to all spheres of society, bringing leaders like Donald Trump and Jair Bolsonaro to power. From the Cold War to the present day, the film traces the extraordinary rise of the movement on all continents, mapping its growing influence in religious, social and political arenas. (156 min) France/US

S22 SAT OCT 28 PA - MITCHELL PARK 3:20 PM

EVER GREEN DIR/PROD: Melissa Young, Mark Dworkin For almost 40 years, partners Marianne Edain and Steve Erickson have worked continually to retain the rural character and ecological diversity of Whidbey Island in Puget Sound, north of Seattle. Through their organization, Whidbey Environmental Action Network, they have helped keep trees standing and protected sensitive island ecosystems (30 min) US

S07 SUN OCT 22 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:30 PM

DIR: Jeremy Seifert, Fred Bahnson

PROD: Fred Bahson, Olivia Palma



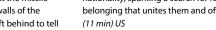
CELEBRATING 15 DIR/PROD: Atanur Nabiyeva

BRIEF TENDER LIGHT

DIR/PROD: Arthur Musah

3:30 PM

Akerovs' family is preparing to celebrate Nigar's 15th birthday. The family doesn't know yet that the missile attacks will destroy all of their lives. The walls of the destroyed house and their belongings left behind to tell the stories of the family and their happy past memories. (6 min) Azerbaijan S01 THU OCT 19 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:30 PM



3:10 PM



A CRIME ON THE BAYOU DIR/PROD: Nancy Buirski

In 1966, young Black fisherman Gary Duncan tries to break up a fight between white and Black teenagers outside a newly integrated school in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. During the confrontation, he touches one of the white teens on the arm. That night, police arrest 19-year-old Duncan for assault on a minor. In Washington, DC, a young Jewish attorney Richard Sobol leaves a prestigious law firm to offer his legal services as a volunteer for the Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee. With Sobol's help, Duncan confronts a racist Louisiana legal system. (91 min) US

S11 MON OCT 23 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:40 PM



DON'T COME BACK- IN THE RUINS OF MOSUL DIR/PROD: Chiara Avesani, Matteo Delbò

July 2017, Mosul is freed but left in ruins. Ghadeer, a young journalist who fled to Brussels when Mosul fell into the hands of ISIS, decides to abandon the promise of a future in Europe to return to the city that had seen him growing up. He and several friends create Radio One FM, a radio station independent from any religious, communitarianism or political ties, one that could help to restore social and political dialogue as well as peaceful coexistence in a war-torn society. But without external financing nor advertisement, the Radio faces economic instability. (67 min) Iraa/Italy/France

S25 SUN OCT 29 PA - MITCHELL PARK 3:00 PM

4

DOWNWIND

DIR: Mark Samuel Shapiro, Douglas Brian Miller PROD: Mark Samuel Shapiro Hiroshima. Nagasaki. Mercury, Nevada? The latter was the site for the testing of 928 nuclear weapons on American soil from 1951 to 1992. The fallout is still lethally impacting Americans today. Martin Sheen narrates this harrowing exposé of the US' disregard for everyone living. Despite a moratorium on testing, the Nevada Test Site remains operational and off-limits with the possibility that testing could resume any day. (94 min) US

S26 SUN OCT 29 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:50 PM

THE ENIGMA OF FAINA DIR/PROD: Durna Safarova Faina, a 33-year-old woman from Azerbaijan, loses her

life under suspicious circumstances in a prison in 2007. Silenced today by the authorities and forgotten by society, Faina's story is about a female activist who fought for freedom, justice and democracy. (5 min) Azerbaijar

S06 SAT OCT 21 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:30 PM



FEAR NOT

DIR/PROD: Annette King, Ivanovitch Ingabire Growing up impoverished in the lvory Coast, Evelyne Keomian was deprived of education and slipped into schools in a culture where only boys were educated. Determined to break the cycle of poverty through education, she founded the Karat School Project in the Ivory Coast to empower the next generation of leaders. After immigrating to the US, she notices families living in vehicles around Silicon Valley who face barriers she once endured so she decided to expand the KSP mission in Palo Alto. (21 min) Côte d'Ivoire/US

S21 SAT OCT 28 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:30 PM

(15 min) Peru/US

A HAND TO HOLD **DIR: Reed Martin** and connection. (23 min) EUS S23 SAT OCT 28 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:30 PM

S10 MON OCT 23 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:15 PM

As the epidemic of mass shootings and gun violence rip

through American communities, filmmaker Nyla Melvin

turns the camera on herself and her poetry. Speaking also

to the disproportionate amount of police brutality against

African Americans Melvin creates an unvarnished account

of the most devastating -- and intractable -- problems of

A GUNSHOT'S CRY

DIR: Nyla Melvin

ourtime

(7 min) US

PROD: Tom Shepard



CITIZENS OF NOWHERE DIR/PROD: Alicia Sully Millennials in the US discover their lack of legal

nationality, sparking a search for recognition and belonging that unites them and offers hope for the future. S14 WED OCT 25 EPA - EASTSIDE COLLEGE PREP.





EZEQUIEL BARAJA

DIR/PROD: Juan Fernandez Gebauer After an armed robbery, Ezequiel was arrested and sent to prison. During his imprisonment, he discovered an opportunity that never appeared when he was free. (7 min) Argentina/Germany S11 MON OCT 23 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:30 PM



As a young Shibibo woman living along the Ucayali River in the community of Santa Isabel de Bahuanisho, Senen Kaisi grew up hearing about the massive bahuanisho trees for which her community was named. In recent years, illegal loggers, colonizing settlers, and palm plantations have increasingly devoured the Shipibo's ancestral forests, and now Senen vows to discover the primary forests of her people's lands.

S07 SUN OCT 22 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:00 PM

GREENER PASTURES

DIR: Samuel-Ali Mirpoorian

PROD: Samuel-Ali Mirpoorian, Ian Robertson Kibbe This is an urgent and intimate look at American farming, told through the stories of farmers living at the intersection of climate change, globalization and a mental health crisis. It captures the day-to-day lives of four small, multigenerational family farms over the course of four years. Through an intimate, observational lens we examine the various farm stressors, policies and politics farmers must maneuver to survive, connecting the dots between mental health, industrialization, food production and climate change. (82 min) US

S05 SAT OCT 21 PA - MITCHELL PARK 3:05 PM



HE HAD WINGS

DIR: Jeanne Marie Hallacy PROD: Gregg Butensky The film presents a portrait of the prolific artist, Ronnie Goodman, and the impact of his creative activism to stand for social justice. He Had Wings provides insight into the trauma and resilience of Ronnie's journey as one of the thousands experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. The film shows how people like him, and his friend, Alton "Coach" McSween can have a positive impact on those who battle the crisis currently affecting the wealthy City by the Bay. (29 min) US

S15 WED OCT 25 SF - ROXIE THEATER 6:30 PM



HELLBENT

DIR: Justin Grubb, Annie Roth PROD: Mathew Podolsky, Justin Grubb In a small rural town in Pennsylvania, the refuge of a rare salamander and the only source of clean drinking water for 700 people is threatened by the installation of a fracking waste injection well, prompting community members to band together and mount an epic fight for the rights of their people and nature. (19 min) US

S04 SAT OCT 21 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:30 PM



HOLY PROSTITUTION

DIR: Natasha Dematra PROD: Cheryl Halpern

Also known as a "marriage of convenience," the practice of Mut'ah marriage is regarded by many as an exploitative form of legalized prostitution and is widely banned. This film explores this young Indonesian woman's experience in the Puncak region through her own testimonial and reenactments. We applaud her courage to share her story and have done everything to protect her identity. (25 min) Indonesia

S23 SAT OCT 28 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:00 PM

The day that we lose our connection to t ands and waters, re no longer

HOME RIVER

DIR/PROD: Kati Eriksen and Scott Thornton

In 2017, three Sámi women broke the law to protect their traditions. The Sámi people had fished the Deatnu River as a livelihood and spiritual practice for centuries until Finland enforced unprecedented restrictions on the river. In a monumental case for Indigenous rights, Kati, Ánne, and Heidi fought the state to keep their culture alive. (25 min) Finland

S02 FRI OCT 20 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:45 PM



LIGHT

DIR: Nicole Watson PROD: Beryl Omondi Light takes us on a journey, in a classic land rover defender, with a passionate team, into the last mile region of Northern Kenya. There we discover the impact that portable solar light has on students who live without electricity access. We learn the challenges they face in getting an education. (13 min) Kenya/US

S04 SAT OCT 21 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:00 PM

MOVE WHEN THE SPIRIT SAYS MOVE: THE LEGACY OF DOROTHY FOREMAN COTTON DIR: Ry Ferro, Deborah C. Hoard

PROD: Deborah C Hoard A story about the power of protest. Two enormous Dorothy Foreman Cotton was a bold and highly effective antiwar demonstrations in the fall of 1969, the largest the civil rights leader, who educated thousands about their country had ever seen, caused President Nixon to cancel his secret "madman" plans for a massive escalation of citizenship rights and inspired generations of activists with her powerful freedom songs. The only woman on Dr. Martin the U.S. war in Vietnam, including threats to use nuclear Luther King Jr. 's executive staff, Dorothy was a charismatic, weapons. At the time, protestors had no idea what they courageous and consistently overlooked key player in the had prevented. This film reveals what happened from Civil Rights Movement, whose freedom schools, freedom the perspective of antiwar organizers and those inside songs and messages of empowerment are profoundly the White House working with Nixon and his top foreign needed today policy aide, Henry Kissinger. (89 min) US (82 min) US/Vietnam S10 MON OCT 23 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:30 PM S24 SUN OCT 29 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:40 PM





In 2011, filmmakers Lisa Hepner and Guy Mossman heard about a radical stem cell treatment for diabetes, a disease that kills more than five million people each year. Driven by a desire to cure Lisa of her own type 1 diabetes, they secured unprecedented access to a clinical trial led by San Diego-based biotech company ViaCyte—only the sixth-ever embryonic stem cell trial in the world. What follows is an intimate journey with the patients and scientists who put themselves on the line to

be first. (54 min) US

S13 TUE OCT 24 SU - MED. ALWAY BLDG 8:30 PM



I WANTED TO BE A MAN WITH A GUN: **THREE AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN WORLD** WAR II

DIR: William Farley

PROD: Douglas Hollis, Herbert Gold, William Farley Three American soldiers, two Jewish and one Christian, recount their experiences in WWII through the prism of their 90-year-old selves, revealing the shocking secrets of taking revenge on the enemy, the consequences of which still linger heavily in their lives. This powerful and poetic film employs a haunting original score integrated with rare archival footage, ultimately revealing that even in a justifiable war no soldier escapes the trauma of the requirement to kill or be killed. (90 min) US/Vietnam

S20 FRI OCT 27 PA - MITCHELL PARK 9:10 PM



ISRAELISM DIR: Eric Axelman, Sam Eilertsen PROD: Daniel J Chalfen, Eric Axelman Two young American Jews - Simone Zimmerman and Eitan - are raised to defend the state of Israel at all costs. Eitan joins the Israeli military. Simone supports Israel on 'the other battlefield:' America's college campuses. When they witness Israel's mistreatment of the Palestinian people with their own eyes, they are horrified and heartbroken – the Jewish institutions that raised them not only lied, but built their Jewish identity around that lie. Their stories reveal a generational divide in the American Jewish community as more young Jews question the narratives their synagogues and Hebrew school teachers fed them as children. (84 min) Israel/Palestine/US

S19 FRI OCT 27 PA - MITCHELL PARK 5:00 PM



LET IT BE LAW DIR/PROD: Juan Solanas

In Argentina, one woman dies every week as the result of illegal abortions. In 2018, for the seventh time, a motion supporting legal, secure and free abortion was presented to the National Congress. The project provoked a fierce debate, revealing a society divided more than ever between the pro-life and freedom to choose positions. The film documents the determination of women fighting bravely to secure the right to physical self-determination, and bears witness to their massive mobilization in the streets of Buenos Aires. (87 min) Araentina

S23 SAT OCT 28 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:40 PM



MY NAME IS SIRI DIR/PROD: Sarah Moshman

In the San Francisco Bay Area, the Chettipally family has been quietly raising 3 children for the past 30 years. One of their children is the incredibly special Siri, who was diagnosed with non-verbal autism at age 3. Against all odds, Siri bravely fought through many hurdles to create a meaningful life while also learning to communicate like never before. My Name Is Siri is an inspirational story about resilience, a mother's unconditional love, and a family determined to create a better life for their daughter. (15 min) US

S16 WED OCT 25 SF - ROXIE THEATER 8:00 PM

NANOBOTS, A FANTASTIC VOYAGE DIR: Robert Brown

PRO: Robert Brown, Trevor Nuenswander A documentary on the leading edge of science and technology explores the realm of science fiction becoming science fact, as nanobots go from the theme of a cleverly crafted movie plot, to a real-life technology that can potentially have a giant impact on humanity and our future. (30 min) US S08 SUN OCT 22 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:10 PM

OVERTOWN'S LIVING LEGACY DIR/PROD: Gina Margillo When developers and city planners say they are "revitalizing" the historic black neighborhood of Overtown, in Miami Florida, they ignore its rich history and the community that has been living there for decades. (7 min) US

S10 MON OCT 23 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:00 PM

THE RECYCLING MYTH DIR: Tom Costello, Benedict Wermter

PROD: Tristan Chytroschek What really happens to our plastic waste once we put it in the recycling bin? As the plastic pollution crisis has become an international scandal, the biggest consumer goods brands on earth have declared they have a solution: recycling. But our plastic packaging is still more likely to end up being burned or dumped than recycled. As we all pick up the bill for a world drowning in plastic, the film asks: who is getting rich? (52 min) Germany/Bulgaria/Turkey S08 SUN OCT 22 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:50 PM

IT'S JUST BUSINESS DIR/PROD: Judy Boyle

It's Just Business is a short film about the crime of human trafficking and modern slavery. But the point of view is unexpected and disturbing. The film is surreal, dreamlike, non-linear and experimental. (8 min) Greece/New Zealand S06 SAT OCT 21 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:45 PM



KING LEAR: HOW WE LOOKED FOR LOVE DURING THE WAR DIR: Dmytro Hreshko

PROD: Polina Herman

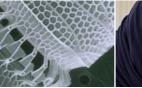
Due to the full-scale Russian invasion in Ukraine, tens of thousands of Ukrainians, fleeing the war, found refuge in a small town in western Ukraine. A local director decides to involve non-professional actors - displaced people - in bringing his dream to life to stage the King Lear play. (91 min) Ukraine

S17 THU OCT 26 SU - ANDERSON COLL. 5:00 PM





THE MOVEMENT AND THE 'MADMAN **DIR: Stephen Talbot** PROD: Robert Levering





THE NEIGHBORHOOD STORYTELLER DIR: Alejandra Alcala PROD: Francisco Alcala War tragically pushed Asmaa out of her home country, Syria, where her destiny had been written as a wife and mother at only 16 years of age. Asmaa rebuilt her adult identity as the neighborhood storyteller and began reading aloud to children for fun as a bridge to tackle critical issues in her new community at the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan. Her project empowered teenage girls to build a future of opportunities she never had. (50 min) Jordan/United Arab Emirates S03 FRI OCT 20 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:20 PM



THE SECRET SONG

DIR: Samantha Campbell PROD: Todd Dayton, Rachel Benson The film chronicles the final months of Doug Goodkin's

fabled 45-year career teaching music to children in San Francisco. Goodkin's time-tested methods are thrown into disarray as the pandemic forces schools into "distance" learning, and a music program that always prioritized singing and learning "through the ear, not through the eye" has to adapt to an online format. The film shows how a sense of belonging helps us surmount hardships and adversity. (90 min) US

S16 WED OCT 25 SF - ROXIE THEATER 8:30 PM





PROD: Kelly Scott

We follow one woman's journey as she searches for

protection for her and kids. Many people view getting to the U.S. as the final hurdle of the migration journey, but we quickly learn that once in the U.S. the fight has just begun. During one of the most uncertain times in our country's history, the film documents the challenges asylum seekers face and shows why asylum is an integral part of the American Dream that we cannot afford to lose. (70 min) Mexico/US

S21 SAT OCT 28 PA - MITCHELL PARK 2:00 PM

SMOKE SAUNA SISTERHOOD DIR: Anna Hints

PROD: Marianne Ostrat In the darkness of a smoke sauna, women share their innermost secrets and intimate experiences, washing off the shame trapped in their bodies and regaining their strength through a sense of communion. (89 min) Estonia

S03 FRI OCT 20 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:20 PM

A STILL SMALL VOICE

DIR: Luke Lorentzen PROD: Kellen Quinn

(97 min) US

Film shows Mati, a chaplain completing a year-long hospital residency, as she learns to provide spiritual care to people confronting profound life changes. Through Mati's experiences with her patients, her struggle with professional burnout, and her own spiritual questioning, we gain new perspectives on how meaningful connection can be and how painful its absence is.

S12 TUE OCT 24 SU - MED. ALWAY BLDG 4:30 PM



UNARCHIVED

DIR/PROD: Hayley Gray

In community archives across British Columbia, local knowledge keepers are hand-fashioning a more inclusive history. Through a collage of personal interviews, archival footage and deeply rooted memories, the past, present and future come together, fighting for a space where everyone is seen and everyone belongs. History is what we all make of it. (84 min) Canada

S09 SUN OCT 22 PA - MITCHELL PARK 9:00 PM

UNNAMED DIR/PROD: Iranmehr Salimi Zainab is a successful girl who supports her family financially, but considers herself a boy in spirit, and now she has decided to undergo gender transition, but in addition to her family's opposition and the society's inappropriate view of this issue, she has more difficulties. She played in the country's national volleyball team for a while and is now in the Bartar league, but she might be removed from professional volleyball forever due to her short stature compared to men. (13 min) Iran S13 TUE OCT 24 SU - MED. ALWAY BLDG. 8:00 PM



STILL WORKING 9 TO 5 DIR: Camille Hardman, Gary Lane PROD: Gary and Larry Lane

When the highest grossing comedy, 9 to 5, starring Jane Fonda, Dolly Parton, Dabney Coleman and Lily Tomlin, exploded on the cinema screens in 1980, the laughs hid a serious message about women in the office. Still Working 9 to 5 explores why workplace inequality 40 years later is no longer a laughing matter. (95 min) UK/US

S01 THU OCT 19 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:30 PM

STRIPPED FOR PARTS: AMERICAN JOURNALISM ON THE BRINK DIR/PROD: Rick Goldsmith

In 2011, a Wall Street hedge fund, Alden Global Capital, started retirement community dreams of becoming an buying up chains of newspapers nationwide. Alden found a way to profit from distressed industries, but the effects on the newspapers' journalism were disastrous. Reporter Julie Reynolds began investigating this hedge fund that had bought her own small-town daily along with more than 100 other newspapers nationwide. She exposed how these selfdescribed "vulture capitalists" would strip the newspapers of their real estate, gut their newsrooms and run away with the profits. Reynolds' reporting reached The Denver Post's Chuck Plunkett, whose subsequent editorial criticizing Alden would trigger the "Denver Rebellion." (90 min) US

S25 SUN OCT 29 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:20 PM



THE TEST DIR/PROD: Claudia Myers, Laura Waters Hinson A Ghanaian maintenance technician at a Virginia

American citizen to provide a better life for his family. With their future at stake, he enlists the help of two elderly residents to prepare for the biggest test of his life: the US Citizenship exam. (16 min) Ghana/US

S21 SAT OCT 28 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:00 PM



WHAT THESE WALLS WON'T HOLD DIR: Adamu Tave Chan PROD: Christian Lee Collins, Pete Nicks Set against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic at San Quentin State Prison, the film chronicles the organizing and relationships of people who came together beyond the separations created by incarceration, to respond to this crisis. The film is shot from the perspective of filmmaker Adamu Chan, who was incarcerated at San Quentin during the height of the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020.

S11 MON OCT 23 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:50 PM

WHAT WOULD YOUR SIGN SAY

WINDSHIPPED

DIR/PROD: Jon Bowermaster

DIR/PROD: Gabriel A Diamond, Candice Holdorf If you were to make a sign that revealed something you normally hide and hold it in public, what would it say? That's the question that Vulnerable Rally asks of its participants. It documents the touching, curious, and hilarious moments shared during a San Francisco Vulnerable Rally in 2018. (7 min) US

S18 THU OCT 26 SU - ANDERSON COLL. 7:50 PM



THEATERS OF WAR: HOW THE PENTAGON AND CIA TOOK HOLLYWOOD DIR/PROD: Roger Stahl

From The Longest Day to Lone Survivor, Iron Man to Iron Chef, and James Bond to Jack Ryan, Theaters of War uncovers an alternative "cinematic universe" that stands as one of the great Pentagon PR coups of our time. As these activities gain new public scrutiny, new questions arise: How have they managed to fly under the radar for so lona? (87 min) US

S20 FRI OCT 27 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:40 PM

TO KILL A TIGER DIR: Nisha Pahuia

PROD: Cornelia Principe, Nisha Pahuj On the night of a family wedding in Jharkand, India, Ranjit fears the worst after waking up to find his daughter is not home. Dragged into the woods, she was gang raped by three men. The village solution is to marry her to one of them. Ranjit refuses. Instead, he challenges the status quo, determined to get justice for his daughter (120 min) Canada/India S06 SAT OCT 21 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:00 PM

TOWN DESTROYER

DIR/PROD: Alan Snitow, Deborah Kaufman Film probes a passionate dispute over historic murals at a public high school depicting the life of George Washington: slaveowner, General, land speculator, President, and a man Seneca leaders called "town destroyer." The controversy becomes a touchstone for a national debate over public art and historic memory in a time of racial reckoning. (53 min) US

S17 THU OCT 26 SU - ANDERSON COLL. 4:00 PM



WHEN WE WERE BULLIES

(39 min) US

DIR/PROD: Jay Rosenblatt The Oscar Nominated film begins with a mind boggling "coincidence" from 25 years ago which ultimately leads the filmmaker to track down his 5th grade class (and 5th grade teacher) to see what they remember of a bullying incident from 50 years ago. In a playful yet poignant way, he begins to understand his complicity and the bully in all of us. (35 min) US

S15 WED OCT 25 SF - ROXIE THEATER 7:10 PM

What started as one man's Quixotic dream has turned to reality. For the past three years the 65-foot "Schooner Apollonia" has been delivering goods up and down the Hudson River by sail -- sans fossil fuels -- a throwback to a day when there were 1,200 such boats on the river each day. It turns out buyers prefer the non-polluting, anti-Amazon way of making deliveries. (39 min) US

S07 SUN OCT 22 PA - MITCHELL PARK 2:10 PM

WATERMAN

DIR: Isaac Halasima PROD: Steven Ungerleider, David Ulich, Michael Cascio, Chet Thomas, John Murphy - Line Hawaiian Icon. American hero. Five-time Olympic medalist and Native Hawaiian Duke Paoa Kahanamoku shattered records and brought surfing to the world while overcoming a lifetime of personal challenges. Narrated by Jason Momoa, film shows Duke's incredible athletic accomplishments, personal doctrine of Aloha, and enduring gift of surfing to the world and the role of sports in breaking societal barriers. (93 min) Australia/New Zealand/US

S01 THU OCT 19 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:45 PM





WHEN THE BOMB DROPS

DIR: Jochem Pinxteren PROD: Omeed Khaled This documentary shows the aftermath of a bomb that was dropped by a Dutch F16 on an ISIS bomb factory. The Netherlands was part of the US-led coalition that defeated ISIS. The bomb killed around 68 innocent civilians and injured many more in the Iraqi town of Hawija. The survivors tell their story about what happened that horrific night. Many of them were refugees from other parts of Iraq, having fled violence and terror in search of safety

(51 min) Iraq/Netherlands S19 FRI OCT 27 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:00 PM

YOU ALWAYS SEE MYSELF

DIR/PROD: Christian Bruno, Natalija Vekic A portrait of a group of talented neuro-diverse artists whose daily practice is nurtured and encouraged at Creativity Explored. The CE studio space and art gallery has transformed the personal and professional lives of numerous artists over the decades. When Covid-19 shuts down the beloved studio and threatens their community, they devise a collaborative fashion show that reunites the artists and instructors after 2-years apart. (39 min) US

S12 TUE OCT 24 SU - MED. ALWAY BLDG 4:00 PM



THURSDAY **10.19**

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center

3700 Middlefield Road

Session 1

5:30 PM Opening Night Reception sponsored by Coupa Café and Terun **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 9 TO 5 (US, 95 min)

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center 3700 Middlefield Road

10.20

Session 2

FRIDAY

4:45 PM HOME RIVER (Finland, 25 min) 5:20 PM CATEGORY WOMAN (US, 76 min)

Session 3

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)

Session 5

6:30 PM THE ENIGMA OF FAINA (US, 79 min) 6:45 PM IT'S JUST BUSINESS (Greece/New Zealand, 8 min) 7:00 PM TO KILL A TIGER (Canada/India,120 min)

2:30 PM ABUNDANCE: THE FARMLINK STORY

3:05 PM GREENER PASTURES (US, 82 min)

10.21

10.27

International Documentary Film Festival SCHEDULE

10.22

SUNDAY

MONDAY

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center 3700 Middlefield Road

Session 7

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

4:10 PM NANOBOTS, A FANTASTIC VOYAGE (US, 30 min) 4:50 PM THE RECYCLING MYTH (Germany/Bulgaria/Turkey, 52 min)

Session 9

7:00 PM P13 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)

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center 3700 Middlefield Road

Session 10

(US, 7 min) 4:15 PM A GUNSHOT'S CRY (US, 7 min) 4:30 PM MOVE WHEN THE SPIRIT SAYS MOVE: COTTON (US, 89 min) **6:15 PM PANEL** "The Power of Civil Rights Movements"

(FREE Admission)

Session 11 7:30 PM EZEOUIEL BARAJA (Argentina/Germany, 7 min) 7:50 PM WHAT THESE WALLS WON'T HOLD (US, 39 min)

WEDNESDAY **10.25**

East Palo Alto, Eastside College Preparatory School, Eastside Theater, 1041 Myrtle Street

Session 14

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)

San Francisco, Roxie Theater, 3117 16th Street

Session 15

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

Session 16

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

THURSDAY **10.26**

Stanford University, Anderson Collection, 314 Lomita Drive

Session 17

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

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

FRIDAY

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center 3700 Middlefield Road

Session 19

4:00 PM WHEN THE BOMB DROPS (Irag/Netherlands, 51 min) 5:00 PM ISRAELISM (Israel/Palestine/US, 84 min)

6:30 PM PANEL "Making Peace During the War"

(FREE Admission)

Session 20

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 I (US/Vietnam, 90 min)

SATURDAY 10.28

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center 3700 Middlefield Road

Session 21

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

3:20 PM EVANGELICALS FROM FAITH TO POWER (France/US,155 min) 6:00 PM PANEL "Religion and State"

(FREE Admission)

Session 23

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

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center 3700 Middlefield Road

Session 24

1:00 PM BASEBALL BEHIND BARBED WIRE (Japan/US, 30 min) 1:40 PM THE MOVEMENT AND THE 'MADMAN' (US, 54 min)

Session 25

3:00 PM DON'T COME BACK -IN THE RUINS OF MOSUL (Irag/Italy/France, 67 min) 4:20 PM STRIPPED FOR PARTS: AMERICAN JOURNALISAM ON THE BRINK (US, 90 min)

Session 26 6:10 PM BY MY SIDE (US 30 min) 6:50 PM DOWNWIND (US, 96 min)

8:30 PM Awards Ceremony and Closing Night **Reception sponsored by Oren's** Hummus and Judy's Breadsticks Music by the Potential Jazz Ensemble

Session 6

SATURDAY

3700 Middlefield Road

(FREE Admission)

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center

Session 4 UNAFF & Kids Program

1:00 PM LIGHT (Kenya/US, 13 min)

1:30 PM HELLBENT (US, 19 min)

(US, 25 min)







TUESDAY

4:00 PM OVERTOWN'S LIVING LEGACY

THE LEGACY OF DOROTHY FOREMAN

Stanford University, Stanford Medical School Alway Building 300 Pasteur Drive, Room Alway M106

10.24

Session 12 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 8:00 PM UNNAMED (Iran, 13 min) 8:30 PM THE HUMAN TRIAL (US, 54 min)

8:40 PM A CRIME ON THE BAYOU (US, 91 min)







SUNDAY October 22 Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center 3700 Middlefield Road 3:00 PM PANEL "Climate Change Challenges" (FREE Admission)

TUESDAY October 24

Stanford University, Stanford Medical School Alway Building 300 Pasteur Drive, Room Alway M106 6:20 PM PANEL "Solving Health Crises" (FREE Admission)

FRIDAY October 27 Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center 3700 Middlefield Road 6:30 PM PANEL "Making Peace During the War" (FREE Admission)

MONDAY October 23

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center 3700 Middlefield Road 6:15 PM PANEL "The Power of Civil Rights Movements" (FREE Admission)

THURSDAY October 26

Stanford University Anderson Collection 314 Lomita Drive 6:40 PM PANEL "The Ways We Look at Art, Creative Space and History" (FREE Admission)

SATURDAY October 28

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center 3700 Middlefield Road 6:00 PM PANEL "Religion and State" (FREE Admission)





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Encouraged by overwhelmingly positive response from our audience and the media, we continue with year round screenings through our UNAFF Traveling Film Festival, which has taken place in San Francisco, Berkeley, Monterey, Santa Cruz, Davis, Saratoga, Sonoma, Sebastopol, San Diego, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Honolulu, Philadelphia, Chicago, Washington DC, New York, Burlington, Bellevue, Miami, La Crosse, Fryeburg, Houston, Durham at Duke University, New Haven at Yale University, Waukesha at University of Wisconsin, Boston and Cambridge at Harvard University and internationally in Paris, Milan, Venice, Belgrade, Montreal, Phnom Penh and Abu Dhabi. For more details please check:

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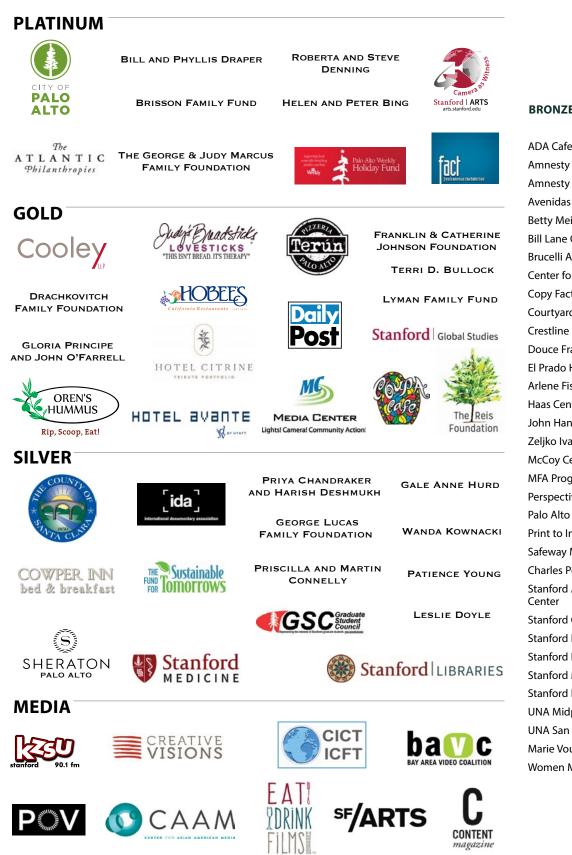
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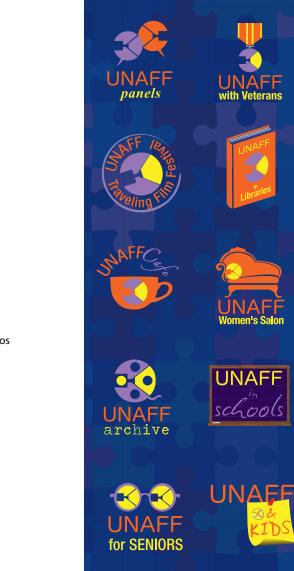
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UNAFF2023 TICKETS

SESSIONS

As documentary films come in different lengths, it is impractical to sell tickets for individual films. Instead, we group multiple films into SESSIONS, trying to combine them loosely by topic so that together they make up for a generous viewing experience. So if you are interested in a particular film, find its session number and purchase the ticket for that session.

FESTIVAL PASSES

The best deal is to purchase a **FESTIVAL PASS**, which allows access to all the festival screenings and events during the 11 days of the festival, and if you are a senior, you can save even more by taking advantage of our deeply discounted SENIOR FESTIVAL PASS.

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GENERAL ADMISSION – \$15 PER FILM SESSION (1.5 – 3 hours per session) FESTIVAL PASS – \$220 SENIOR FESTIVAL PASS (62+) - \$60 **OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION WITH THE FILMMAKERS AND SESSION 1 – \$60** CLOSING NIGHT RECEPTION WITH THE FILMMAKERS AND SESSION 26 - \$60

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Online anytime: https://filmfreeway.com/UNAFF/tickets

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OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION WITH THE FILMMAKERS (Oct. 19) - \$60 SAN FRANCISCO SCREENINGS (Oct. 25) - \$20 CLOSING NIGHT FILMS, AWARD CEREMONY & RECEPTION (Oct. 29) - \$60

PRECAUTIONS

Finally, while the pandemic is mostly behind us, be mindful of reasonable precautions to keep yourself and your fellow attendees safe. If you have any symptoms, consider staying at home rather than coming to the screening, and while inside our venues, use common sense. While we do not mandate masks, we recommend using them inside, as well as respecting all the measures our City and County require.

Donations are greatly appreciated! Please see https://unaff.wedid.it/ for more details.

SESSION 4: UNAFF & KIDS PROGRAM (Oct. 21) SESSION 14: UNAFF IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM (Oct. 25)

ARRIVE EARLY! First-come, first-served at all events

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UNAFF 2023 Trailer before the Trailer: Rey Penezic

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PA-MITCHELL PARK Mitchell Park Community Center, City of Palo Alto 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303



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Michael Douglas Recipient of the 2023 UNAFF Visionary Award

In the film world the name of **Michael Douglas** is synonymous with greatness in acting, directing, producing, with the Oscars and numerous other awards. What is less known, however, is that he has been involved in human rights and social change areas with equal success. His work with the United Nations contributed to efforts to strengthen peace and security by using his prominence to advocate for gun control and against the arms trade, for protecting children in war zones, for eliminating nuclear weapons and promoting cooperation among nations through peaceful use of nuclear energy. He has remained committed to reducing military spending, while promoting the UN Sustainability Goals.

In addition to this devotion to the UN, Mr. Douglas has tirelessly pursued opportunities to help documentary filmmakers not only through his philanthropy, but also through narrating and promoting projects which have an immense potential to educate and inspire our audiences and communities.

For all this work - supporting the UN, supporting many documentary filmmakers and human rights-oriented projects, while at the same time devoting his efforts for the better future as the UN Messenger of Peace, we could not think of a better person to be presented the **26th UNAFF Visionary Award**.

