26th United Nations Association Film Festival

UNAFF 2023 Solutions
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
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, Canada, 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 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, race 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 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.

Jasmina Bojic
Founder and Executive Director
UNAFF & UNAFF Traveling Film Festival

proudly supports UNAFF and congratulates the festival on 26 years of promoting the highest quality documentaries.
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
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

UNAFF2023
Solutions
International Documentary Film Festival

TOC
Welcome 1
Opening & Closing Nights  2
Films A–Z 3–9
Schedule 10–11
Print Sources  14–15
Sponsors 16
Tickets 17
Special Thanks  18

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FILMS A-Z
BRIEF TENDER LIGHT
DIR/PROD: Arthur Munah
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 intense, nearly decade-long journey, all must decide how much of America to absorb, how much of Africa to hold on to, and how to reconcile teenage ideals with the truths they discover about the world and themselves.

BY MY SIDE
DIR/PROD: Wynn Paulina
A story of journey and return, of veterans and their families rescued by their service dogs from the pendants of PTSD to a promising sense of hope and restoration.

CATEGORY WOMAN
DIR/PROD: Phyllis Ille
When international sport governing bodies rule that "identified" female athletes must medically alter their healthy bodies, under the guise of fair play, four champion runners from the Middle East break the law to protect their human rights.

DON'T COME BACK IN THE RAINS OF MOSUL
DIR/PROD: Chas Ahearn, Matteo Delbo
July 2017. Mosul is freed but left in ruins. Shabber, 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 helping his unhoused patients receive care, hope, and connection. The film presents a portrait of the prolific artist, Ronnie Greenwood, his long career, and how people like him, and his friend, Alton “Coach” McSween can help keep trees standing and protected sensitive island ecosystems.

THE ENIGMA OF FAINA
DIR/PROD: Durna Safiyan
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, Faino’s story is about a feminist activist who fought for freedom, justice and democracy.

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. A HAND TO HOLD
DIR: Reavd Martin
PROD: Christian Vanderelt,Eric Christian Silfver
In the heart of Los Angeles, two members of an innovative Street Medicine team devote their livelihood to helping their uninsured patients receive care, hope, and connection.

GREENE PASTURES
DIR: Samuel Ah Meyerzon
PROD: Samuel Ah Meyerzon, Ian Robertson Kibbe
This is an urgent and intimate look at African 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 navigate to survive, connecting the dots between mental health, industrialization, food production and climate change.

THE FOREST BEYOND
DIR: Jeremy Selecter, Fred Bahsoon
PROD: Fred Bahsoon, Olivia Palma
As a young Shobido woman living along the Urucu River in the community of Santa Isabel de Bahiahuso, Sena Kari grew up hearing about the massive baobabhe trees for which her community was named. In recent years, illegal loggers, colonizing settlers, and palm plantations have increased deforestation of the Shobido ancestral forests, and Sena and her sisters have been fighting to discover the primary forces of their people’s lands.

FEAR NOT
DIR/PROD: Annette King, Dinurnnch Ingall
Growing up impoverished in the ivory Coast, Evelyne Keomian was deprived of education and slipped into schools where others were being trained to be able to manipulate and use the law to their advantage. 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 about the disproportionate amount of police brutality against African-Americans, Melvin creates an unvarnished account of the most devastating—and irrevocable—problems of our time.

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be first. The patients and scientists who put themselves on the line to cure Lisa of her own type 1 diabetes, they secured about a radical stem cell treatment for diabetes, a disease...
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.
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 Kuo
6:30 PM CELEBRATING 15 (Azerbaijan, 6 min)
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 SISTHERHOOD (Estonia, 89 min)
Session 2
4:45 PM HOME RIVER (Finland, 25 min)
5:00 PM CATEGORY WOMAN (US, 76 min)
6:00 PM Opening Night Reception sponsored by Coupa Café and Terun
Music by POTENTIAL Jazz Ensemble
6:30 PM CELEBRATING 15 (Azerbaijan, 6 min)
7:00 PM BAHATI (Canada/Rwanda, 11 min)
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8:20 PM SMOKE SAUNA SISTHERHOOD (Estonia, 89 min)
Session 3
7:00 PM THE ESINGMA OF FAINA (US, 79 min)
6:45 PM IT’S JUST BUSINESS (South/Netherlands, 8 min)
7:00 PM TO KILL A TIGER (Canada/India, 120 min)
Session 4
UNAFF & Kids Program
5:00 PM ISRAELISM
4:00 PM TOWN DESTROYER
3:00 PM PANEL “Making Peace During the War”
Session 5
2:30 PM ABBANDONANCE: THE FARMALINK STORY (US, 25 min)
3:05 PM GREENER PASTURES (US, 82 min)
6:30 PM THE ESINGMA OF FAINA (US, 79 min)
6:45 PM IT’S JUST BUSINESS (South/Netherlands, 8 min)
7:00 PM TO KILL A TIGER (Canada/India, 120 min)
Session 6
5:00 PM ISRAELISM
4:00 PM TOWN DESTROYER
3:00 PM PANEL “Making Peace During the War”
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 NANOBOOTS, 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 (Canada/US, 84 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 TENDING LIGHT (Ghana/Nigeria/Rwanda/Tanzania/US/ Zimbabwe, 11 min)
San Francisco, Rosie 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 ANGEL: 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)
THURSDAY 10.27
Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center 3700 Middlefield Road
Session 19
4:00 PM WHEN THE BOMB DROPS (Iraq/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, 72 min)
9:10 PM I WANTED TO BE A MAN WITH A GUN: THREE AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN THE RUINS OF MOSUL (Iraq/Italy/France, 54 min)
Session 21
1:00 PM THE TEST (Ghana/Iran, 16 min)
1:30 PM FEAR NOT (Franco/Ireland/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 (Jordan/United Arab Emirates, 25 min)
8:40 PM LET IT BE LAW (Argentina, 87 min)
SUNDAY 10.22
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
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7:40 PM ANDREI SAKHAROV ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WINDOW (Israel/Russia, 73 min)
9:00 PM UNARCHIVED (Canada/US, 84 min)
SUNDAY 10.23
Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center 3700 Middlefield Road
Session 10
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
7:30 PM EZEGUIEL BARAJA (Argentina/Germany, 7 min)
7:50 PM WHAT THESE WALLS WOULDN’T HOLD (US, 39 min)
8:40 PM A CRIME ON THE BAYOU (US, 91 min)
SUNDAY 10.24
Stanford University, Stanford Medical School-Allen Building 300 Pasteur Drive, Room A106
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 TRAIL (US, 54 min)
Session 14
UNAFF in Schools (FREE for Students and Teachers)
3:10 PM CITIZENS OF NOWHERE (US, 11 min)
3:30 PM TENDING LIGHT (Ghana/Nigeria/Rwanda/Tanzania/US/ Zimbabwe, 11 min)
San Francisco, Rosie Theater, 3117 16th Street
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8:30 PM THE SECRET SONG (US, 90 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)

Pilates Ballet® by Stephanie Herman
Pilates Ballet by Stephanie Herman is an evolutional series of exercise programs that empowers core strength, postural stability, and balance - and enables you to achieve your body's fullest potential for pain-free movement. These educational building blocks enhance the body’s powerful balance systems and provide you with a deep understanding of your skeleton in movement in harmony with your muscle isolation.

www.pilatesballet.com
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

For more details please check: www.unaff.org

(Traveling Film Festival page)
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.

ADMISSION
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

TICKET PURCHASE
Online anytime: https://filmfreeway.com/UNAFF/tickets
FREE ADMISSION FOR
ALL STUDENTS WITH VALID ID
SESSION 4: UNAFF & KIDS PROGRAM (Oct. 21)
SESSION 14: UNAFF IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM (Oct. 25)
ALL UNAFF PANELS

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

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

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.
UNAFF 2023 SPECIAL THANKS TO

Roberta Ahlquist
Chris Bischof
Coit Blacker
Nicolas Bonnet
Evangeline "E" Brenda
Sheri and Eric Brisson
Terri Bullock
Clayborne Carson
Supatra Chowchuvech
Katherine Converse
Nancy Coupal
Barbara Daley
David D'Arcy
Dale Djerassi
Rasha Drachkovitch
Anne-Marie Duleige
Harry Elam
Claude Erzan
Dorothy Fadiman
Yoanna Federici
Arlene Fischkoff
Ellen Flamen
Mira Foster
Sumit Garg
Robin Garthwait
Alison de Gus
Jonathan Gifford
Joseph Golvinveaux
Gina Gonzales
Toni Gooch
Sian Taylor Gowen
Murial Gravina
Dianne Griffin
Anne Griffiths
Mark Hancock
Julie Lythcott Haims
Phil Brent Harris
Brandon Heinrichs
Elisa Gomez-Hird
Gay Howard
Zeljko Ivanek
David Jaffe
Carl and Susan Johnson
Bill Johnson
Marjorie Jones
Kate Khatsyevya
Shelly Kosak
Lydia Kou
Jan Krawitz
Karen Larsen
Linley Lyman
Betty Meusner
Jamie Meltzer
Steve Michelson
Biserka Moore
Olga Mullen
Susan Nash
Stephen Nemeth
Stan Ng
Jesse Norfleet
Kristen O’Kane
Ash Pachauri
Carole Pertofsky
Gloria Principe
Stuyvie Pyne
Janice Rensch
Mercedes Roman
Maureen and Paul Roskoph
Perryn Reis Rowland
Janet Schachter
Peter Schattiner
Kara Scoggin
Anne Shulock
Iva Sijan
Duarte Silva
Gail Silva
Joe Simitian
Marty Simmons
America Sosa
Valerie Stinson
Greer Stone
Suzan Swabacker
Matthew Tiews
Jeffrey Tolin
Richard Trevor
Sofie Vandeputte
Mimi Wai
Molly Walker
Xavier Webb
Sura Wood
Donald Young
Helen Young

and TO ALL UNAFF VOLUNTEERS for their patience, time and creativity

UNAFF 2023 Trailer:
Director/Producer: Jasmina Bojic; Editor: Rey Penezic; Music: Goran Vejvoda

UNAFF 2023 Trailer before the Trailer: Rey Penezic

UNAFF Publicist: Lansia Wann • Graphic/Program Design: Rey Penezic • Web Design: Seth Horvitz

Associate Director: Chris Scheeder • Filmmaker Coordinator: Mariana Price • Program Coordinator CAW/UNAFF: Maika Jones • Publicity Outreach Coordinator: Angie Zoric • UNAFF & Kids and UNAFF In Schools Program Coordinator: Priya Chandraker • Sponsorship Coordinators: Snezana Milojevic and Natalie Wong • Stanford Sponsorship Coordinator: Dawn Kwan • Sponsorship Outreach Coordinator: Aleena Anand • Fundraising Outreach Coordinator: Stephanie Crotty • Tech Coordinator: Rodrigo Torres • Social Media Coordinator: Cathy Keys • Social Media Outreach Coordinator: Jaclyn Natali • CFE Coordinator: Linda Lopez-Otero • Outreach Coordinators: Linda Lopez-Otero and Ronny Hamed • Jury Coordinators: Maggie Wilde and Priya Chandraker • Volunteer Coordinator: Maddie Casic

Jasmina Bojic
UNAFF Founder and Executive Director

UNA MIDPENINSULA

UNA Midpeninsula Chapter serves as a link between the community and the United Nations by promoting awareness of world issues and the UN global agenda through film screenings, book club, partnerships, public forums, newsletters, web site and Information Center.

Our volunteer run store, a treasure trove of international gift items, supports fair trade for local craftsmen all over the world.

UNA MIDPENINSULA GIFT STORE AND INFORMATION CENTER
552 Emerson Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301
650 326 3170 • www.unamidpen.org
Like us at www.facebook.com/unamidpeninsula
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.

Michael Douglas
Recipient of the 2023 UNAFF Visionary Award

UN Photo/Mark Garten