



# Announcing the 28th UNAFF

The 28th United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF)  
presents 60 films about “MESSAGES FOR THE FUTURE.”

The [United Nations Association Film Festival](https://unaff.org) (UNAFF) is pleased to announce the program for its 28th edition. The festival will take place **Oct. 16–26, 2025**, in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, San Francisco and at Stanford University.

At a time when global and domestic divisions are increasingly urgent, this year’s theme — [MESSAGES FOR THE FUTURE](#) — continues UNAFF’s longstanding commitment to human rights, with a focus on our shared destiny and the forces that support or challenge it.

Over 11 days, UNAFF will present 60 documentary films from around the world.

## Festival by the Numbers:

- 55% of films directed or co-directed by women
- 50% of films directed or co-directed by filmmakers of color
- 4 World Premieres:
  - [THE BURNING](#)
  - [EXODUS](#)
  - [AN ORDINARY INSANITY](#)
  - [SOAKING THE GROUND](#)
- 12 U.S. Premieres
- 17 West Coast Premieres
- 10 Bay Area Premieres

The 2025 lineup includes stories from countries including Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, Congo, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guinea, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Palestine, Rwanda, Sudan, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Zimbabwe and many more.

For press information and film photo assets, visit: [unaff.org/2025/press.html](https://unaff.org/2025/press.html)

An interactive schedule is available at [unaff.org/2025/schedule.html](http://unaff.org/2025/schedule.html).

## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

A few program highlights are listed below. You may also skip ahead to a specific section:

- [Opening & Closing Night Remarks](#)
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As always, please contact [publicist2025@unaff.org](mailto:publicist2025@unaff.org) for press materials or additional information.

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## **OPENING & CLOSING NIGHT REMARKS**

**ADVISORY:** The **Closing Film** is newly updated; see below.

### **OPENING**

The 28th United Nations Association Film Festival opens **Thursday, Oct. 16**, at the Mitchell Park Community Center in Palo Alto with remarks from **Mayor Ed Lauing**.

Opening Night begins with the world premiere of ***An Ordinary Insanity***, directed by Academy Award-nominated Berkeley filmmaker **Judith Ehrlich**. The documentary follows Daniel Ellsberg and his fight to stop nuclear war. It is followed by ***Stand Together as One***, a documentary by **Chip Duncan** revisiting the legacy of “We Are The World” and the journalist-led movement that inspired musician-activists Harry Belafonte and Bob Geldof. The evening concludes with ***Following Harry***,

by **Susanne Rostock**, an intimate look at Belafonte's final 12 years as he worked to build a more just and empathetic world.



Photo: STAND TOGETHER AS ONE, directed by Chip Duncan

## CLOSING

Closing night, held **Sunday, Oct. 26**, also at Mitchell Park, features ***We Want the Funk!*** by award-winning filmmaker **Stanley Nelson** and Grammy-nominated filmmaker **Nicole London**. This high-energy, syncopated voyage charts the vibrant history and cultural legacy of funk music — from African rhythms and soul to the revolutionary sounds of James Brown, George Clinton, Labelle and Fela Kuti.

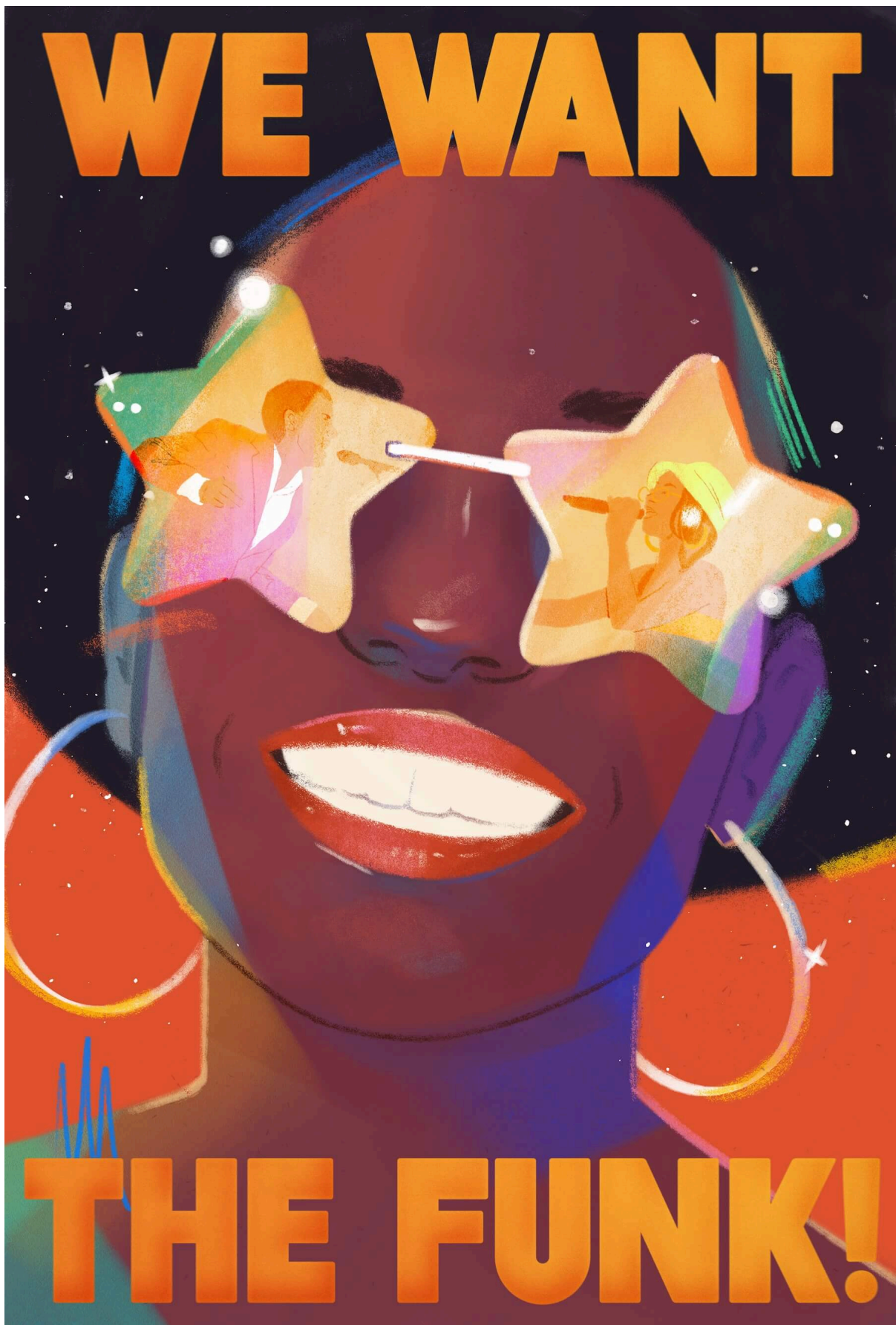


Photo: WE WANT THE FUNK!, directed by Stanley Nelson and Nicole London



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## **FREE EVENTS**

UNAFF offers several free events for audiences to engage with its programming.

The **UNAFF & Kids Program**, Session 5, on Saturday, Oct. 18, is **free** and will be held in Palo Alto.

Additionally, **seven panel discussions will also be available at no cost:**

*Saturday, Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m.*

### **KINDNESS, THE CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE**

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

*Sunday, Oct. 19, 4 p.m.*

### **ACTIVE CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSES**

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

*Monday, Oct. 20, 6 p.m.*

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE - PUNISHMENT VS. REINTEGRATION**

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

*Tuesday, Oct. 21, 6:30 p.m.*

### **THE IMPACT AND THE ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

Stanford University, Green Library, Hohbach Hall Presentation Palace, 557  
Escondido Mall

*Thursday, Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m.*

### **HEALTHCARE - SCIENCE AND TRUTH UNDER SIEGE**

Stanford University, Stanford Medical School, LKC Room 120, 291 Campus Dr.

*Friday, Oct. 24, 6:40 p.m.*


### **HUMANIZING COMPLEX POLITICAL ISSUES**

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

Saturday, Oct. 25, 6:40 p.m.

## DEMOCRACY AND MEDIA IN THE AGE OF AI

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

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## FREE FOR STUDENTS

Students may receive free tickets to films with a valid student ID.

Students and teachers are invited to attend **UNAFF in Schools**, Session 15, at no cost. The event will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22, in East Palo Alto.

For more information, contact [info@unaff.org](mailto:info@unaff.org) or call (650) 724-5544.

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# UNAFF PROGRAM & SCHEDULE

Visit [unaff.org/2025/schedule.html](https://unaff.org/2025/schedule.html) for the most up-to-date schedule.

Find individual film details at [unaff.org/2025/films.html](https://unaff.org/2025/films.html).

Find press photos for each film at [unaff.org/2025/press.html](https://unaff.org/2025/press.html).

Reach out to [publicist2025@unaff.org](mailto:publicist2025@unaff.org) for assistance.

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## AVAILABLE SCREENERS

Screeners are available to reviewing press upon request at [publicist2025@unaff.org](mailto:publicist2025@unaff.org).

This list is updated regularly. If you don't see a film listed, feel free to inquire. **An asterisk (\*) denotes a local film.**

### Available screeners:

- [CHAPLAIN & THE DOCTOR, THE\\*](#)
- [DREAMERS AND I, THE\\*](#)
- [EVERYWHERE](#)
- [FOLLOWING HARRY](#)
- [FREE WORDS: A POET FROM GAZA](#) (US Premiere)
- [IN THE RED\\*](#) (Bay Area Premiere)
- [LIFT\\*](#)
- [LITTLE FELLOW: THE LEGACY OF A.P. GIANNINI, A\\*](#)
- [NICE GIRLS DON'T ASK\\*](#) (US Premiere)
- [ORDINARY INSANITY, AN\\*](#) (World Premiere)
- [POST ATLANTIC\\*](#)
- [QUIET DIPLOMAT, THE](#) (West Coast Premiere)
- [REVOLUTION 3.0](#) (US Premiere)
- [SENSE OF SMELL: IN SEARCH OF THE LOST MEANING](#) (US Premiere)
- [SHOT AT HISTORY, A](#) (Bay Area Premiere)
- [SOAKING THE GROUND\\*](#) (World Premiere)

- [STAND TOGETHER AS ONE](#) (West Coast Premiere)
- [STITCH & TIME](#) (Bay Area Premiere)
- [TIKTOK, BOOM.](#)
- [TRUE STORY OF TAMARA DE LEMPICKA AND THE ART OF SURVIVAL, THE](#)
- [UNFORGIVABLE](#) (West Coast Premiere)
- [UVALDE MOM](#) (West Coast Premiere)
- [WAR AND PRIEST](#) (Bay Area Premiere)
- [WHO KILLED SHIREEN?\\*](#) (US Premiere)

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## TICKET INFORMATION

UNAFF offers sessions that include multiple films, grouped loosely by topic to provide a thoughtful and varied viewing experience.

Festival passes and individual session tickets will be available for [purchase](#).

- General admission tickets for individual sessions are \$18 each.
- Festival passes are \$280 each.
- Senior festival passes, available to those 62 and older, are \$80 each.
- The Opening Night reception, which includes Session 1, is \$60.
- The Closing Night reception, which includes Session 28, is also \$60.
- Students may receive free tickets by presenting a valid student ID.

Ticket information is available at [unaff.org/2025/tickets.html](https://unaff.org/2025/tickets.html).

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## UNAFF MISSION

### About UNAFF

Founded in 1998 by Jasmina Bojic, the United Nations Association Film Festival



(UNAFF) is an international documentary festival focused on human rights. It has screened award-winning films, including eight Academy Award winners. Over the years, UNAFF has screened some of the most acclaimed and talked-about documentaries in the industry, including eight that went on to win Academy Awards and 38 that were nominated. UNAFF promotes education and social change through film. Visit [unaff.org](http://unaff.org).

### About the 28th UNAFF

The 28th UNAFF runs Oct. 16–26, 2025, with the theme *Messages for the Future*. The festival features films on human rights issues like the environment, women's rights, racism, and peace, engaging a diverse Bay Area audience.

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### LISTING DETAILS

**Festival Name:** 28th UNAFF (United Nations Association Film Festival)

**Location:** Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, San Francisco, and Stanford University

**Festival Dates:** October 16-26, 2025

**More Information:** <http://www.unaff.org/2025/mission.html>

**Email:** [info@unaff.org](mailto:info@unaff.org)

**Phone:** (650) 724-5544

