

28th United Nations Association Film Festival

UNAFF2025

MESSAGES FOR THE FUTURE

International Documentary Film Festival



DOCUMENTARIES THAT WILL
CHANGE YOUR VIEW OF THE WORLD

October 16-26, 2025

Stanford University • Palo Alto
East Palo Alto • San Francisco

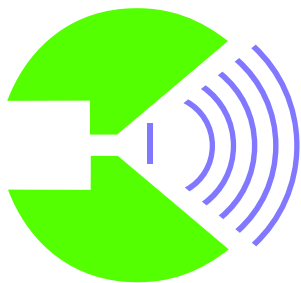
unaff.org



Photo by Mark Hayes

become an **ida member**
to **support** the vital work of
documentary
storytellers and
elevate your
nonfiction career

grants, educational videos, fiscal
sponsorship, networking, and much
more at documentary.org/membership



UNAFF2025

MESSAGES FOR THE FUTURE

International Documentary Film Festival

28 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.

4 WORLD PREMIERES AND 14 US PREMIERES TO BE SCREENED OCTOBER 16-26 WITH THE THEME *MESSAGES FOR THE FUTURE* 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. As one of the few juried festivals on the circuit, UNAFF does not simply curate a list of films that have already been proven elsewhere, but allows newcomers and established creators alike to compete for a spot, which not only gives a chance to new voices, but also ensures a dynamic, vibrant and often surprising selection. 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.

Celebrating the 80th anniversary of the UN at a time when divisions here and abroad are more ominous than ever, this year's theme *MESSAGES FOR THE FUTURE* continues our devotion to human rights with an emphasis on our concerns of what lies ahead and the imprint that we will leave behind.

For eleven days, UNAFF will present 60 documentary films from across the globe, of them 55 percent made by women filmmakers and 50 percent by filmmakers of color. It will spotlight current events from around the world, including Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, Mali, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Palestine, Portugal, Rwanda, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uganda, UK, Ukraine, US, and Zimbabwe.

Our democracy is under severe attack, and we believe that the best shield is knowledge. For 28 years UNAFF has been providing exactly that through visual storytelling that builds a community which is informed, inoculated against fake news and demagoguery, and ready to defend its fundamental values.

The **28th UNAFF Visionary Award** will be presented to Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, whose valiant representation in Congress for more than 30 years—marked by unwavering devotion to the principles of our democracy, the highest ethical standards, and strong approval from her constituents—embodies the kind of values we seek to emphasize in our theme, *MESSAGES FOR THE FUTURE*. For her tireless engagement on behalf of all of us, and for the consistently exemplary manner in which she performed her duties, we can think of no one more fitting to receive the **2025 UNAFF Visionary Award**. Anna Eshoo joins previous Visionary Award recipients such as Academy Award Winner and United Nations Messenger of Peace, Michael Douglas; actor, director and environmental activist Matthew Modine; 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 Moon.

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 Q&A sessions with 40 filmmakers, the festival will host seven free panel discussions exploring topics such as climate and criminal justice, kindness as a catalyst for social change, healthcare, science and truth under siege, the influence of social media, and the state of democracy and media in the age of AI.

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 several hundred 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 *MESSAGES FOR THE FUTURE*. We thank you all for your encouragement and with your support we hope to continue UNAFF and its programs in 2026.

Jasmina Bojic
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
Matthew Modine
Susan Sarandon
John Savage
Walteer Murch
Erika Szanto
Ted Turner
Barbara Trent
Zuccherio

Advisory Board
Patrick Burt
Catherine King
Priscilla Connelly
Juliette Feeney-Timsit
Dianne Griffin
Ronny Hamed-Troyansky
Seth Horvitz
Chris Jenkins
Kameel Khan
Cathy Keys
Dawn Kwan
Linda Lopez-Otero
Mary Jane Marcus
Betty Meissner
Misha Milojkovic
Relja Penezic
David Rock
Jacque Rupp
Chris Scheerder
Helen Young
Patience Young

UNAFF2025

MESSAGES FOR THE FUTURE

International Documentary Film Festival

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

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 Ed Lauing

SCREENINGS

6:30 PM AN ORDINARY INSANITY (US, 23 min)

7:00 PM STAND TOGETHER AS ONE (Ethiopia/UK/US, 64 min)

8:15 PM FOLLOWING HARRY (US, 90 min)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

CLOSING

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

SCREENINGS

6:10 PM WE WANT THE FUNK! (US, 120 min)

8:15 PM Awards Ceremony and Closing Night

Reception sponsored by Coupa Café, Douce France and La Boheme

Music by Potential Jazz Ensemble

TOC

Welcome 1

Opening & Closing Nights 2

Films A-Z 3-9

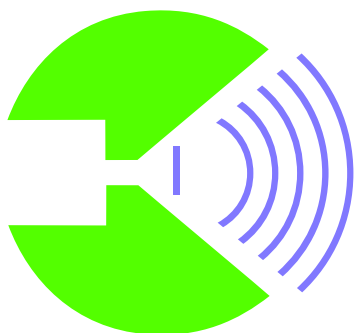
Schedule 10-11

Print Sources 14-15

Sponsors 16

Tickets 17

Special Thanks 18



UNAFF2025

MESSAGES FOR THE FUTURE

International Documentary Film Festival

FILMS A-Z



AHMAD ALIVE

DIR/PROD: Yusuf Omar, Aurelia Driver

Ahmad Ghunaim films the bombing of his home and the horrors of Gaza on his smartphone. The film follows him as he becomes a refugee, living in hospitals, cars, and tents. He tries to stay alive, starting each video with "Hi, it's Ahmad, I'm alive". After 126 days of displacement, he eventually evacuates to Johannesburg, where he continues to amplify Palestinian voices through mobile journalism.

(21 min) Palestine/South Africa

S15 WED OCT22 EPA - EASTSIDE COLLEGE PREP.
3:00 PM



ARREST THE MIDWIFE

DIR/PROD: Elaine Epstein

PROD: Robin Hessman

The arrest of three homebirth midwives serving Amish and Mennonite communities in upstate New York ignites a legislative fight for freedom of choice in birthing rights. Through the lens of this modern-day witch hunt, the film examines the battle between medicine and midwifery and its impact on maternal child health. Set against the backdrop of the United States' severe maternal mortality crisis and the erosion of women's reproductive rights.

(78 min) US

S19 THU OCT23 SU - LI KA SHING CTR. 5:00 PM



BREGRET - WHY BREXIT FAILED

DIR/PROD: Thomas Johnson, Eric Albert

PROD: Siècle Productions

On June 23, 2016, for the first time in history, a country decided to leave the European Union. But eight years later, none of the promises of Brexit have been fulfilled. Faced with a deep economic and social crisis, many Britons believe that this departure was a mistake. A dark anger runs through society, across all generations, among both those who voted for Brexit and those who voted to remain in the European Union.

(52 min) France/Germany/UK

S24 SAT OCT25 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:20 PM



THE BURNING: THE UNTOLD STORY OF AFRICA'S REFUGEE CRISIS

DIR/PROD: Isabella Alexander-Nathani

PROD: Ike Nnaebue

Over the past decade, the European Union has boldly violated international law to transform neighboring African nations into brutal holding cells for the millions of Africans who are forced to flee their homes every year. With foreign media banned across North Africa, the human costs of the EU's policies have been hidden from view. In order to avoid being repatriated if captured, each refugee must burn all proof of their existence.

(86 min) Algeria/Democratic Republic of the Congo/Cote D'Ivoire/Guinea/Libya/France/Mali/Morocco/Nigeria/Spain/US

S10 SUN OCT19 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:35 PM



THE CHANGEBAKER

DIR/PROD: Courtney Dixon

Manolo Betancur immigrated to the U.S. to chase the American dream and escape the horrors of war in Colombia, where he was a captain in the Army. He uses nightmares of the past to fuel his mission to create jobs for fellow immigrants at his bakery in North Carolina. After a string of ICE raids, the shop has become something more than just a trendy local spot for baked goods. A sign hangs proudly at Betancur's door for all to see: "Made in America by the Hands of Immigrants."

(16 min) US/Colombia

S26 SUN OCT26 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:00 PM



THE CHAPLAIN AND THE DOCTOR

DIR/PROD: Jessica Zitter

PROD: Jen Gilomen, Niema Jordan

Betty Clark is an 80-year-old, African American chaplain on staff at The Wilma Chan Highland Hospital Campus in Oakland. Jessica Zitter is a White, Jewish physician and Betty's colleague on the Palliative Care service for over a decade. The two women are an unlikely team; chaplains and doctors do not usually pair up within the hierarchy of the hospital. Dr. Zitter, trained to believe in medical interventions and science, was not seeking a relationship with a chaplain. And Chaplain Clark never expected the doctor to take interest in her work. But with time, the two women's shared values and histories overcome the forces that keep them apart. (85 min) US

S03 FRI OCT 17 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:40 PM



COEXISTENCE, MY ASS!

DIR/PROD: Amber Fares

PROD: Rachel Leah Jones, Valérie Montmartin

Noam Shuster Eliassi grew up the literal poster child for the Israeli-Palestinian peace process before making a hard pivot to stand-up comedy and political satire. But as the region sinks deeper into devastating violence, she must meet the moment by challenging her audiences with hard truths that are no laughing matter.

(95 min) Israel/Palestine/US

S02 FRI OCT 17 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:30 PM



COMPARSA

DIR/PROD: Vickie Curtis, Doug Anderson

PROD: Olivia Ahnemann, Anna Hadingham

Sisters Lesli and Lupe are visionary young artists who are spurred to action after a horrific act of violence strikes their community in Guatemala City. When 41 teenage girls are killed and the perpetrators go unpunished, the sisters fight back. They recruit local teenagers to mount an exuberant comparsa, taking to the streets with giant puppets, batucada drums, and fire-breathing. Disguising their protest in spectacle, Lesli and Lupe expose a pattern of abuse and empower a new generation.

(79 min) Guatemala/US

S26 SUN OCT 26 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:25 PM



COUNTED OUT

DIR/PROD: Vicki Abeles

PROD: Amy Ferraris, Lisa Fruchtmann

The people we date, the news we see, the influence of our votes, the candidates who win elections, the education we have access to, the jobs we get—all of it is underwritten by an invisible layer of math that few of us understand, or even notice. But whether we know it or not, our numeric literacy—whether we can speak the language of math—is a critical determinant of social and economic power. Do we want an America in which most of us don't consider ourselves "math people"? Or do we want a country where everyone can understand the math that undergirds our society—and can help shape it?

(90 min) US

S27 SUN OCT 26 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:30 PM



DEMOCRACY NOIR

DIR/PROD: Connie Field

PROD: Sigrid Dyekjær, Heino Deckert

Amidst the brazen rise of 21st century authoritarianism, few politicians have proven as corrupt and adept at undermining democracy as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. He takes carefully crafted, methodical steps to chip away at Hungarian democratic institutions while maintaining popularity with a majority of citizens. The film shows three courageous women – opposition politician Tímea, journalist Babett, and nurse Nikolett – who fight relentlessly to expose the lies and corruption embedded in Orbán's government. However, they face a well-financed and sophisticated opposition in Orbán's ultra-conservative Fidesz party. (90 min) Hungary/US

S24 SAT OCT 25 PA - MITCHELL PARK 5:20 PM



DEMOCRACY UNDER SIEGE

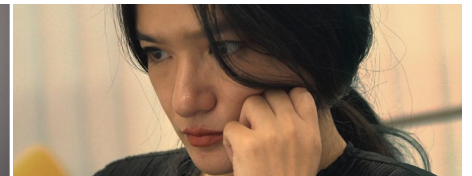
DIR/PROD: Laura Nix

PROD: Hanne Phlypo

Acclaimed editorial cartoonist Ann Telnaes (formerly of The Washington Post) offers a razor-sharp critique of political hypocrisy as top American political commentators confront viewers with urgent questions about the future of American governance. It connects present-day crises with their roots in American history via commentary with political observers who explore executive overreach, a crisis in judicial ethics, and a media environment saturated with disinformation, as the country grapples with fundamental challenges that transcend individual presidencies.

(52 min) Belgium/Luxembourg/US

S25 SAT OCT 25 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:00 PM



THE DREAMERS AND I

DIR/PROD: Kenji Yamamoto

PROD: Nancy Kelly

This documentary follows three Silicon Valley entrepreneurs, who like many others from around the world, hope to become as influential as Steve Jobs. Their chances of success are slim, risking financial ruin and extended separations from family. In a unique turn, the filmmaker becomes like his subjects, as his life eventually begins to mirror theirs. The Dreamers and I is a startling exploration of how innovative and disruptive ideas are incubated, nurtured, and often shattered.

(74 min) US

S06 SAT OCT 18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 5:05 PM



EVERYWHERE

DIR/PROD: Kate Ellen Campbell, Claire Ha

It is a ground-breaking documentary showing what young people with disabilities are capable of if they are just given a chance. The Periscope Crew, a film crew of young people living with disabilities, creating the stories during the World Transplant Games in Perth 2023. Tasked with capturing sports action, they built deep connections with athletes, uncovering never-heard transplant stories.

(39 min) Australia

S04 SAT OCT 18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 2:30 PM



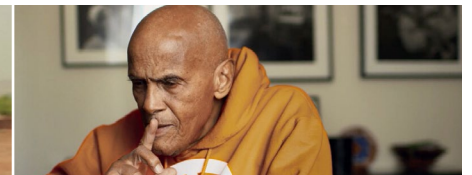
EXODUS

DIR/PROD: Bob Miller

A college student and a village elder evacuate thousands to their homeland during the height of Sudan's Civil War. Meanwhile, a region once-targeted for violence becomes a safe haven for many.

(25 min) Sudan/US

S18 WED OCT 22 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:00 PM



FOLLOWING HARRY

DIR/PROD: Susanne Rostock

PROD: Frank Nasso, Edward Zeng

The film is a passionate, powerful witness to Harry Brlafonte's commitment to building a better and more empathetic world. It is also a story of aging, legacy, and taking responsibility for what one leaves behind. Harry goes beyond stating that the past is doomed to be repeated by those who do not understand it, to ask: If we cannot position ourselves to see and translate history through our own present-day experience, then how can we envision the future that we are rushing so quickly to embrace?

(90 min) US

S01 THU OCT 16 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:15 PM



FREE WORDS: A POET FROM GAZA

DIR/PROD: Abdullah Harun Ilhan

It is a documentary detailing the life and experiences of Palestinian poet Mosab Abo Touha and his homeland, Palestine. The film delves into Mosab's journey as he navigates the complexities of living in oppression. This is not just a story of one poet; it is a testament to the universal struggle for freedom of expression and the enduring power of words to inspire change.

(15 min) Palestine/Turkey

S16 WED OCT22 SF - DELANCEY SCR. ROOM 7:05 PM



THE FRIENDSHIP BENCH

DIR: Reabetswe Moeti-vogt

PROD: Graham Leader

Zimbabwe, a country of 16 million, has only 12 psychiatrists. For a nation that struggles with multiple layers of mass and individual trauma, a major mental health crisis is ongoing. Dr. Dixon Chibanda, one of those 12 psychiatrists, came up with an idea: he began training grandmothers in providing therapy, and placed them on benches outside of clinics. People could walk up to them and receive free psychological help.

(52 min) US/Zimbabwe

S04 FRI OCT 17 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:15 PM



HOW TO BUILD A LIBRARY

DIR/PROD: Maia Lekow, Christopher King

In 2018, Shiro Koinange, a celebrated novelist, and Angela Wachuka, a visionary publisher, quit their jobs to restore a dilapidated colonial-era library in bustling downtown Nairobi. Horrified at the condition of the historical building, they successfully lobbied city officials to take over the management of the library. With an undying passion for books and finding funds where least expected, they activate an army of homegrown artists, intellectuals, tech developers, architects and writers, all energized to transform the space into a technological hub of creativity and learning for future generations.

(100 min) Germany/Kenya/US

S14 TUE OCT21 SU - HISTORY BLDG 7:30 PM



IN THE RED: CHANGING LIVES TO SAVE LIVES

DIR/PROD: Mimi Chakarova

PROD: Aisha Knowles

With eleven years in the making, this is a film about transformation, growing up poor in one of the wealthiest areas in the United States, and getting into trouble early on. Some find their way to a free program in Oakland, California that offers a lifeline – rigorous training to become firefighters and first responders. But the streets keep calling. What makes one kid heed that call and another ignore it?

(94 min) US

S12 MON OCT20 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:05 PM



THE INVISIBLE DOCTRINE: THE SECRET HISTORY OF NEOLIBERALISM

DIR/PROD: Peter Hutchison, Lucas Sabean

Despite its name, neoliberalism's core belief is unrestricted corporate freedom, often at the expense of society and the planet. As consumption rises and ecosystems break down, the need to question our role as citizens, not just consumers, has never been more urgent. Drawing on research that challenges the myth of human selfishness, the film calls for a political and cultural shift grounded in cooperation, mutual aid and belonging. It is a timely response to the alienation and despair that mark our current moment, and a bold invitation to imagine a better future.

(75 min) UK/US

S23 SAT OCT25 PA - MITCHELL PARK 2:05 PM



ISAAC ASIMOV, A MESSAGE TO THE FUTURE

DIR: Mathias Théry

PROD: Juliette Cazanave

With more than 500 publications, Isaac Asimov is considered the father of science fiction. Thirty years after his death, he is back, thanks to the artificial intelligence that he had so cleverly imagined, in order to address humans to pass on the lesson of a lifetime: a method to anticipate the future of our world and especially to reinvent it.

(55 min) France/US

S23 SAT OCT25 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:00 PM



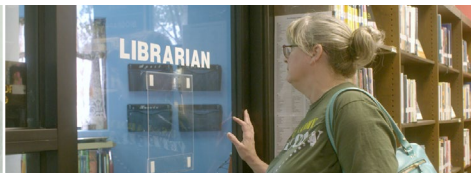
LABORS OF LOVE: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HENRIETTA SZOLD

DIR/PROD: Abby Ginzberg

A story about the remarkable life and enduring legacy of Henrietta Szold, one of the most influential, yet under-recognized, American Jewish women in history. A visionary leader, Henrietta played a pivotal role in shaping Palestine's healthcare system while providing refuge and healing to thousands of young Holocaust survivors through her leadership of Youth Aliyah. Though her belief in bi-nationalism as a path to peace between Jews and Arabs never gained widespread acceptance, she remained steadfast in her conviction that coexistence was possible.

(73 min) Israel/US

S10 SUN OCT19 PA - MITCHELL PARK 5:10 PM



THE LIBRARIANS

DIR/PROD: Kim A Snyder

PROD: Janique L Robillard, Maria Cuomo-Cole

In October 2021, Texas State Representative Matt Krause issued a list of 850 books for schools to review for obscene and race-related content, urging officials to develop standards to ensure "pornography" and anything that may make students feel "discomfort, guilt or anguish" be removed. As the culture wars rage, parental rights groups dig in nationwide and pre-existing book review protocols are overturned by school boards across the country. A chilling effect sets in as book-banning crusaders become more coordinated and vulnerable librarians are targeted ferociously.

(83 min) US

S27 SUN OCT26 PA - MITCHELL PARK 3:00 PM



LIFT

DIR/PROD: David J Petersen

It is a story of homelessness in America through the eyes of a group of young homeless and home-insecure ballet dancers in New York City. After performing all over the world, ballet dancer Steven Melendez returns to the Bronx shelter where he grew up to give back to his community, offering a New York Theatre Ballet workshop to children. As young dance students, Victor, Yolanssie and Sharia face the same chasm of home insecurity that long separated Steven from his audience and makes the arts inaccessible to children who share his background.

(87 min) US

S15 WED OCT22 EPA - EASTSIDE COLLEGE PREP. 4:05 PM



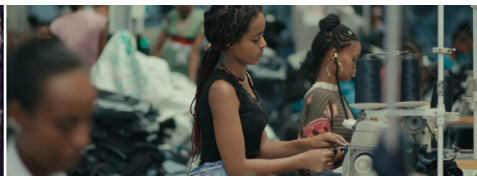
A LITTLE FELLOW: THE LEGACY OF A.P. GIANNINI

DIR/PROD: Davide Fiore

This is a documentary exploring the enduring legacy of A.P. Giannini, a first-generation Italian American who revolutionized banking and reshaped California's industries in the early 20th century. He played a pivotal role in rebuilding San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake, the Great Depression, and through his investments in Hollywood, the building of the Golden Gate Bridge, and companies, including Hewlett-Packard. Committed to serving "the little fellow," he granted loans on a handshake, fostering trust and opportunity for hardworking Americans. His revolutionary approach made banking accessible to all, transforming the Bank of Italy into what would become one of the largest financial institutions in the world—Bank of America.

(122 min) Italy/US

S18 WED OCT22 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:30 PM



MADE IN ETHIOPIA

DIR/PROD: Xinyan Yu, Max Duncan

PROD: Max Duncan, Tamara Dawet

Made in Ethiopia lifts the curtain on China's historic, but misunderstood impact on Africa and explores contemporary Ethiopia at a moment of profound crisis. It throws audiences into two colliding worlds; an industrial juggernaut fueled by profit and progress, and a vanishing countryside where life is still measured by the cycle of the seasons. It challenges us to rethink the relationship between tradition and modernity, growth and welfare, and the development of a country and the well-being of its people.

(90 min) China/Ethiopia

S04 FRI OCT 17 PA - MITCHELL PARK 9:15 PM



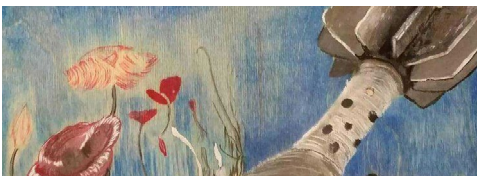
MAGIC AND MONSTERS

DIR/PROD: Norah Shapiro

The long-buried story of widespread sexual abuse at America's preeminent children's theater. In the aftermath of litigation, four survivors attempt the unthinkable: working with the very institution that harmed them. The film examines the moral obligations of institutions when confronting historical abuse. It presents an intimate exploration of trauma's ripple effects while demonstrating how organizational transparency—despite potential risks and short-term costs—represents the only path toward genuine healing.

(88 min) US

S07 SAT OCT 18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:55 PM



MAX: ONE LAST FAVOR

DIR/PROD: Patti Bonnet

After twenty years of war, the United States' chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan left hundreds of thousands of Afghan interpreters and other allies behind as the Taliban quickly retook the country. Fearing retribution for his brave work with allied forces, beloved interpreter "Max" and his family of ten are forced into hiding as they desperately struggle to escape Afghanistan. Meanwhile in the US, Max's contacts and their network of supporters work frantically to navigate the complicated process established by the US government to bring these allies to safety.

(21 min) Afghanistan/US

S21 FRI OCT24 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:25 PM



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL NOISE

DIR/PROD: Joe Pavlo

In 2019, virtuoso violinist Petru Cotarce turned a retired double-decker bus into a mobile music school with the dream to make music education free and accessible for every child in London. The filmmakers Joe Pavlo and David Schendel hop on the bus to experience the children's joy of music, and the journey to keep the bus operating against all odds.

(40 min) Romania/UK

S05 SAT OCT18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:35 PM



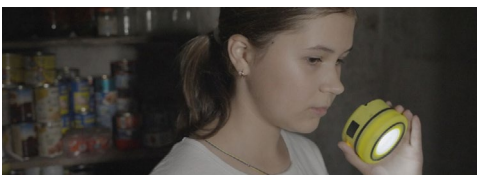
NICE GIRLS DON'T ASK

DIR/PROD: Jan Krawitz

In the 1950s, thousands of "social guidance" films were shown to shape behavior according to traditional gender norms. *Nice Girls Don't Ask* excavates footage from vintage educational films to cast a subversive but humorous lens on the proffered rules and expectations. What was the cost of this behavioral straitjacket for a generation of women? Is the pendulum creeping back?

(17 min) US

S03 FRI OCT 17 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:15 PM



ONCE UPON A TIME IN UKRAINE

DIR/PROD: Betsy West

This film is a surprising story of resilience where children in Ukraine are finding ways to survive the brutal Russian war that has targeted them and their families. Childhood reflections of life behind the frontlines are shown through interviews.

(36 min) Ukraine/US

S15 WED OCT22 EPA - EASTSIDE COLLEGE PREP.
3:25 PM



AN ORDINARY INSANITY

DIR: Judith Ehrlich

PROD: Thomas M Scruggs

Before he released the secret history of the Vietnam War and became the most renowned whistleblower of the 20th century, Daniel Ellsberg was a nuclear war planner. He not only spirited thousands of pages of the Pentagon Papers out of his safe at the RAND Corporation but also an equally damning treasure trove of nuclear secrets. Before he passed away in 2023, he spoke directly and passionately to camera about his deep regrets and specific proposals for controlling the Doomsday Machine. Ellsberg spent the last fifty years of his life working tirelessly against nuclear weapons and war.

(23 min) US

S01 THU OCT 16 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:30 PM



PAINT ME A ROAD OUT OF HERE

DIR/PROD: Catherine Gund

PROD: Tanya Selvaratnam

In 1971, underestimated artist Faith Ringgold made a monumental painting for the women incarcerated at Rikers Island. Fifty years later, artist Mary Enoch Elizabeth Baxter, who gave birth in prison fifteen years ago, finds herself banding together with an eccentric group of activists, politicians, artists, corrections officers, and Faith Ringgold to free the painting—with the ultimate goal of freeing the women.

(90 min) US

S11 MON OCT20 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:20 PM



PASSION TO PERSIST

DIR/PROD: Dave Iverson

The film is about Hadley Ferguson, who has continued to create breathtaking art while living with progressive neurodegenerative diseases. The film highlights her work as an artist and her advocacy efforts through Summit for Parkinson's, the nonprofit Hadley founded to support Montanans living with Parkinson's disease.

(48 min) US

S06 SAT OCT18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:10 PM



PORCELAIN WAR

DIR: Brendan Bellomo, Slava Leontyev

PROD: Aniela Sidorska, Paula DuPré Pesmen, Olivia Ahnemann
Amidst the chaos and destruction of the brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine, three artists defiantly find inspiration and beauty as they defend their culture and their country. In a war waged by professional soldiers against ordinary civilians, Slava Leontyev, Anya Stasenka and Andrey Stefanov choose to stay behind, armed with their art, their cameras and, for the first time in their lives, their weapons.

(87 min) Ukraine

S22 FRI OCT24 PA - MITCHELL PARK 9:00 PM



POST ATLANTIC

DIR/PROD: Alan Snitow, Deborah Kaufman

The film explores the visionary world of legendary African-American painter and philosopher Dewey Crumpler as he connects the transatlantic slave trade to modern globalization, demonstrating what it means to be a working artist with a conscience in today's society. A defining figure in the Black Arts Movement, Crumpler emerged from his early work with the Black Panther Party and went on to teach future luminaries at the San Francisco Art Institute. The film is a vivid portal into a life of creation, defiance, and visionary engagement with both history and the future.

(29 min) US

S16 WED OCT22 SF - DELANCEY SCR. ROOM 7:40 PM



THE POWER OF SMALL

DIR/PROD: T.C. Johnstone

The film presents six individuals gifted with significant financial resources to express generosity and spread kindness. What unfolded was an unanticipated journey of self-reflection and creative empowerment. The film reveals how modest, intentional, and personal acts of kindness possess a remarkable capacity for both self-awareness and lasting impact. It reminds us of the potential for human connection and demonstrates how even the smallest gestures can spark transformative societal change.

(40 min) US

S06 SAT OCT18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 3:20 PM



PRIDE OF THE GOBI

DIR/PROD: Will Parrinello

Eighty-one-year-old Batmunkh Luvsandash was determined to protect his homeland from mining. His activism led to the creation of a 66,000-acre protected area in Mongolia's Dornogovi province, adjoining hundreds of thousands of acres already preserved through efforts by him and his allies. The region is home to Argali sheep, 75% of the world's population of endangered Asiatic wild ass, and a diverse array of endemic plant species. The newly-protected area now stands as a vital bulwark against the country's rapidly expanding mining industry.

(7 min) Mongolia/US

S08 SUN OCT19 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:00 PM



THE PRISON SHOW

DIR: Gabriella Kessler

PROD: Fabrice Coat, Constance Ortuzar, Thibault Dufour
Every Friday night, former inmates and their loved ones get together at KPFT, a listener-sponsored community radio in downtown Houston, to create The Prison Show, a radio program that caters to prisoners and the families they have left behind. The show keeps prisoners connected with the outside world and allows families to call in and leave messages for prisoners who are listening. In addition, the radio produces a show with live coverage whenever there is an execution in Texas, airing an interview with the condemned prisoner.

(57 min) US

S12 MON OCT20 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:00 PM



THE QUIET DIPLOMAT

DIR/PROD: Charles Lyons

PROD: Susan Lee Macdonald, Chaim Litewski

The film centers on former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. Along with his family, Secretary General Ban was displaced during the Korean War. The UN Command fought on the side of South Korea and forever changed Ban's life, inspiring him to become a man who fought for peace throughout his career. Nearly fifty years later, Ban was selected as the 8th Secretary General of the UN. During ten years (two terms), in one of the toughest jobs in the world, "SG" Ban discovered the challenges of international, UN-led diplomacy in an increasingly splintered world.

(65 min) South Korea/US

S21 FRI OCT24 PA - MITCHELL PARK 5:30 PM



REVOLUTION 3.0

DIR/PROD: Reza Bird

After seven years of silence about his exile, director Reza Bird feels a strong urge to use his editing skills to document the stories of the new Iranian Revolution protesters and reclaim his voice and connection to his roots. His videos went viral globally and protesters sent him footage, voice messages, and firsthand accounts, which he used to create a unique web series called "Diaries of a Revolution". As the narrator, Reza provides a personal view of his journey and how social media has affected his life. The film examines the impact of social media on a new generation of immigrants seeking a sense of belonging through the digital world.

(52 min) Canada/Iran/US

S13 TUE OCT21 SU - HISTORY BLDG 4:00 PM



SAVING OUR ANCESTORS - REFLECTION BY DR. BIRUTE GALDIKAS

DIR/PROD: Charlie Annenberg Weingarten

Dr. Birute Galdikas is a primatologist who has devoted 54 years of her life to research and rescue Orangutans in Borneo. This short film explores Dr. Galdikas' continuous, decades-long field study to conserve the fragile habitat of these great apes.

(27 min) Indonesia/US

S05 SAT OCT18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:00 PM



SENSE OF SMELL: IN SEARCH OF THE LOST MEANING

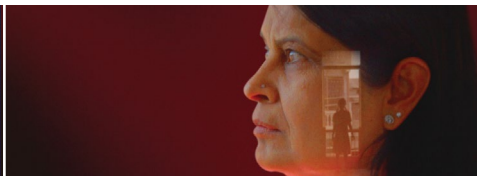
DIR: Cosima Dannoritzer

PROD: Ségolène Dujardin, Fabrice Papillon

One of the main symptoms of COVID-19 is the loss of the sense of smell. Sometimes, the loss of smell could last for weeks, months, or even be permanent. This documentary investigates how the life-affirming pleasure of smell can be restored to COVID-19 survivors, discussing the power, versatility, and the crucial function behind this sense.

(52 min) France/Germany/Israel/Portugal/Sweden/Switzerland

S19 THU OCT23 SU - LI KA SHING CTR. 4:00 PM



A SHOT AT HISTORY

DIR/PROD: Jeffrey Christian

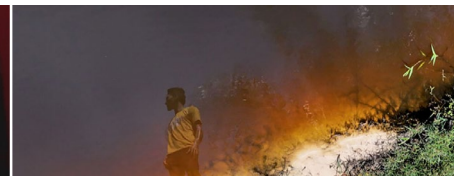
DIR: Erika Cohn

PROD: Rajal Pitroda

When Dr. Nita Patel was just four years old, her father's battle with tuberculosis inspired her to dedicate her life to curing infectious diseases. The film intimately chronicles Nita's inspiring journey from a small village in India to the forefront of immunology in the U.S., where she rises to prominence as a pioneering scientist. Incorporating universal themes of identity, the American dream and family legacy, this documentary explores the profound intersection of personal sacrifice and global impact.

(23 min) India/US

S02 FRI OCT 17 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:00 PM



SOAKING THE GROUND

DIR/PROD: Fred Rahal

At the onset of the dry season, a young peasant farmer and a hard-working juçara extractivist try to keep their communities resilient with every drop of rain they can gather in a region of the Amazon Rainforest scarred by intense predatory human activity and ever-diminishing rainfall.

(15 min) Brazil

S08 SUN OCT19 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:15 PM



THE SPIES AMONG US

DIR/PROD: Jamie Coughlin Silverman, Gabriel Silverman

This is a rare look into the inner workings of a data-driven surveillance state run by one of the most feared secret police forces the world has ever known – East Germany's Stasi. A personal investigation into family secrets by Peter Keup, a Stasi victim-turned-historian, takes a turn when he contacts the men who ran the system. These are the first dialogues between Stasi officers and a victim ever recorded. Through these encounters a terrifying mosaic is built of the lengths people go to maintain power in a dictatorship, as well as the indomitable human spirit that seeks truth and self-determination.

(91 min) Germany/US

S25 SAT OCT25 PA - MITCHELL PARK 9:00 PM



SPILLOVER – PLANET OF VIRUSES

DIR: Michael Wech

PROD: Leopold Hoesch, Peter Wolf

Ebola, Marburg, Nipah, COVID-19, and now avian flu – the list of deadly viruses jumping from animals to humans is increasing. Although humans coexisted with these pathogens, why are spillover events becoming more frequent? What role do our actions play in triggering outbreaks of zoonotic diseases? Spillover takes the viewer on a global journey to uncover these answers, offering an urgent and eye-opening look at the origins of some of the world's deadliest viruses.

(89 min) Australia/Belgium/Cambodia/Germany/Hong Kong/Malaysia/US

S20 THU OCT23 SU - LI KA SHING CTR. 7:30 PM



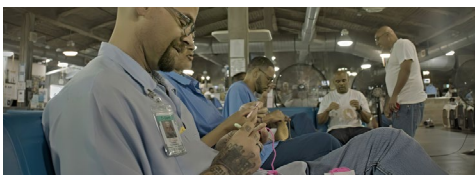
STAND TOGETHER AS ONE

DIR/PROD: Chip Duncan

Film chronicles the historic events surrounding the 1983-85 famine in northern Ethiopia and tells the story behind Kenyan photojournalist, Mohamed Amin, and BBC correspondents Michael Buerk and Mike Wooldridge as they overcame government restrictions and civil war to document the humanitarian crisis. This reporting inspired Bob Geldof and Harry Belafonte to connect music to global humanitarian relief through the hit, We Are the World, and the highly successful Live Aid and Band Aid concert series.

(64 min) Ethiopia/UK/US

S01 THU OCT 16 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:00 PM



STITCH & TIME

DIR/PROD: David Munro and V. Scott Balcerek

Billy Ray Worth and Clay Turner, two incarcerated men serving life sentences, forge an extraordinary friendship through an unexpected act of compassion: starting a crochet group to make warm items for fellow inmates in hospice care. Together, they lead a community of men who defy stereotypes about life behind bars, finding purpose and connection through caregiving and creativity.

(14 min) US

S11 MON OCT20 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:00 PM



THERE IS ANOTHER WAY

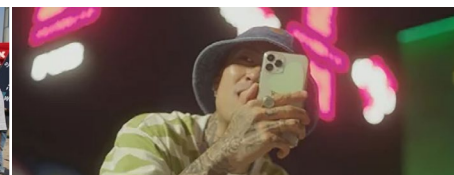
DIR: Stephen Apkon

PROD: Stephen Apkon, Marcina L Hale, Keaton Cristobal

This is a story of a group of visionaries who refuse to surrender to violence and injustice, and in doing so show that another path is possible. Combatants for Peace, nominated for two Nobel Peace Prizes, is an extraordinary bi-national group of former enemy combatants, Israelis and Palestinians, working together during an ongoing armed conflict. Faced with the devastation and escalating violence of October 7th and the war in Gaza, the very core of the movement must face great challenges and show that there is another way.

(67 min) Israel/Palestine

S22 FRI OCT24 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:40 PM



TIKTOK, BOOM

DIR: Shalini Kantayya

PROD: Ross Dinerstein, Shalini Kantayya, Danni Mynard

Film explores how a social media app, best known for videos of teenagers dancing, became the flashpoint of a geopolitical controversy between two superpowers—the U.S. and China. Dissecting one of the most influential platforms of the contemporary social media landscape, film examines the algorithmic, socio-political, economic, and cultural influences and impact of the history-making app.

(87 min) China/US

S13 TUE OCT21 SU - HISTORY BLDG 5:00 PM



THE TRUE STORY OF TAMARA DE LEMPICKA AND THE ART OF SURVIVAL

DIR: Julie Colleen Rubio

PROD: Julie Colleen Rubio, Blake Wellen

Film traces the life and survival of the renowned painter through her powerful paintings – from her rise to international stardom in 1920s Paris, to her move to the US fleeing fascism in 1940, to her revival in the current art market. The film follows De Lempicka as she reinvents herself multiple times throughout the decades, in addition to her impact and legacy in art history.

(96 min) US

S17 WED OCT22 SF - DELANCEY SCR. ROOM

8:20 PM



UNFORGIVABLE

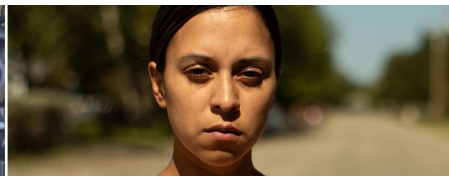
DIR: Giosue Petrone

PROD: Mary Beth Minnis

Film shows the story of Alice, a woman who lost her hand and child during the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Twenty years later, Alice is confronted by her assailant, who asks for forgiveness.

(28 min) Italy/Rwanda/US

S21 FRI OCT24 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:55 PM



UVALDE MOM

DIR: Anayansi Prado

PROD: Ina Fichman, David Goldblum, Anayansi Prado

Angeli Gomez is a mother who captured national attention when she ran into Robb Elementary in Uvalde, TX, to save her two sons during one of the deadliest mass shootings in the US, while law enforcement waited to intervene. In the aftermath, Gomez faced harassment from authorities due to her past. As members of the Uvalde community demand change and justice, conflicting narratives begin to emerge, and the Department of Justice launches an investigation.

(88 min) US

S10 SUN OCT19 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:15 PM



WAR AND PRIEST

DIR: Karin-Bam Stowe

PROD: Hanna Adcock

In the country of Georgia, over 25,000 young men have become priests within the last two years. This is not for the purpose of religion, but to dodge mandatory military conscription. Film follows the Church of Biblical Freedom and its challenging of the Georgian government and patriarchy. As tensions with Russia rise and protests break out, the harsh reality of untrained military conscripts facing war comes to light.

(17 min) Georgia/UK

S21 FRI OCT24 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:00 PM



WE WANT THE FUNK!

DIR/PROD: Stanley Nelson, Nicole London

Film shows funk music's history, from its African roots to soul, gospel, jazz, and the genre's mainstream breakthrough. Born out of the energy coming out of the Civil Rights Movement, funk exploded on the scene out of the Midwest in the 1960s and was an integral part of the revolution of the era. Featuring James Brown and George Clinton's Parliament Funkadelic, this documentary traces the influence of funk music on new wave and hip-hop.

(120 min) US

S28 SUN OCT26 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:10 PM



THE WHITE HOUSE EFFECT

DIR: Bonni Cohen

PROD: Justine Nagan, Josh Penn, Noah Stahl

The documentary focuses on the pivotal years of the George H.W. Bush administration, when the entire country was waking up to the reality of global warming and Bush had pledged to use "the White House effect" to tackle it. As the world prepares for the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, Bush faces mounting pressure to make a decision that will change the course of history—culminating with the U.S. undermining a global agreement to set hard limits on emissions, setting the stage for an increasingly hot, dangerous, and polarized future.

(97 min) US

S09 SUN OCT19 PA - MITCHELL PARK 2:20 PM



WHO KILLED SHIREEN?

DIR: Conor Powell

PROD: Fatima Abdul Karim, Dion Nissenbaum

This investigative documentary looks at the shocking death of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh at the hands of an Israeli soldier in 2022, and the geopolitical circumstances surrounding her killing.

(41 min) Israel/Palestine/US

S24 SAT OCT25 PA - MITCHELL PARK 3:30 PM



WIND'S HERITAGE

DIR/PROD: Nasim Soheili

Film follows Mohammad Vali Gandami, the last surviving craftsman who knows the techniques of building and repairing ancient Iranian windmills. At the age of 68, Gandami has dedicated his life to maintaining the windmills in the city of Nashtifan and passing down his knowledge to future generations.

(29 min) Iran

S08 SUN OCT19 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:40 PM



YOU'RE NO INDIAN

DIR: Ryan Flynn

PROD: Santana Rabang

Tribal disenrollment is the process by which an individual loses the right to be a member of a federally recognized tribe, a situation that has negatively impacted thousands of Native Americans. This unjust ejection of legitimate tribal members is most prevalent amongst tribes operating casinos on their lands. Produced with the assistance of Indigenous consultants and collaborators, film reveals the corruption and greed behind this shocking practice and its destructive impact on individuals, families and Indigenous communities in the US.

(78 min) US

S07 SAT OCT18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:30 PM

UNAFF2025 MESSAGES FOR THE FUTURE

THURSDAY 10.16

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
Ed Lauing

6:30 PM AN ORDINARY INSANITY (US, 23 min)

7:00 PM STAND TOGETHER AS ONE
(Ethiopia/UK/US, 64 min)

8:15 PM FOLLOWING HARRY (US, 90 min)

FRIDAY 10.17

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road

Session 2

4:00 PM A SHOT AT HISTORY (US, 23 min)

4:30 PM COEXISTENCE, MY ASS!
(Israel/Palestine, 95 min)

Session 3

6:15 PM NICE GIRLS DON'T ASK (US, 17 min)

6:40 PM THE CHAPLAIN AND THE DOCTOR
(US, 85 min)

Session 4

8:15 PM THE FRIENDSHIP BENCH
(US/Zimbabwe, 52 min)

9:15 PM MADE IN ETHIOPIA
(China/Ethiopia, 90 min)

SATURDAY 10.18

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road

Session 5

UNAFF & Kids Program (FREE Admission)

1:00 PM SAVING OUR ANCESTORS -
REFLECTION BY DR. BIRUTE GALDIKAS
(Indonesia/US, 27 min)

1:35 PM THE MOST BEAUTIFUL NOISE
(Romania/UK, 40 min)

Session 6

2:30 PM EVERYWHERE (Australia, 39 min)

3:20 PM THE POWER OF SMALL (US, 40 min)

4:10 PM PASSION TO PERSIST (US, 48 min)

5:05 PM THE DREAMERS AND I (US, 74 min)

6:30 PM PANEL "Kindness, the Catalyst for Social
Change" (FREE Admission)

Session 7

7:30 PM YOU'RE NO INDIAN (US, 78 min)

8:55 PM MAGIC & MONSTERS (US, 88 min)

WEDNESDAY 10.22

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

Session 15 UNAFF in Schools
(FREE for Students and Teachers)

3:00 PM AHMED ALIVE
(Palestine/South Africa, 21 min)

3:25 PM ONCE UPON A TIME IN UKRAINE
(Ukraine/US, 36 min)

4:05 PM LIFT (US, 87 min)

San Francisco, Delancey Screening Room, 600
Embarcadero

Session 16

7:05 PM FREE WORDS: A POET FROM GAZA
(Palestine/Turkey, 24 min)

7:40 PM POST ATLANTIC (US, 29 min)

Session 17

8:20 PM THE TRUE STORY OF TAMARA DE
LEMPICKA AND THE ART OF SURVIVAL
(US, 96 min)

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road

Session 18

7:00 PM EXODUS (Sudan, 25 min)

7:30 PM A LITTLE FELLOW: THE LEGACY OF A.P.
GIANNINI (Italy/US, 122 min)

THURSDAY 10.23

Stanford University, Stanford Medical School,
LKC room 120, 291 Campus Dr. (FREE Admission)

Session 19

4:00 PM SENSE OF SMELL: IN SEARCH OF THE
LOST MEANING
(France/Germany/Israel/Portugal/
Sweden/Switzerland, 52 min)

5:00 PM ARREST THE MIDWIFE (US, 78 min)

6:30 PM PANEL "Healthcare – Science and Truth
under Siege" (FREE Admission)

Session 20

7:30 PM SPILLOVER – PLANET OF VIRUSES
(Australia/Belgium/Cambodia/Germany/
Hong Kong/Malaysia/US, 89 min)

FRIDAY 10.24

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road

Session 21

4:00 PM WAR AND PRIEST (Georgia/UK, 17 min)

4:25 PM MAX: ONE LAST FAVOR
(Afghanistan/US, 21 min)

4:55 PM UNFORGIVABLE
(Italy/Rwanda, 28 min)

5:30 PM THE QUIET DIPLOMAT
(South Korea/US, 65 min)

6:40 PM PANEL "Humanizing Complex Political
Issues" (FREE Admission)

Session 22

7:40 PM THERE IS ANOTHER WAY
(Israel/Palestine, 67 min)

9:00 PM PORCELAIN WAR (Ukraine, 87 min)

International Documentary Film Festival

SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 10.19

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road

Session 8

1:00 PM PRIDE OF THE GOBI (Mongolia, 7 min)
1:15 PM SOAKING THE GROUND (Brazil, 15 min)
1:40 PM WIND'S HERITAGE (Iran, 29 min)

Session 9

2:20 PM THE WHITE HOUSE EFFECT (US, 97 min)
4:00 PM PANEL "Active Climate Change Responses" (FREE Admission)

Session 10

5:10 PM LABORS OF LOVE: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HENRIETTA SZOLD (Israel/US, 73 min)
6:35 PM THE BURNING (Congo/Guinea/Mali/Morocco/Nigeria/US, 86 min)
8:15 PM UVALDE MOM (US, 88 min)

MONDAY 10.20

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road

Session 11

4:00 PM STITCH & TIME (US, 14 min)
4:20 PM PAINT ME A ROAD OUT OF HERE (US, 90 min)
6:00 PM PANEL "Criminal Justice – Punishment vs. Reintegration" (FREE Admission)

Session 12

7:00 PM THE PRISON SHOW (US, 55 min)
8:05 PM IN THE RED: CHANGING LIVES TO SAVE LIVES (US, 94 min)

TUESDAY 10.21

Stanford University
Lane History Corner, Building 200, Room 205
450 Jane Stanford Way

Session 13

4:00 PM REVOLUTION 3.0 (Iran, 52min)
5:00 PM TIKTOK, BOOM. (US/China, 87 min)
6:30 PM PANEL "The Impact and the Role of Social Media" (FREE Admission)

Session 14

7:30 PM HOW TO BUILD A LIBRARY (Germany/Kenya/US, 100 min)

SATURDAY 10.25

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road

Session 23

1:00 PM ISAAC ASIMOV, A MESSAGE TO THE FUTURE (France/US, 55 min)
2:05 PM THE INVISIBLE DOCTRINE: THE SECRET HISTORY OF NEOLIBERALISM (UK/US, 75 min)

Session 24

3:30 PM WHO KILLED SHIREEN? (Israel/Palestine/US, 41 min)
4:20 PM BREGRET (UK, 52 min)
5:20 PM DEMOCRACY NOIR (Hungary/US, 90 min)
7:00 PM PANEL "Democracy and Media in the Age of AI" (FREE Admission)

Session 25

8:00 PM DEMOCRACY UNDER SIEGE (Belgium/Luxembourg/US, 52 min)
9:00 PM THE SPIES AMONG US (Germany/US, 91 min)

SUNDAY 10.26

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road

Session 26

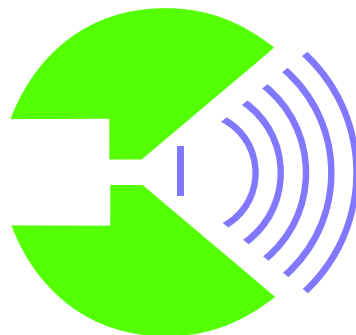
1:00 PM THE CHANGEBAKER (Canada/Colombia/US, 16 min)
1:25 PM COMPARSA (Guatemala/US, 79 min)

Session 27

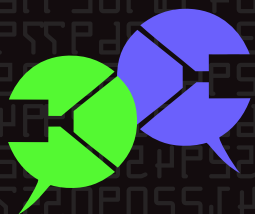
3:00 PM THE LIBRARIANS (US, 83 min)
4:30 PM COUNTED OUT (US, 89 min)

Session 28

6:10 PM WE WANT THE FUNK! (US, 120 min)
8:15 PM Awards Ceremony and Closing Night Reception sponsored by Coupa Café, Douce France and La Bohème
Music by the Potential Jazz Ensemble



UNAFF2025
MESSAGES FOR THE FUTURE



UNAFF2025 PANELS

SATURDAY October 18

*Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road*

6:30 PM PANEL

"Kindness, the Catalyst for Social Change"
(FREE Admission)

SUNDAY October 19

*Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road*

4:00 PM PANEL

"Active Climate Change Responses"
(FREE Admission)

MONDAY October 20

*Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road*

6:00 PM PANEL

**"Criminal Justice – Punishment vs.
Reintegration"**
(FREE Admission)

TUESDAY October 21

*Stanford University Lane History Corner,
Building 200, Room 205, 450 Jane Stanford Way*

6:30 PM PANEL

"The Impact and the Role of Social Media"
(FREE Admission)

THURSDAY October 23

*Stanford University, Stanford Medical School,
LKC room 120, 291 Campus Dr.*

6:30 PM PANEL

"Healthcare – Science and Truth under Siege"
(FREE Admission)

FRIDAY October 24

*Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road*

6:40 PM PANEL

"Humanizing Complex Political Issues"
(FREE Admission)

SATURDAY October 25

*Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road*

7:00 PM PANEL

"Democracy and Media in the Age of AI"
(FREE Admission)

Giving Back to the Places We Live, Work, and Love



Christie's International Real Estate Sereno is honored to support the 2025 United Nations Association Film Festival. We are grateful for this organization and all they do to enrich the lives of others.



*Proud supporter of United Nations
Association Film Festival since 2013*



Excellence in Journalism

Winner of 16 awards from the
San Francisco Press Club in 2020

awards from the San Francisco Peninsula Press Club, 2020
Awards determined out-of-state judge in a competition
among daily newspapers in the 11-county Bay Area.



PREMIER PROPERTIES

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

*Congratulations for 28 years of bringing the community
together through powerful documentaries.*



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:

www.unaff.org
(Traveling Film Festival page)
or contact us at info@unaff.org

AHMAD ALIVE
e: yusuf@seen.tv
w: www.yusufomar.com/

ARREST THE MIDWIFE
e: underdog.projects@gmail.com
w: www.arrestthemidwifefilm.com

BREGRET
e: c.bochnacki@balanga.tv
w: <https://balanga.tv>

THE BURNING
e: contact@smallworldfilms.org
w: www.smallworldfilms.org

THE CHANGEBAKER
e: hi@courtneydixon.com
w: www.courtneydixon.com

THE CHAPLAIN AND THE DOCTOR
e: info@reelmedicinemedi.org
w: reelmedicinemedi.org/chaplain

COEXISTENCE, MY ASS!
e: festival@autlookfilms.com
w: <https://www.coexistencemyass.com/>

COMPARSA
e: vickie.curtis@gmail.com
w: comparsafilm.com

COUNTED OUT
e: info@reellinkfilms.com
w: countedoutfilm.com

DEMOCRACY NOIR
e: info@clarityfilms.org
w: Reallava.com/movies/democracy-noir/

DEMOCRACY UNDER SIEGE
e: contact@democracyundersiegefilm.org
w: <https://www.democracyundersiegedoc.org/>

THE DREAMERS AND I
e: contact@kelly-yamamoto.com
w: kelly-yamamoto.com/portfolio_page/the-dreamers-and-i/

EVERYWHERE
e: theperiscopecrew@gmail.com
w: Everywherefilm.com

EXODUS
e: bob@bobmiller.studio
w: <https://www.exodus-film.com/>

FOLLOWING HARRY
e: filmmail@videoproject.org
w: <https://www.followingharry.org/>

FREE WORDS: A POET FROM GAZA
e: aharunilhan@gmail.com
w: www.instagram.com/a.harun.ilhan

THE FRIENDSHIP BENCH
e: graham@sealionfilms.com
w: sealionfilms.com/thefriendshipbench

HOW TO BUILD A LIBRARY
e: maia@circleandsquare.tv
w: Circleandsquare.tv/how-to-build-a-library

IN THE RED
e: mchakarova@stillirisefilms.org
w: <https://www.intheredfilm.org/>

THE INVISIBLE DOCTRINE: THE SECRET HISTORY OF NEOLIBERALISM
e: peter.hutch@yahoo.com
w: www.theinvisibledoctrine.com

ISAAC ASIMOV, A MESSAGE TO THE FUTURE
e: contact@kepler22productions.com
w: www.film-documentaire.fr/4DACTION/w_fiche_film/65033_0

LABORS OF LOVE: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HENRIETTA SZOLD
e: abbyginzberg@gmail.com
w: <https://www.henriettaszoldfilm.com/>

THE LIBRARIANS
e: kim@kasnyderproductions.com
w: www.thelibrariansfilm.com

LIFT
e: david@beaufort9films.com
w: www.liftdocumentary.com

UNAFF2025 PRINT SOURCES

A LITTLE FELLOW: THE LEGACY OF A.P. GIANNINI
e: davidefioredirector@gmail.com
w: www.alittlefellowmovie.com

MADE IN ETHIOPIA
e: tom@dogwoof.com
w: www.madeinethiopiafilm.com

MAGIC AND MONSTERS
e: norah@flyingpiecesproductions.com
w: <https://www.magicandmonstersfilm.com>

MAX: ONE LAST FAVOR
e: patti.bonnet@gmail.com
w: www.maxonelastrfavor.com/

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL NOISE
e: schendelfilms@gmail.com
w: www.documentaries.org/films/the-music-bus/

NICE GIRLS DON'T ASK
e: krawitz@stanford.edu
w: www.jankrawitz.com/nice-girls

ONCE UPON A TIME IN UKRAINE
e: gmcgowan@goldcrestfilms.com
w: <https://www.shortverse.com/films/once-upon-a-time-in-ukraine>

AN ORDINARY MADNESS
e: ehrlich.judith@gmail.com
w: <http://www.defusenuclearwar.org>

PAINT ME A ROAD OUT OF HERE
e: heather@aubinpictures.com
w: www.paintmearoadfilm.com

PASSION TO PERSIST
e: jakupcak@gmail.com

PORCELAIN WAR
e: aniela@imaginarylane.com
w: <http://porcelainwar.com>

POST ATLANTIC
e: mark@bullfrogfilms.com
w: www.snitow-kaufman.org

THE POWER OF SMALL
e: will@tdbff.org
w: www.thepowerofsmallfilm.com

PRIDE OF THE GOBI
e: willmvfg@gmail.com
w: <http://www.mvfg.com>

THE PRISON SHOW
e: gabriella.kessler@gmail.com
w: www.prisonshowfilm.com/

THE QUIET DIPLOMAT
e: cressly@gmail.com
w: www.thequietdiplomatfilm.com

REVOLUTION 3.0
e: gabriela.daniels@medianest.net
w: medianest.net/film/revolution-3-0

SAVING OUR ANCESTORS – REFLECTION BY DR. BIRUTE GALDIKAS
e: charlieexplore2@gmail.com
w: <http://explore.org>

SENSE OF SMELL: IN SEARCH OF THE LOST MEANING
e: m.fouquet@decoupages.fr
w: cosimadannoritzer.com/portfolio-item/sense-of-smell/

A SHOT AT HISTORY
e: rajalpitroda@gmail.com
w: doubleexposure24.eventive.org/films/6709536ed24742002c647f59

SOAKING THE GROUND
e: festival@outsidefilms.com
w: <https://videoconsortium.org/solutions/ssp-latam-avina>

THE SPIES AMONG US
e: jamie@sidexsidestudios.com
w: www.thespiesamongus.film

SPILOVER – PLANET OF VIRUSES
e: peter.wolf@broadview.tv
w: www.broadview.tv/en/all-movies/spillover-planet-of-viruses/

STAND TOGETHER AS ONE
e: rise@vagabondmovingpictures.com
w: <https://screenbound.co.uk/stand-together-as-one/>

STITCH AND TIME
e: hello@theunscripted.com
w: www.stitchandtimefilm.com/

THERE IS ANOTHER WAY
e: tiaw@reconsider.org
w: thereisanotherwayfilm.com/

TIKTOK, BOOM.
e: orders@wmm.com
w: www.shalinikantayya.net/

THE TRUE STORY OF TAMARA DE LEMPICKA AND THE ART OF SURVIVAL
e: bwellen@hotmail.com
w: www.tamaradoc.com

UNFORGIVABLE
e: marybeth.minnis@gmail.com
w: <http://imperdonabile.it/>

UVALDE MOM
e: anayansiprado@gmail.com
w: <https://www.uvaldemomfilm.com>

WAR AND PRIEST
e: bamakure@gmail.com
w: www.bamcamera.com

WE WANT THE FUNK!
e: info@firelightmedia.org
w: <https://www.firelightfilms.tv/>

THE WHITE HOUSE EFFECT
e: misha@actualfilms.net
w: www.thewhitehouseeffect.com/

WHO KILLED SHIREEN
e: dion.nissenbaum@gmail.com
w: zeteo.com/p/who-killed-shireen-abu-akleh

WIND'S HERITAGE
e: nasim.soheili1985@gmail.com

YOU'RE NO INDIAN
e: press@yourenoindian.com
w: www.yourenoindian.com

UNAFF2025 SPONSORS

PLATINUM



ANONYMOUS

TERRI D. BULLOCK
FAMILY FOUNDATION

THE BARTON
FAMILY FOUNDATION



BRONZE

The
ATLANTIC
Philanthropies

DRACHKOVITCH
FAMILY FOUNDATION



GOLD



THE FRANKLIN AND
CATHERINE JOHNSON
FOUNDATION

PRISCILLA AND MARTIN
CONNELLY

GALE ANNE HURD,
VALHALLA ENTERTAINMENT, INC.



DESJARDINS/BLACHMAN
FUND



SILVER



PRIYA CHANDRAKER
AND HARISH DESHMUKH



e1 PRADO

NICOLAS BONNET

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
SERENO

HOTEL CITRINE
TRIBUTE PORTFOLIO

PATIENCE YOUNG

SUSAN PETIT



BETTY MEISSNER

ELLEN FLAMEN

O'FARRELL-PRINCIPLE
CHARITABLE FUND

DOUCE FRANCE

EASTSIDE
COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL



MEDIA



ADA Cafe

Amnesty International Palo Alto

Amnesty International San Francisco

Arlene Fischhoff and Richard Trevor

Avante Hotel

Bill Lane Center for the American West

Brucelli Advertising

Center for African Studies

Center for Advanced Study in the
Behavioral Sciences

Copy Factory

Haas Center for Public Service

Kathleen A. Dugan

Jeannet Kiessling

Kiwanis Club of Los Altos

Zeljko Ivanek

McCoy Center for Ethics in Society

MFA Program in Documentary Film

Midpen Media Center

Suzan Miller

Neighbors Abroad Palo Alto

Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce

Perspectives in Assistive Technology

Premier Properties

Safeway Menlo Park

Charles Peter Schattner

Stanford Asian American Activities
Center

Stanford Continuing Studies

Stanford Film Society

Stanford Global Studies

Stanford Humanities Center

Stanford Park Hotel

UNA Midpeninsula Chapter

UNA San Francisco Chapter

Women Make Movies

UNAFF2025 TICKETS



SESSIONS

As documentaries 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 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 – \$18 PER FILM SESSION (1.5 – 3 hours per session)

FESTIVAL PASS – \$280

SENIOR FESTIVAL PASS (62+) – \$80

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION WITH THE FILMMAKERS AND SESSION 1 – \$60

CLOSING NIGHT RECEPTION WITH THE FILMMAKERS AND SESSION 28 – \$60

FREE ADMISSION FOR

ALL STUDENTS WITH VALID ID

SESSION 5: UNAFF & KIDS PROGRAM (Oct. 18)

SESSION 15: UNAFF IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM (Oct. 22)

ALL STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCREENINGS

ALL UNAFF PANELS

SPECIAL EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION WITH THE FILMMAKERS (Oct. 16) – \$60

SESSION 16 SAN FRANCISCO SCREENINGS (Oct. 22) – \$20

SESSION 17 SAN FRANCISCO SCREENINGS (Oct. 22) – \$20

CLOSING NIGHT FILMS, AWARD CEREMONY & RECEPTION (Oct. 26) – \$60

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

PRECAUTIONS

Please keep in mind that the films are not rated and use your own judgement about what is appropriate for you based on the blurbs on our website (unaff.org), or in our brochure.

Be aware that the start times within sessions with multiple films depend on guests and the Q&A duration and are therefore not always absolutely precise.

Donations are greatly appreciated! For more details please see <https://unaff.allyrafundraising.com/>

SUPPORT UNAFF

By making a tax-deductible donation to UNAFF you will directly give thousands of people a chance to see these important films that bring our diverse community together. Please send your gift (payable to IDA). The IDA (International Documentary Association) is the fiscal sponsor of UNAFF.

UNAFF2025 SPECIAL THANKS TO

Roberta Ahiquist	Ellen Flamen	Karen Larsen	Chris Selberg
Chris Bischof	Mira Foster	Betty Lee	Iva Sijan
Nancy Blachman	Robin Garthwait	Cynthia McCarthy	Duarte Silva
Coit Blacker	Alison de Geus	Barb Mackraz	Gail Silva
Nicolas Bonnet	Jonathan Gifford	Betty Meissner	Joe Simitian
Terri Bullock	Joseph Golinveaux	Jamie Meltzer	Marty Simmons
Clayborne Carson	Sian Taylor Gowan	Steve Michelson	Alice Smith
Laura Chiu	Murial Gravina	Olga Mullen	Sheri Sobrato
Supatra Chowchuvech	Dianne Griffin	Stephen Nemeth	America Sosa
Steve Cole	Anne Griffiths	Jesse Norfleet	Cherrill M Spencer
Katherine Converse	Brandon Heinrichs	Tooran Oshikoji	Claire Sun
Nancy Coupal	Karen Holman	Ash Pachauri	Suzan Swabacker
David D'Arcy	Kathy Holly	Nuno Goncalves Pedro	Jeffrey Tolin
Dale Djerassi	Gay Howard	Carole Pertofsky	Richard Trevor
Rasha Drachkovitch	Zeljko Ivanek	Gloria Principe	Vicki Veenker
Anne-Marie Duliege	David Jaffe	Stuyvie Pyne	Jocelyn Wang
Veena Elavarasan	Carl and Susan Johnson	Bisera Rakicevic	Xavier Webb
Tarah Evans	Bill Johnson	Janice Rensch	Maggie Wilde
Claude Ezran	Maika Jones	Mercedes Roman	Barbara Wright
Dorothy Fadiman	Marjorie Jones	Maureen and Paul Roskoph	Sura Wood
Yoanna Federici	Shelly Kosak	Perryn Reis	Donald Young
Arlene Fischhoff	Claire Kuan	Janet and Peter Schachter	Helen Young

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

UNAFF 2025 Trailer: Director/Producer: Jasmina Bojic • Editor: Rey Penezic • Music: Rose

UNAFF 2025 Trailer before the Trailer: Rey Penezic

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

Associate Director: Chris Scheerder • Filmmaker Coordinator: Mariana Price • Publicity Outreach Coordinators: Linda Lopez-Otero and Ronny Hamed-Troyansky • Program and Volunteer Coordinators: Maika Jones and Avery Miller • UNAFF & Kids and UNAFF In Schools Program Coordinator: Priya Chandraker • Sponsorship Coordinator: Sonoko Rooney • Stanford Sponsorship Coordinator: Dawn Kwan • Sponsorship Outreach Coordinator: Natalie Wong • Fundraising Outreach Coordinators: Avery Miller, Matt Burrows and Remy Charles • Media and Tech Outreach Coordinator: Rodrigo Torres • Media, Marketing & Communications: Cathy Keys • Social Media Outreach Coordinators: Claire Sun and Jocelyn Wang • Jury Coordinator: Priya Chandraker

Jasmina Bojic
UNAFF Founder and Executive Director

NETWORK WITH US



UNAFF



UNAFF



UNAFF



UNAFF



VALHALLA
ENTERTAINMENT

IN DOCUMENTARIES

Illuminating real stories from diverse corners of the world.



The YouTube Effect



Mandelstam



Choirboy

We proudly
support UNAFF
efforts!

SF/ARTS

Proud Sponsor of UNAFF

SF/ARTS: Your Go-To Guide to Bay Area Arts in Print and Online
sfarts.org



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America

Midpeninsula Chapter
Palo Alto, CA

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

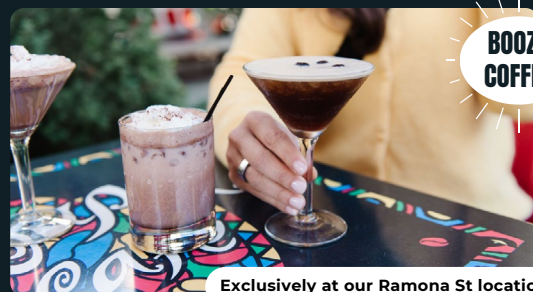
Like us at
www.facebook.com/unamidpeninsula



*Your 3rd Place
Awaits...*

Not Home, Not Office—your 3rd place to feel comfortable, connect, and enjoy the perfect cup of coffee.

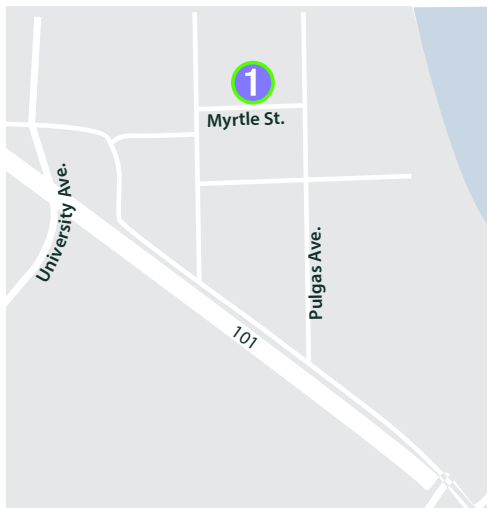
Work, meet, or relax at Coupa Cafe, your Palo Alto sanctuary. Don't miss our Boozy Coffee—a blend of comfort and indulgence.



**BOOZY
COFFEE**

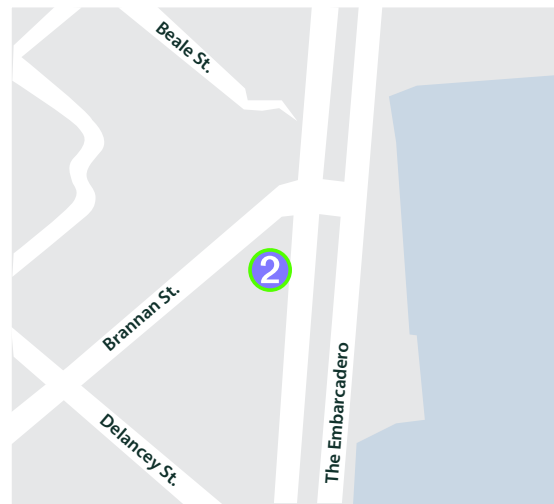
Exclusively at our Ramona St location

Proud Sponsor of UNAFF



EAST PALO ALTO (EPA)

- 1 EPA-EASTSIDE**
 Eastside College
 Preparatory School Theater
 1041 Myrtle Street
 East Palo Alto, CA 94303

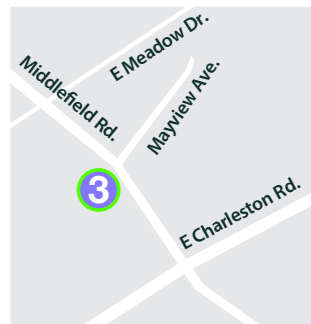


SAN FRANCISCO (SF)

- 2 DELANCEY SCREENING ROOM**
 600 The Embarcadero
 San Francisco, CA 94107

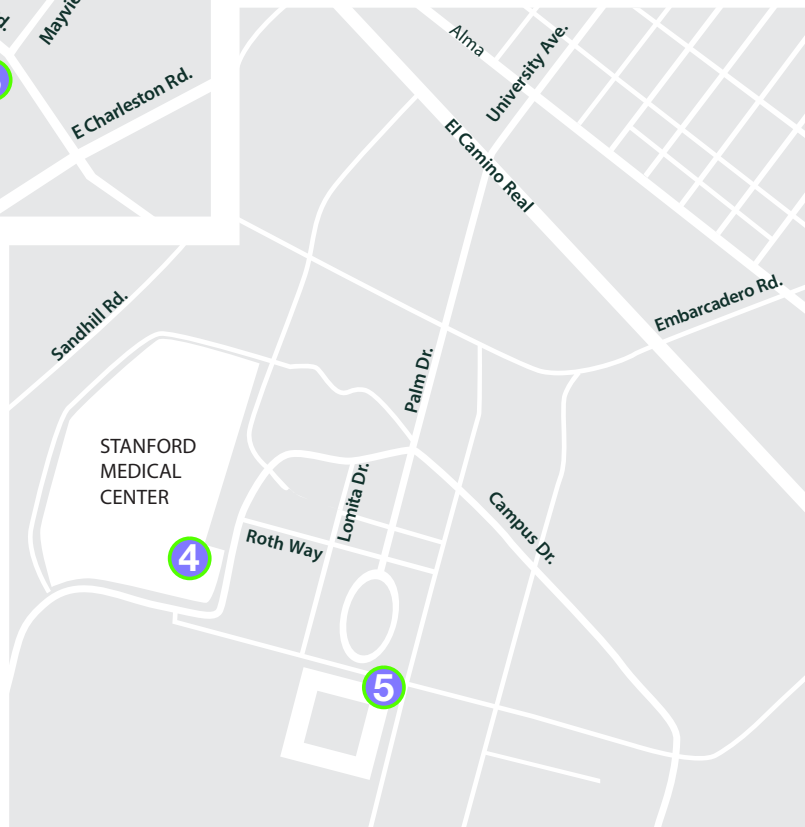
PALO ALTO (PA)

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



STANFORD UNIVERSITY (SU)

- 4 SU-MEDICAL SCHOOL**
 LKC room 120
 291 Campus Dr.
 Stanford, CA 94304
- 5 LANE HISTORY CORNER**
 Building 200, Room 205
 450 Jane Stanford Way
 Stanford, CA 94305





28th UNAFF Visionary Award Honors Congresswoman Anna Eshoo

The **28th UNAFF Visionary Award** will be presented to Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, whose valiant representation in Congress for more than 30 years—marked by unwavering devotion to the principles of our democracy, the highest ethical standards, and strong approval from her constituents—embodies the kind of values we seek to emphasize in our theme, ***MESSAGES FOR THE FUTURE***. For her tireless engagement on behalf of all of us, and for the consistently exemplary manner in which she performed her duties, we can think of no one more fitting to receive the **2025 UNAFF Visionary Award**. Anna Eshoo joins previous Visionary Award recipients such as Academy Award Winner and United Nations Messenger of Peace, Michael Douglas; actor, director and environmental activist Matthew Modine; 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 Moon.

