



27th UNAFF Awards Five Documentary Films Across "Shared Humanity"

The annual United Nations Association Film Festival concluded on Sunday, October 27, after screening 60 films from around the world in its 11-day run.



November 3, 2024—The [United Nations Association Film Festival](https://unaff.org/) (UNAFF), one of the oldest documentary film festivals in the nation, concluded its 27th annual presentation on Sunday, October 27, 2024, after 11 days of programming in the Bay Area. The festival is one of the nation's only purely documentary film festivals, which educates and engages the local community by presenting topics that transcend the boundaries of film alone.

The 27th UNAFF took place October 17-27 in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, San Francisco, and at Stanford University with 60 documentary films discussing "SHARED HUMANITY," an exploration in our common destiny and the issues paving our path, or standing in its way. This year's theme continued UNAFF's enduring devotion to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Films presented at the festival this year included representation from **57 percent women filmmakers** and **54 percent filmmakers of color**. There

were **4 World Premieres**, **1 North American Premiere**, **9 US Premieres**, **11 West Coast Premieres**, and **16 Bay Area Premieres**.

UNAFF Founder and Executive Director Jasmina Bojic remarks:

"We are deeply grateful to our wonderful filmmakers and guests that continue to make our festival stand out. Each year, we develop our festival theme to further educate and engage the local community by including topics that are currently relevant. From our attendees to our filmmakers and Visionary Award Recipient, Matthew Modine, everyone who participated in the festival really accentuated an incredible atmosphere of 'Shared Humanity.'"

Award Winners

UNAFF recognized five festival films at the awards ceremony on Sunday, October 27 for achievement in the following categories:



From left to right: Jen Bradwell (MAKE A CIRCLE), Matthew Modine, and Hege Dehli (TAX WARS)

GRAND JURY AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY
[TAX WARS](#)

TAX WARS director Hege Dehli comments:

"What a fabulous festival! I am so grateful and honoured to have been selected to have the U.S premiere of the film at UNAFF, and, on top of that, winning the award for Best Documentary 2024! The festival gave me the best opportunity to meet with US filmmakers, and I was able to make wonderful connections that might help my film, TAX WARS, receive further exploration in the US, for the American public."

GRANDY JURY AWARD FOR BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY
[SLUDGE: A PFAS UPRISING](#)



AWARD FOR BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

Ibrahim Nash'at, [HOLLYWOODGATE](#)

Ibrahim Nash'at comments:

"I am deeply honored to receive the 27th UNAFF Best Cinematography Award. In light of the ongoing challenges in Afghanistan, this recognition underscores the power of storytelling in bringing attention to the struggles and resilience of its people. I sincerely thank the festival for supporting films that amplify these critical voices."



Filmmaker Ibrahim Nash'at (HOLLYWOODGATE)

AWARD FOR BEST EDITING

Jen Bradwell, [MAKE A CIRCLE](#)

Jen Bradwell comments:

“The UNAFF audience is a uniquely engaged and curious one. There’s nothing quite like watching your film with a packed audience: laughing together, crying together, and then having an informed conversation about how we can make good on our shared humanity. We’re very appreciative of the mission and the community of this festival.”

YOUTH VISION AWARD

[RADIO DADAAB](#)

Visionary Award

Additionally, Matthew Modine received the Visionary Award for his decades of dedication to protecting our oceans and environment and his enduring commitment to producing impactful human rights documentaries. He comments:

“Earth is our home. This is where we make our stand. We’ve searched for signs of life on other planets and substantiation of some form of god or divine being. So far we’ve found none. For me, this magnifies our responsibility to finding peaceful solutions to our petty disagreements. I’m grateful to the UNAFF for providing a platform for so many documentary films that demonstrate how we can be successful at solving problems and illuminating a path to peace.”



From left to right: Matthew Modine and UNAFF Founder Jasmina Bojic

Modine joins an esteemed list of previous Visionary Award recipients, including Academy Award winner and United Nations Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas; Congresswoman Barbara Lee; human rights activist, actor, and singer Harry Belafonte; singer and 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 former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Press assets are located at <http://www.unaff.org/2024/press.html>

For more information, visit <http://www.unaff.org/>

For help with press coverage and information, please contact publicist2024@unaff.org.

Save the Date

The 28th United Nations Association Film Festival will be held October 16-26, 2025. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

About UNAFF

Founded in 1998 by Jasmina Bojic, film critic and educator, UNAFF (United Nations Association Film Festival) is an international documentary film festival originally established to honor the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Over the years UNAFF has screened some of the most awarded and talked about documentaries in the industry, including eight that went on to win Academy Awards and 36 that were nominated. For more information about UNAFF, please visit https://www.unaff.org/2024/files/UNAFF2024_About.pdf.

The 27th UNAFF was presented from October 17-27, 2024 exploring the theme SHARED HUMANITY. UNAFF celebrates the power of films dealing with human rights, including environmental themes, women's issues, racism, child welfare, war and peace. Over its 27 years, UNAFF and its year-round programs have attracted a broad audience from around the Bay Area, with many finding the screenings to be a rare chance to engage with different cultures and see the state of human rights around the world and at home. UNAFF promotes education, awareness, and social change through images, dialogue, and action.