



Announcing the 29th UNAFF

The 29th United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF)
presents **six world premieres** this year.



UNAFF2026 Festival Trailer

The [United Nations Association Film Festival](https://unaff.org) (UNAFF) is pleased to announce the program for its 29th edition, PASSION FOR CHANGE. From **Oct. 15–25, 2026**, in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, San Francisco and at Stanford University, UNAFF will present 60 global documentary films.

Festival by the Numbers:

- 60% of films directed or co-directed by women
- 56% of films directed or co-directed by filmmakers of color
- 6 World Premieres:

- [ABSENCE](#)
- [FIXER, THE](#)
- [hSb ASMA: IT ALL COMES BACK](#)
- [HEATHENS](#)
- [LAST CHRISTIAN IN BETHLEHAM](#)
- [WEAVER'S GAZE, A](#)
- 1 North American Premiere
- 8 U.S. Premieres
- 15 West Coast Premieres
- 15 Bay Area Premieres

The 2026 lineup includes stories from 45 countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cuba, Ghana, India, Iran, Israel, Kenya, Myanmar, Palestine, Pakistan, South Africa, Syria, Turkey, and Uganda.

For press information and film photo assets, visit: unaff.org/2026/press.html

An interactive schedule is available at unaff.org/2026/schedule.html.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Program highlights are listed below. You may also skip ahead to a specific section:

- [Opening & Closing](#)
- [Free Events](#)
- [Program & Schedule](#)
- [Screeners Available](#)
- [Ticket Information](#)
- [About UNAFF](#)
- [Festival Listing Details](#)

As always, contact publicity@unaff.org for press materials or additional information.

BIG NIGHTS

OPENING NIGHT

The 29th United Nations Association Film Festival opens **Thursday, Oct. 15**, at Mitchell Park Community Center in Palo Alto, with remarks by Mayor **Vickie Veenker** and the presentation of a City of Palo Alto proclamation recognizing the 29th UNAFF.

Opening Night begins with the **West Coast premiere** of ***The Comfort Dogs of Uganda***, directed by Australian filmmaker **Richard Wainwright**. The documentary follows former child soldiers in northern Uganda finding unexpected bonds with rescued village dogs.

Next is the **world premiere** of ***Last Christian in Bethlehem***, from local Bay Area team and UNAFF alums, **Robert Levering**, **Stephen Talbot**, and **Stephanie Mechura**. This feature documentary provides interviews and footage of Palestinian Christians living in the West Bank.

The night concludes with ***Through the Body***, a film about Keith Terry, an Oakland percussionist and dancer. Director **Andrew Reissiger** journeys with Terry as he builds a global community through the International Body Music Festival. A special dance performance will also take place at this screening.



Still from *THROUGH THE BODY*, directed by Andrew Reissiger.

CLOSING NIGHT

Closing night, held **Sunday, Oct. 25**, also at Mitchell Park, brings two feature-length films.

Yo (Love is a Rebellious Bird), by Bay Area duo **Banker White** and UNAFF alum **Anna Fitch**, is an imaginative film explores creativity as an outlet for grief and love.

In the Company of Wolves: An American Journey, narrated by **Jeff Bridges** and directed by **Susan Kucera** and **Jim Swift**, explores how our relationship with animals shaped a nation. Jeff Bridges is also the recipient of the **29th UNAFF Visionary Award**.



Still from IN THE COMPANY OF WOLVES: AN AMERICAN JOURNEY, directed by Susan Kucera and Jim Swift.

👉 back to [top](#).

FREE EVENTS

UNAFF offers program sessions for audiences to experience the festival at no cost, including [UNAFF & Kids Program](#) and the [UNAFF in Schools Program](#).

Session 9 on Sunday, Oct. 18, will be presented with free admission. It features three short films:

- 1:00 p.m. [CROSSING THE DIVIDE](#) (US, 11 min, **West Coast premiere**)
- 1:20 p.m. [THE DREAMING GAME](#) (US, 11 min, **West Coast premiere**)
- 1:40 p.m. [THE MARKET AND THE MONKEY'S PAW](#) (El Salvador/US, 20 min, **US premiere**)

Students are encouraged to attend the festival and may receive free tickets to films with a valid student ID. For more information, contact us at info@unaff.org

Six panel discussions featuring filmmakers, industry guests, and subject matter experts will also be available at no cost:

Saturday, Oct. 17, 6:40 p.m.

Bipartisanship and Climate Change

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

Sunday, Oct. 18, 4:30 p.m.

Communities Between Homlessness and Extreme Wealth
Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7:05 p.m.

In Celebration of Human Resilience

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

Thursday, Oct. 22, 6:30 p.m.

Democracy, Ethics and Truth in the Time of AI

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

Friday, Oct. 23, 5:30 p.m.

In Search of Solutions During Wartime

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

Saturday, Oct. 24, 5:10 p.m.

Different Faces of Religion

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

👉 back to [top](#).



UNAFF PROGRAM & SCHEDULE

Visit unaff.org/2026/schedule.html for the most up-to-date schedule.

Find individual film details at unaff.org/2026/films.html.

Find press photos for each film at unaff.org/2026/press.html.

Reach out to publicity@unaff.org for assistance.

 back to [top](#).

AVAILABLE SCREENERS

Screeners are available to reviewing press upon request at publicity@unaff.org

 back to [top](#).

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 \$19 each.
- Festival passes are \$290 each.
- Senior festival passes, available to those 62 and older, are \$90 each.
- The Opening Night reception, which includes Session 1, is \$60.
- The Closing Night reception, which includes Session 29, is also \$60.
- Students may receive free tickets by presenting a valid student ID.

Ticket information is available at unaff.org/2026/tickets.html.

 back to [top](#).

UNAFF MISSION

About UNAFF

Founded in 1998 by Jasmina Bojic, a longtime Stanford University educator and film critic, the United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) is an international documentary film festival focused on human rights. Since its founding, UNAFF has screened acclaimed documentaries, including eight films that went on to win Academy Awards and 39 that received Oscar nominations. Held annually since 1998, UNAFF is one of the oldest U.S. film festivals dedicated exclusively to documentaries. Through film, UNAFF promotes education and social change. For more information, visit unaff.org.

About the 29th UNAFF

The 29th UNAFF runs Oct. 15–25, 2026, with the theme *Passion for Change*. The festival features films on human rights issues like the environment, women's rights, racism, and peace, engaging a diverse Bay Area audience.

👉 back to [top](#).

LISTING DETAILS

Festival Name: 29th UNAFF (United Nations Association Film Festival)

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

Festival Dates: October 15-25, 2026

More Information: <http://www.unaff.org/2026/mission.html>

Email: info@unaff.org

Phone: (650) 724-5544