

29th United Nations Association Film Festival

UNAFF 2026

Passion for Change

International Documentary Film Festival



**DOCUMENTARIES THAT WILL
CHANGE YOUR VIEW OF THE WORLD**

October 15-25, 2026

Stanford University • Palo Alto

East Palo Alto • San Francisco

unaff.org

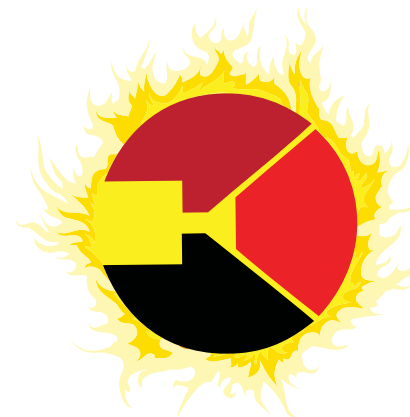


proudly supports UNAFF and
congratulates the festival on 29 years of
promoting the highest quality documentaries

Photo by Mark Hayes

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UNAFF2026 *Passion for Change* International Documentary Film Festival

**29 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.**

**6 WORLD PREMIERES AND 9 US PREMIERES TO BE SCREENED
OCTOBER 15-25 WITH THE THEME *PASSION FOR CHANGE*
OVER 40 FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE THROUGHOUT THE 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 81st anniversary of the UN at a time when divisions here and abroad are more ominous than ever, this year's theme ***PASSION FOR CHANGE*** continues our devotion to human rights with an emphasis on the energy, foresight and courage required to respond wisely to the increasing pace and challenges of our times.

For eleven days, UNAFF will present 60 documentary films from across the globe, including Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, El Salvador, Fiji, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, Mali, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Norway, Palestine, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, Uganda, UK, Ukraine and US.

Our democracy is under severe attack, and we believe that the best shield is knowledge. For 29 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 **29th UNAFF Visionary Award** will be presented to Academy Awarded actor, director and environmentalist **Jeff Bridges** for his continuing passion to fight childhood hunger for his devotion to protect rainforest lands and indigenous cultures, and his unwavering devotion to documentary film as a vehicle for activism. He 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 Anna Eshoo and 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 six free panel discussions exploring topics such as AI, ethics and truth, climate change, different faces of religion, racism and hate, immigration, homelessness, creativity and mental health, women issues, war and peace and the power of art to transform consciousness and inspire social change.

UNAFF's mission has expanded to broad, year-round programs that augment its reach. In addition to the annual film festival, UNAFF organizes panel discussions, initiates programs that engage children, students, women, 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 your ***PASSION FOR CHANGE***. We thank you all for your encouragement and with your support we hope to continue UNAFF and its programs into 2027, when we will celebrate the big milestone - the 30th UNAFF Anniversary.

Jasmina Bojic

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



**Founder and Executive
Director**
Jasmina Bojic

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Peter Coyote
Lolita Davidovich
William Draper III
Danny Glover
Daryl Hannah
Gale Anne Hurd
Matthew Modine
Walter Murch
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UNAFF 2026

Passion for Change

International Documentary Film Festival

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

OPENING

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

5:30 PM Opening Night Reception
Sponsored by Coupa Café and Terun
Music by The Potential Jazz Ensemble

6:00 PM Opening words by Palo Alto Mayor Vicki Veenker

SCREENINGS

6:30 PM THE COMFORT DOGS OF UGANDA (Australia/Uganda, 30 min)
7:10 PM LAST CHRISTIAN IN BETHLEHEM (Israel/Palestine/US, 68 min)
8:30 PM THROUGH THE BODY
(Brazil/France/Ghana/Greece/Indonesia/Italy/Turkey/US, 94 min)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

CLOSING

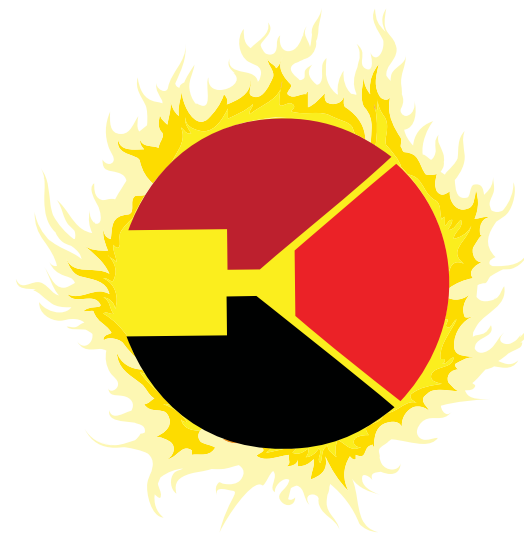
Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road

SCREENINGS

5:20 PM YO (LOVE IS A REBELLIOUS BIRD) (US, 78 min)
6:50 PM IN THE COMPANY OF WOLVES: AN AMERICAN JOURNEY (US, 81min)
8:15 PM Awards Ceremony and Closing Night
Reception sponsored by Coupa Café, Douce France, La Boheme
and Terun
Music by The Potential Jazz Ensemble

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UNAFF 2026

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International Documentary Film Festival

FILMS A-Z



ABSENCE
DIR/PROD: Hasan Jafari, Yaser Talebi, Akra Makhabr, Feriba Arab
A deeply personal documentary set in Tehran follows Siavash, a once-renowned rally champion, and his son Amin, a young man longing to leave Iran in search of dignity and possibility. As the country's political and economic crises deepen, father and son respond differently to the same suffocating reality. Threaded through their story is the absent presence of Siamak–Siavash's brother and Amin's uncle—who left Iran decades earlier and now lives in Sweden. His life in exile stands as a quiet counterpoint to those who stayed behind, revealing how migration, survival and loss echo across generations. (52 min) Canada/Iran/Sweden
S12 SUN OCT 18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:05 PM



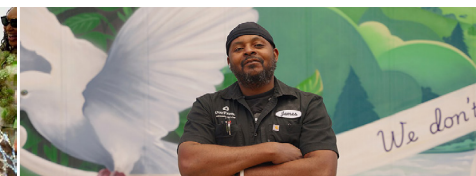
ADAPTED
DIR/PROD: Paul Bikis, Ghislaine Couvillat
Anna Soens aims to become the first paraplegic athlete to summit Mount Baker, a towering 10,781-foot glaciated volcano in Washington State. Josh Hancock leads a custom adaptive raft expedition down the wild, scenic Salmon River in Idaho. Danielle Doelling takes on the ultimate test of endurance, attempting to hand-cycle 87 miles across the rugged terrain of the White Rim Trail in the Canyonlands National Park, Utah. While the pursuit of adventure is their shared goal, each of their stories reveals a deeper journey—one of resilience, self-discovery and post-traumatic growth. (87 min) US
S15 TUE OCT 20 SU - MED. SCHL. ALWAY BLDG.
5:35 PM



ALL OF THE ABOVE
DIR/PROD: Allison Walsh, Lily Qi
The story follows the transformative journey of high school students from different faith backgrounds who come together for John Camardella's world religions class. It spends significant time in the classroom, capturing the intimate dynamics of these students as they engage in deep, challenging conversations about religion and culture. The students—many of whom come from suburban, homogenous communities—begin by grappling with misunderstanding and apprehension, but over time, they develop a deeper empathy for their peers' beliefs and practices. (85 min) US
S24 SAT OCT 24 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:50 PM



BAMAKO CHIC: THREADS OF POWER, COLOR AND CULTURE
DIR/PROD: Maureen Gosling, Maxine Downs
In the 1960s, a group of self-empowered Malian women sparked a revolution, inspired by beauty—and economic survival. They transformed the cloth dyeing tradition using colorful powdered dyes and unbridled creative design. The film celebrates African women, whose ingenuity became a force for alleviating poverty and affirming West African cultural identity. (27 min) Mali/US
S28 SUN OCT 25 PA - MITCHELL PARK 2:50 PM



BECOMING JAMES
DIR/PROD: Evan Possley
After decades in prison, a man struggles to find his identity, finding success in an unexpected way. (8 min) US
S18 WED OCT 21 SF - DELANCEY SCR. ROOM 7:00 PM



BETWEEN SKY AND SEA
DIR/PROD: Ismail Abu Hatab, BYPA
A short docu-film by photojournalist Ismail Abu Hatab, covering life in displacement during the genocide in Gaza in 2024. The film is largely wordless. With the exception of a few interviews with older individuals, it is an artful compilation of daily life in displacement. Most of the footage comes from Deir Al-Balah (the largest displacement camp in Gaza at the time). It concludes with footage of the mass march back to northern Gaza later that year. (25 min) Palestine
S22 FRI OCT 23 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:00 PM



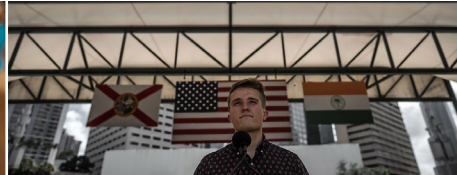
CLIMATE REFUGEES: A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

DIR/PROD: François-Xavier Tréga
Already more than thirty million people flee their villages, regions or countries every year because of climate change. By 2050, it's estimated there will be between 200 million and one billion climate refugees. As extreme weather threatens the lives of hundreds of millions of people, how can the world best respond? Faced with these migrations, the international community seems incapable of agreeing on the definition of a "climate refugee" and suitable compensation for them. Currently, climate refugees are not covered by the 1951 Refugee Convention.
(56 min) *Australia/Bangladesh/Colombia/Fiji/France*
S07 SAT OCT 17 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:05 PM



THE COMFORT DOGS OF UGANDA

DIR/PROD: Richard Wainwright
For the former child soldiers of rebel warlord Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army, the shock of abduction and unspeakable atrocities they witnessed left a lasting, scarring impact. But in the shadow of that brutal twenty-year conflict, a remarkable story of resilience unfolds through the unexpected companionship of rescued dogs. The film follows the lives of Lucy, Francis and Jennifer as they struggle with social stigma and severe PTSD. Alongside them are Sadik, Tommy and Ogen: rescued village dogs from The Comfort Dog Project who themselves are overcoming abandonment and mistreatment.
(30 min) *Australia/Uganda*
S01 THU OCT 15 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:30 PM



THE [CONSERV]ATIVES

DIR/PROD: Nadia Gill, Dominic Gill
What does it actually take to change minds from the inside? For four years, the filmmakers followed four Republicans doing something their party's leadership wouldn't—taking climate change seriously, in public, at real personal cost. Not because they abandoned their conservatism, but because they took it seriously. This is not a story about politics but about courage, community and what happens when conviction runs up against tribal loyalty—and refuses to blink.
(86 min) *US*
S07 SAT OCT 17 PA - MITCHELL PARK 5:10 PM



FEDERICO FAGGIN - THE MAN WHO SAW THE FUTURE

DIR/PROD: Marcello Foa, Paolo Guerrieri
Federico Faggin is one of the greatest minds of our time. Bill Gates once said, "If Faggin didn't exist, Silicon Valley would just be a valley." And it's no exaggeration—Faggin invented the microchip, the touchscreen and the touchpad, forever transforming the way we interact with technology. He founded several successful companies, yet he remains largely unknown to the general public. For the past twenty years, he has devoted himself to exploring the intersection of quantum physics, consciousness and spirituality.
(52 min) *Italy/US*
S10 SUN OCT 18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 2:10 PM



FIRST THEY CAME FOR MY COLLEGE

DIR/PROD: Patrick Bresnan, Harry Hanbury
When Florida Governor Ron DeSantis stages a coup at New College, the state's beloved public honors college, students and professors confront a new reality: their campus is ground zero in an unprecedented nationwide assault on academic freedom and diversity.
(105 min) *US*
S14 MON OCT 19 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:10 PM



THE FIXER

DIR/PROD: Mimi Chakarova, Lydia Chávez
A ten-year-old girl is determined to fix what's broken. The short documentary is a stop motion animation that offers a surprising look at our fragile world.
(12 min) *US*
S05 SAT OCT 17 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:00 PM



CONSTELLATIONS OF THE SEA

DIR/PROD: Addie Knoll
The film follows marine biologists from the Maldives Whale Shark Research Programme as they study and track endangered whale sharks, the largest fish in the ocean. Through field research and close encounters in the water, the film explores how these animals are identified, monitored and protected. Set against a growing tourism industry, the film examines the complex relationship between people and the ocean—where moments of amazement and curiosity intersect with the challenges of conservation.
(13 min) *Maldives/US*
S17 WED OCT 21 EPA - EASTSIDE COLLEGE PREP. 3:15 PM



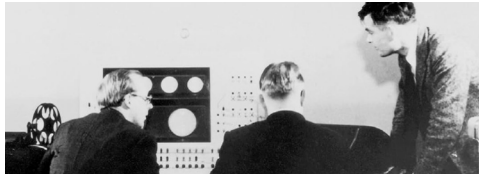
CROSSING THE DIVIDE

DIR/PROD: Talia Frank
The film explores the longstanding issue of habitat fragmentation caused by roads and the detrimental consequences this has on wildlife populations. It investigates the current wildlife crossings that have been and are being built and highlights their promising potential to restore movement patterns and support ecosystem resilience.
(11 min) *US*
S09 SUN OCT 18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:00 PM



DREAM TOUCH BELIEVE

DIR/PROD: Jenna Naranjo Winters
The film explores the unbelievable life and inspiring sculpture of New Mexican artist Michael Naranjo. As a boy growing up on the Santa Clara Pueblo Indigenous reservation, Naranjo dreamt of becoming an artist—just like many of his ancestors. But at twenty-three years old, he was drafted to the Vietnam War. During combat, a grenade destroyed his eyes and right hand. In the days and years that followed, Naranjo fought past critics and social stereotypes to harness the life and career of his dreams. From darkness, he resurrected his inner vision and is now a world recognized sculptor. His work is displayed in museums and grand institutions like the White House and Vatican.
(85 min) *US*
S15 TUE OCT 20 SU - MED. SCHL. ALWAY BLDG. 4:00 PM



FORGETTING THE MANY: THE ROYAL PARDON OF ALAN TURING

DIR/PROD: Rosemarie Reed
After a decade of attempts to reform British law, Parliament passed a new bill to expunge the records of many men convicted under the 1885 law that criminalized male homosexual acts as "gross indecency." A wave of post-WWII prosecutions caught thousands, including the brilliant World War II computer pioneer and code-breaker Alan Turing. In 1967, a new Sexual Offenses Act partly decriminalized homosexual acts between consenting adults in England and Wales. In 2009, however, then-Prime Minister Gordon Brown issued a posthumous apology to Turing, and in 2013 the Queen pardoned him, posthumously expunging his conviction.
(81 min) *UK/US*
S26 SAT OCT 24 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:30 PM



FROM FIELDS TO FLIGHT

DIR/PROD: Ipshta Bhattacharyya, Koval Bhatia, Veda Shastri
In rural Uttar Pradesh, where caste and patriarchy often dictate a girl's future, Babita's life seemed destined for early marriage and domestic duty. Born into a Dalit family and forced to shoulder responsibilities after her mother's death, she gave up dreams of college to care for her home. A turning point came when with the support of a women's self-help group, she began training to be a drone pilot to help with farming.
(11 min) *India*
S03 FRI OCT 16 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:00 PM



FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

DIR/PROD: John De Graaf, Laurence Cotton, Karen Olcott
"America the Beautiful" may be America's most beloved song. But few know about the fascinating life of the writer behind it. This film explores the rich life of poet, professor and social reformer Katharine Lee Bates, author of "America the Beautiful". As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Bates' story reminds us of the beauty and ideals of our nation as well as its shortcomings and honors the unbroken chain of Americans striving to live up to those ideals.
(37 min) *US*
S20 THU OCT 22 SU - LANE HISTORY CORNER 4:00 PM



THE DREAMING GAME

DIR/PROD: Jordan Salvatoriello
Seventy-year-old baseball fan and Boston native, Raymond Gaines, returns to Fenway Park for the first time since 1964, after being wrongfully convicted of murder and serving forty-seven years in a Massachusetts prison for a crime he didn't commit. Playing on prison baseball teams and listening to a radio tuned into the Red Sox games, which he carried into the "hole," helped him endure the trauma of long-term incarceration and shape the man he would become behind the wall. Today, as he awaits a decision from the Commonwealth—whether to retry or exonerate him—Raymond is learning how to reintegrate into modern society, hoping for a chance to live out his dreams of freedom amid the ongoing game of life.
(11 min) *US*
S09 SUN OCT 18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:20 PM



EAT MORE TREES

DIR/PROD: Arne Focketyne, Jonas Mallisse
Film brings together pioneers from around the world, from the Amazon rainforest to Spain, following their quest for a new form of agriculture. Their dream? To fill supermarkets with healthy and diverse products from agroforestry. Is this a utopian vision, or will they succeed in becoming a catalyst for lasting change? After all, reviving agriculture can save entire villages from neglect. The film intertwines the personal stories of Alfonso, Yanniek and Louis with broader, universal themes of regeneration, environment, sustainability and humanity's connection to the earth.
(51 min) *Belgium/Brazil/Spain/US*
S08 SAT OCT 17 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:40 PM



FAR FROM MAINE

DIR/PROD: Roy Cohen
Israeli filmmaker Roy Cohen revisits the memory of Aseel Aslih, his Palestinian friend and fellow activist, murdered by Israeli police in October 2000 at the age of seventeen. The two had met as teenagers at the Seeds of Peace camp in Maine, where they forged a friendship grounded in curiosity, humor and a shared belief in peace based on justice and equality—ideals that seem impossible today. Blending archival footage, personal reflection and present-day encounters, Cohen composes a letter to his lost friend, seeking moral guidance in the face of escalating violence and injustice.
(99 min) *Denmark/France/Hungary/Israel/Italy/Norway/Palestine/Switzerland/US*
S19 WED OCT 21 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:00 PM



GIVE IT A SHOT

DIR/PROD: Vaishali Sinha, Hemang Chheda
A global race to develop a new male contraceptive that could revolutionize family planning and improve women's lives globally. The film follows the indomitable eighty-three-year-old Dr. Sujoy Guha in India, the California-based team of Elaine Lissner and L.R. Fox, as well as Kevin Eisenfrats in Virginia, on a quest to successfully launch the first reversible male contraceptive since the modern condom, invented 200 years ago.
(89 min) *India/US*
S26 SAT OCT 24 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:00 PM



HANGING BY A WIRE

DIR/PROD: Mohammed Alvi Naqvi
A routine school commute turns terrifying when a cable car's wire snaps, leaving eight passengers—including six schoolboys—dangling 900 feet above a ravine in the remote Himalayan foothills. With no margin for error and a cable that could fail at any moment, an unlikely alliance of rescuers must improvise under intense public scrutiny, racing against an invisible clock before disaster strikes live on television.
(78 min) *Pakistan/UK/US*
S14 MON OCT 19 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:40 PM



HEATHENS

DIR/PROD: David Cowan, Shawn Hardin
Five Americans arrive as strangers at a secluded retreat in the Blue Ridge Mountains—many without their families' knowledge—seeking respite from the guilt, shame, fear and loneliness of hiding who they are. Each has quietly rejected the religion that raised them, now fearing the cost of honesty: family, security and livelihood. They are not alone. Over 80 million American adults hide their religious disbelief or exaggerate their faith. By the end of the weekend, the five non-believers resolve to reclaim their lives, forging a friendship that carries them through the storms awaiting them back home. In this warm, funny and unexpectedly joyful story, they rebuild the community and reclaim the slur "heathen" as a proud new identity, inspired by the gospel music of home. For the first time in their lives, five Heathens discover who they truly are.
(87 min) *US*
S25 SAT OCT 24 PA - MITCHELL PARK 3:30 PM



hsl æsma: IT ALL COMES BACK

DIR/PROD: Evan-Marie Petit, Jeremy Seifert
In the Cherokee homeland of Anikituwa, master basket weaver Mary Thompson moves through forest and memory, carrying forward a timeless relationship between land and culture–finding solace in her craft while searching for a way to pass it on.
(17 min) US

S02 FRI OCT 16 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:00 PM



HOLLYWOOD DOES ABORTION

DIR/PROD: Barbara Attie, Janet Goldwater, Mike Attie
Fifty years ago, Norman Lear broke new ground when Maude, a grandmother with an unplanned pregnancy, unashamedly opted for an abortion on primetime tv. But if you’ve watched a show with an abortion storyline since then, you’re more likely to see abortions that are unsafe, shameful, averted at the last minute or spoken about in hushed tones by characters that are younger, whiter and wealthier than their real-life counterparts. In a country where the right to choose is no longer guaranteed, Hollywood Does Abortion reveals the stories that Hollywood told us about abortion–stories that shaped our hopes, our fears and the rapidly changing political reality we now face.
(97 min) US

S28 SUN OCT 25 PA - MITCHELL PARK 3:30 PM



IN THE COMPANY OF WOLVES: AN AMERICAN JOURNEY

DIR/PROD: Susan Kucera, Jim Swift
Writer: Anna Kirsch
The American West is a myth known around the world–a landscape of freedom, rugged individualism, boundless possibility and the collision of human ambition with ecological reality. The film explores the truth beneath it, revealing how our complicated relationship with wolves shaped our ideas, our folklore and our sense of nationhood, altering the course of American history as profoundly as any human hand. It is narrated by Oscar winning filmmaker Jeff Bridges.
(81 min) US

S29 SUN OCT 25 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:50 PM



JUST LOOK UP

DIR/PROD: Betsy Hershey, Emma Wall
The film follows Michael Greenberg, a brazen visionary and founder of Climate Defiance, a disruptive youth movement. In the tradition of Gandhi’s Satyagraha, the Civil Rights Movement and ACT UP, they use radical nonviolent direct action to jolt society awake, calling out Big Oil, corporate CEOs and the politicians who enable them. The film charts a motley, idealistic crew improvising, failing, regrouping and pushing on to protect the planet. As they press forward, the film’s propulsive soundtrack is not background but fuel, with Chappell Roan, Doechii and Billie Eilish pushing the pace and sharpening the stakes for a generation with no room to fail.
(95 min) Denmark/US

S08 SAT OCT 17 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:40 PM



LAST CHRISTIAN IN BETHLEHEM

DIR/PROD: Stephen Talbot
Who are Palestine’s Christians, what are their lives like under Israeli occupation and what are their hopes for the future? The film gives voice to this often overlooked community which has existed in the Holy Land since the earliest days of Christianity. Today, in the West Bank, isolated and besieged by Israeli settlers and Netanyahu’s government, Palestine’s 50,000 remaining Christians face an existential threat. After the horror and destruction in Gaza, they ask, “Are we next? Will we be erased from our homeland?”
(68 min) Israel/Palestine/US

S01 THU OCT 15 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:10 PM



THE LEGACY OF THE DICTATOR - 50 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN

DIR/PROD: Cosima Dannoritzer, Pedro Barbadillo
In 1975, dictator Francisco Franco died and Spain embarked on its journey towards democracy. Viewers get a first-hand view of the past fifty years through the eyes of the Spaniards Oscar Martín and Paloma Rodríguez who were born on the very same day Franco died and grew up alongside the young democracy. Their biographies are intercut with the stories of expert witnesses–such as former judge Baltasar Garzón and filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar. A refreshingly clear look at half a century of turbulent and tense Spanish history that asks: What does a democracy actually consist of?
(53 min) France/Germany/Spain

S19 WED OCT 21 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:00 PM



LIMINAL

DIR: Brennan Wilder Vance
PROD: Brennan Wilder Vance, Norah Shapiro
Ukrainian soldiers wounded in war come to America for a chance to rebuild their lives and limbs before returning home to rejoin the resistance.
(22 min) Ukraine/US

S16 TUE OCT 20 SU - MED. SCHL. ALWAY BLDG. 8:05 PM



A LONG WAY TO GO

DIR: Carolyn Jones
PROD: Lisa C. Frank
The film explores the human realities of immigration through the intertwined journeys of three women–nurses who leave their home countries, the Philippines, Ghana and India to join the healthcare workforce in the US. Their stories illuminate the emotional, economic and cultural complexities of migration, revealing what it means to live between worlds while sustaining deep ties to families and communities across continents.
(57 min) Ghana/India/Philippines/UK/US

S13 MON OCT 19 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:00 PM



LOVING KARMA

DIR/PROD: Johnny Burke
Co-DIR: Andrew Hinton
In the remote foothills of the Himalayas, former monk Lobsang Phuntsok has built Jhamtse Gatsal–“The Garden of Love and Compassion”–a community for children who have endured abandonment, neglect and profound trauma. Once a spiritual teacher in the US, Lobsang returned to India to create the kind of refuge he never had as a troubled orphan himself. As the children grow, falter and flourish, the film asks a fundamental question: What happens when suffering meets compassion?
(80 min) India/UK/US

S06 SAT OCT 17 PA - MITCHELL PARK 2:35 PM



MAGICAL BRIDGE: KIND BY DESIGN

DIR/PROD: Annette M. King
The story began with a mother whose quest to build an inclusive playground for her daughter grew into a global movement for radical kindness. Through her persistence, she launched Magical Bridge, a network of playgrounds designed to unite people of all ages and abilities. These spaces go beyond play–they foster empathy, community and social change. The movement empowers children to expect inclusion everywhere, inspiring the next generation of advocates. What began as a local initiative is now a global model, proving that inclusive design is not optional–it’s a human right.
(25 min) US

S06 SAT OCT 17 PA - MITCHELL PARK 2:00 PM



MAHWASH

DIR/PROD: Sam Javadi
The film follows the extraordinary journey of Mahwash, Afghanistan’s pioneering female singer, whose voice transcends borders, exile and political turmoil. Encouraged by her devoted husband, Farooq, she rises to fame despite cultural barriers, only to face severe backlash when her identity is revealed. As she dreams of a final concert in her homeland, the Taliban’s rise shatters her hopes, banning music and silencing artists. Yet, Mahwash refuses to be silenced. Honored in Washington, DC, she delivers a powerful final performance–a tribute to her homeland, an act of resistance and a testament to music’s enduring power.
(61 min) Afghanistan/US

S04 FRI OCT 16 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:00 PM



THE MARKET AND THE MONKEY’S PAW

DIR/PROD: Graham New, Leo Safr, Oliver Richards
In 2021, El Salvador made history as the first nation to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender. For some, Bitcoin has been a financial gambling asset, however, a class of fervent Bitcoin believers have migrated to El Salvador, with hopes to create a sovereign monetary future. The film delves into the complexities of economic inclusion, tourism, gentrification and the ethics of digital financialization, raising critical questions about who truly benefits in this evolving monetary system.
(20 min) El Salvador/US

S09 SUN OCT 18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:40 PM



THE MISSION

DIR/PROD: Gaza Collective, Mike Lerner, Martin Herring
Acclaimed British-Iraqi nerve surgeon Dr. Mohammad Tahir embarks on his third humanitarian mission to Gaza. Amid waves of casualties flooding overwhelmed hospitals, he fights tirelessly alongside his colleagues to save innocent lives. Filmed by two members of his medical team, the film captures the raw, brutal reality of Gaza’s operating rooms in real time. This urgent and unflinching documentary stands as a historic testament to human compassion amid profound catastrophe.
(88 min) Palestine

S16 TUE OCT 20 SU - MED. SCHL. ALWAY BLDG. 8:40 PM



THE NARROW BRIDGE

DIR/PROD: Esther Takac
An eye-opening journey into the souls of Palestinian and Israeli women and men who lost a child or parent in the conflict. Yet instead of responding with hate and anger, Bushra, Rami, Meytal and Bassam are transforming their grief into a bridge for reconciliation. They all belong to a controversial grassroots movement of broken-hearted people, known as “Israeli Palestinian Bereaved Families”, who stand side-by-side to end the violence and build a future based on dignity and equality. Despite fierce political and family opposition, they refuse to give up, even with the current devastation.
(56 min) Australia/Israel/Palestine/Spain/US

S22 FRI OCT 23 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:30 PM



NUNS VS VATICAN

DIR: Lorena Luciano
PROD: Filippo Piscopo
A former Catholic nun breaks her silence to reveal the abuse she endured at the hands of the Church’s most celebrated priest. In Nuns vs. The Vatican, Gloria’s jaw-dropping sexual abuse story is just the beginning as nuns start to break decades of silence, exposing a system built to protect power.
(90 min) Italy/Slovenia/US

S18 WED OCT 21 SF - DELANCEY SCR. ROOM 8:45 PM



ONE IN A MILLION

DIR/PROD: Itab Azzam, Jack McInnes
Filmed over ten years, this is a story of Israa from childhood to adulthood on an extraordinary journey from Syria to Germany–and back again. We first meet her at age eleven as she and her family are preparing to cross the Aegean Sea, risking everything in search of safety and a better life in Europe. What unfolds is a deeply personal chronicle of war, exile and heartbreak, as Israa grows up navigating adolescence, identity and belonging far from the home she was forced to leave. As Israa settles into life in Germany, new freedoms collide with the stabilizing pull of Syrian traditions, testing bonds and reshaping her sense of self.
(104 min) Germany/Syria/UK

S27 SUN OCT 25 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:00 PM



OUR COLORS NEVER FADE

DIR: Jim McSherry
PROD: Jim McSherry, Karl Hillbrick
When Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, ordinary citizens chose to stay and defend their homeland. Among them are members of the LGBTQIA+ community, who not only faced the dangers of war but also the weight of prejudice and targeted persecution. The film offers an intimate portrait of these soldiers and civilians through personal reflections and frontline experiences. Their stories reveal courage, sacrifice and humanity in the midst of conflict, challenging stereotypes while illuminating a community fighting for both national freedom and the right to exist.
(53 min) Germany/Ukraine

S21 THU OCT 22 SU - LANE HISTORY CORNER 8:30 PM



PUTIN AND THE 5 SEAS WAR

DIR/PROD: Thomas Johnson
Vladimir Putin’s imperial strategy aims to control five strategic seas. Through conflicts in Georgia, Ukraine, Crimea and Nagorno-Karabakh, experts and archival footage reveal an expansionist policy combining nationalism, economic interests and maritime ambitions, long underestimated by Europe and the West.
(53 min) France/Russia

S21 THU OCT 22 SU - LANE HISTORY CORNER 7:30 PM



THE RIGHTEOUS ROAD TRIP

DIR/PROD: Vanessa Roth
Traveling through Poland, Slovakia and Hungary in a van filled with Christmas trees and gifts, Jonny Daniels sets out to visit some of the last living Righteous Among the Nations—the extraordinary individuals who risked their lives to secretly save Jews during the Holocaust. Across the 3,000 KM drive and visits into the homes of these remarkable people, the film captures moments of love, humor and unexpected joy as Jonny reaches across generations, religions and cultures to hear firsthand accounts of extraordinary moral courage.
(40 min) Hungary/Poland/Slovakia/UK/US
S24 SAT OCT 24 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:00 PM



SAVING ETTING STREET

DIR/PROD: Dena Fisher, Amy Scott
A documentary following carpenter Shelley Halstead as she trains a group of three young, Black women in construction skills by rehabbing vacant and abandoned houses in West Baltimore, challenging generations of racism and sexism in housing. The mission is to transform a distressed block on Etting Street into a community of Black women homeowners, helping build generational wealth and stability in a neighborhood plagued by poverty, crime and neglect.
(67 min) US
S13 MON OCT 19 PA - MITCHELL PARK 5:05 PM



SAVING WALDEN’S WORLD

DIR/PROD: Jim Merkel
The film follows former arms dealer Jim Merkel, who experiences an ethical crisis after realizing his work harms families abroad. Embarking on a decades-long journey of redemption, Jim raises his son Walden—a budding scientist—in an off-the-grid homestead. He wonders: could the very people his past life targeted hold the keys to a sustainable planet? A journey into “enemy” territory ensues, leading to powerful women who reshape society to work for all. Far from affluent utopias, Kerala, Cuba and Slovenia are decades ahead in progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals, offering women free college, contraception, maternity leave, childcare, dentistry and healthcare—services unimaginable in much of Jim’s blue-collar America.
(56 min) India/Slovenia/US
S17 WED OCT 21 EPA - EASTSIDE COLLEGE PREP. 3:40 PM



THROUGH THE BODY

DIR/PROD: Andrew Reissiger
An artistic quest takes unexpected turns as percussionist and rhythm dancer Keith Terry searches for meaning while producing the world’s first festival dedicated to the one instrument we all share—the human body. Motivated by a near brush with death and supported by prize money from a Guggenheim Fellowship, Terry launched the International Body Music Festival in 2008 in his hometown of Oakland, California. Over the following decade, the festival traveled from the Bay Area to São Paulo, Istanbul, Paris, Bali and Ghana, bringing together artists who use rhythm, movement and voice as a shared physical language.
(94 min) Brazil/France/Ghana/Greece/Indonesia/Italy/Turkey/US
S01 THU OCT 15 PA - MITCHELL PARK 8:30 PM



THY NEIGHBOR

DIR: Eliza Q Hemenway
PROD: Eliza Q Hemenway, Becky Hellwig
What is our responsibility, as individuals and as a society, to care for the vulnerable among us? Thy Neighbor explores this question, as it follows one of the largest homeless encampments in Northern California and the community’s response to it. What follows is an eyewitness account of the tensions that arise, actions taken and the consequences that follow. It is a portrait of a community in crisis, exploring the essential question, “What kind of a community do we want to be?”
(75 min) US
S10 SUN OCT 18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 3:10 PM



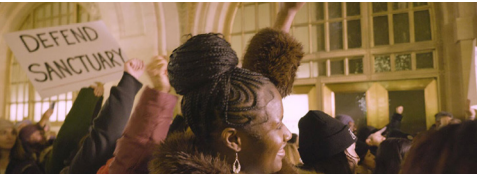
UNDER THE CANOPY

DIR/PROD: Michal Krawczyk
Set in the Andean-Amazon Piedmont of Colombia, this community-led participatory documentary is filmed by the community itself, using phones, drones and trail cameras as tools of collective authorship. Blending collaborative filmmaking with Indigenous media, the film follows biodiversity mapping and reforestation practices while foregrounding Traditional Ecological Knowledge as lived, relational and future-facing. Knowledge here is not extracted but co-created through everyday engagements with the forest. Trail cameras shift from surveillance to relation, while digital tools intertwine with ancestral ways of knowing.
(22 min) Colombia
S05 SAT OCT 17 PA - MITCHELL PARK 1:20 PM



SEIZED

DIR: Sharon Liese
PROD: Sharon Liese, Sasha Alpert, Paul Matyasovsky
What begins as a shocking small-town incident quickly spirals into a national story, exposing how corruption, politics and decades-long tensions turned a quaint Kansas community into a battleground over the First and Fourth Amendments. Equal parts hilarious and horrifying, the film unfolds in real time through police body-cam and surveillance footage, revealing the raid’s chaos and the devastating personal toll on the newsroom, including the tragic death of its ninety-eight-year-old co-owner.
(94 min) US
S20 THU OCT 22 SU - LANE HISTORY CORNER 4:45 PM



SHOULDERING SANCTUARY

DIR/PROD: Ben Kolak, Kyra Mitchell
For four decades, Chicago has been a sanctuary city, limiting cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. In 2025, facing unprecedented ICE operations and federal pressure, Chicago and its immigrant population were tested like never before. The film follows local government officials navigating federal pressure, activists and organizers mobilizing communities, judges and lawyers defending constitutional principles, artists channeling resistance into creativity and everyday Chicagoans grappling with an increasingly hostile climate.
(68 min) US
S12 SUN OCT 18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 9:05 PM



SHUFFLE

DIR/PROD: Benjamin Flaherty
Through the lens of his own recovery, a filmmaker offers a character-driven look inside the billion dollar addiction treatment industry where young people are bought and sold for their insurance policies and ushered into a system designed to keep them sick. What begins as an investigation of a street-level scam explodes to uncover systemic conflicts-of-interest and collusion at the highest levels of government.
(82 min) US
S18 WED OCT 21 SF - DELANCEY SCR. ROOM 7:15 PM



WALKING THE CUBAN TIGHTROPE

DIR/PROD: Margaux Oulmet
Four powerful and diverse protagonists take us on an engaging and troubling journey through Cuba’s historical and present-day struggles, guided by the principles set out by national hero, poet and abolitionist, José Martí—specifically in his essay “Mi raza/My race.” History is presented by historian Dr. Lillian Guerra. Human rights struggles are embodied by lawyer Laritza Diversent as well as Cuban activist rappers who put their safety on the line. Award-winning exiled Cuban political cartoonist, Ramsés illustrates the high wire tensions of life in Cuba. And legendary protest singer Pete Seeger and his grandson Tao relate part of the saga of the popular anthem “Guantanamera,” whose lyrics were penned by José Martí.
(52 min) Canada/Cuba
S19 WED OCT 21 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:00 PM



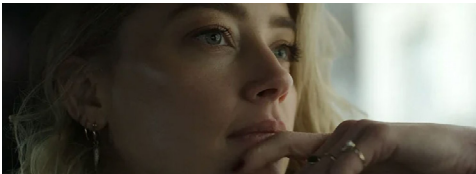
A WEAVER’S GAZE

DIR/PROD: Abhijit V
The art of saree weaving in India is an ancient skill, often passed down in families. In India’s Uttar Pradesh, Faizul faces a changing world that offers meager wages for his craftsmanship, which is made even more challenging as he develops vision problems. His Muslim faith gives him strength, and he is determined to continue to provide for his family, build his dream home and continue his craft. His resilience amid struggle is a story reflective of the lives of everyday Indians.
(10 min) India
S11 SUN OCT 18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 5:30 PM



WHAT’S NEXT?

DIR/PROD: Taylor Taglianetti
At 100-years-old, Dr. Howard Tucker has been recognized by the Guinness World Records as the world’s oldest practicing doctor. Following a more than seven-decade career, capped off by a stint teaching neurology to medical residents at Cleveland’s Saint Vincent Charity Medical Center, Dr. Tucker begins to slow down and grapple with aging for the first time. Told through the eyes of his grandson, the film follows their journey through a changing medical landscape as their relationship deepens and dynamics shift.
(77 min) US
S02 FRI OCT 16 PA - MITCHELL PARK 4:30 PM



SILENCED

DIR: Selina Miles
PROD: Blake Hoffman
After #MeToo broke the cultural silence on gendered violence, survivors swiftly found themselves facing a new kind of silencing and fear as defamation laws became weaponized against women for speaking out. International human rights lawyer Jennifer Robinson takes audiences into the courtroom and behind the headlines to reveal how the legal system is being used to discredit, re-victimize and financially ruin survivors. Robinson brings unrivalled access to the women and journalists at the center of high-profile legal battles across the globe, including Brittany Higgins, Australian former political staffer, survivor and advocate against gendered violence; Catalina Ruiz-Navarro, Latin American journalist and co-founder of the feminist magazine Volcánicas and Amber Heard, Hollywood actor.
(97 min) Australia/Mexico/South Africa/Switzerland/UK
S04 FRI OCT 16 PA - MITCHELL PARK 9:10 PM



SONGS THEY BURIED

DIR/PROD: Kiki Kuhakan
A Burmese rock star is forced into exile after the 2021 military coup. Now working for Amazon in the United States, he struggles to rebuild his life while carrying the weight of a revolution he can no longer witness. Through family, music and the quiet ache of displacement, the film reveals the emotional cost of being buried by politics in a place never meant to be home.
(25 min) Myanmar/US
S12 SUN OCT 18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 7:30 PM



STEAL THIS STORY, PLEASE!

DIR/PROD: Tia Lessin, Carl Deal
Fiercely independent US journalist Amy Goodman has spent three decades holding the powerful to account, reporting from conflict zones and the Democracy Now! newsroom. In Steal This Story, Please!, Oscar-nominated filmmakers Carl Deal and Tia Lessin craft a riveting portrait of journalism’s power—and peril—in an era of corporate control and political attacks on truth.
(101 min) US
S23 FRI OCT 23 SU - CEMEX AUDITORIUM 6:30 PM



WHO MOVES AMERICA

DIR: Yael Bridge
PROD: Yoni Golijov, Jeremy Flood, Mars Verrone
In Louisville, we meet Angel, a warehouse worker juggling multiple jobs to get through college. In San Diego, Justin is a budding UPS driver working to unify his politically divided coworkers. In Queens, Tony is an “old-timer” in one of the most militant locales in the country, fighting to give rookies the opportunities he had. Lastly, we have exclusive access to Teamsters president Sean O’Brien as he crisscrosses the country rallying workers at critical points in the campaign. Can they build solidarity with their co-workers before the clock strikes midnight on the eve of the strike?
(87 min) US
S11 SUN OCT 18 PA - MITCHELL PARK 5:50 PM



WIDOW CHAMPION

DIR/PROD: Zippy Kimundu
Thrown off her land by her in-laws, a resilient Kenyan widow transforms into a fierce advocate for women’s land rights in a highly patriarchal community. Rodah spearheads a courageous movement, rallying fellow widows to reclaim their rightful property. Amidst the clash of tradition and progress, her narrative unfolds, depicting the tension between an ingrained culture and a rapidly evolving world.
(95 min) Kenya
S03 FRI OCT 16 PA - MITCHELL PARK 6:20 PM



YO (LOVE IS A REBELLIOUS BIRD)

DIR/PROD: Anna Fitch, Banker White
After losing an older and beloved friend, filmmaker Anna Fitch spends a decade obsessively building a detailed, scale version of her friend Yo’s house in her studio. It’s just big enough for Anna to squeeze through the doors and inside lives a twenty-inch puppet of Yo. The film juxtaposes intimate vérité of Yo’s last year with Anna’s creative interpretations of her stories. In this magical place their relationship continues. Yo tells Anna tales spanning eight decades and three continents with uncommon, fearless honesty. The film blurs memory, time and invention, revealing creation as an outlet for grief and love.
(78 min) US
S29 SUN OCT 25 PA - MITCHELL PARK 5:20 PM

UNAFF2026

Passion for Change

THURSDAY

10.15

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 The Potential Jazz Ensemble

6:00 PM Opening words by Palo Alto Mayor
Vicki Veenker

6:30 PM THE COMFORT DOGS OF UGANDA
(Australia/Uganda, 30 min)
7:10 PM LAST CHRISTIAN IN BETHLEHEM
(Israel/Palestine/US, 68 min)
8:30 PM THROUGH THE BODY
(Brazil/France/Ghana/Greece/
Indonesia/Italy/Turkey/US, 94 min)

FRIDAY

10.16

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road

Session 2
4:00 PM hsl .asma: IT ALL COMES BACK
(US, 17 min)
4:30 PM WHAT'S NEXT? (US, 77 min)

Session 3
6:00 PM FROM FIELDS TO FLIGHT
(India, 11 min)
6:20 PM WIDOW CHAMPION (Kenya, 95 min)

Session 4
8:00 PM MAHWASH (Afghanistan, 61 min)
9:10 PM SILENCED (Australia/Mexico/South
Africa/Switzerland/UK, 97 min)

SATURDAY

10.17

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road

Session 5
UNAFF & Kids Program (FREE Admission)
1:00 PM THE FIXER (US, 12 min)
1:20 PM UNDER THE CANOPY
(Colombia, 22 min)

Session 6
2:00 PM MAGICAL BRIDGE: KIND BY DESIGN
(US, 25 min)
2:35 PM LOVING KARMA (India/UK/US, 80 min)

Session 7
4:05 PM CLIMATE REFUGEES: A GLOBAL
CHALLENGE (Australia/Bangladesh/
Colombia/Fiji/France, 56 min)
5:10 PM THE [CONSERV]ATIVES (US, 86 min)
6:40 PM PANEL "Bipartisanship and Climate
Change" (FREE Admission)

Session 8
7:40 PM EAT MORE TREES
(Belgium/Brazil/Spain/US, 51 min)
8:40 PM JUST LOOK UP (Denmark/US, 95 min)

WEDNESDAY

10.21

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

Session 17 UNAFF in Schools
(FREE for Students and Teachers)
3:15 PM CONSTELLATIONS OF THE SEA
(Maldives/US, 21 min)
3:40 PM SAVING WALDEN'S WORLD
(India/Slovenia/US, 56 min)

San Francisco, Delancey Screening Room, 600
Embarcadero

Session 18
7:00 PM BECOMING JAMES (US, 8 min)
7:15 PM SHUFFLE (US, 82 min)
8:45 PM NUNS VS VATICAN
(Italy/Slovenia/US, 90 min)

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road

Session 19
6:00 PM THE LEGACY OF THE DICTATOR - 50
YEARS OF DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN
(France/Germany/Spain, 53 min)
7:00 PM WALKING THE CUBAN TIGHTROPE
(Canada/Cuba, 52 min)
8:00 PM FAR FROM MAINE (Denmark/France/
Hungary/Israel/Italy/Norway/Palestine/
Switzerland/US, 99 min)

THURSDAY

10.22

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

Session 20
4:00 PM FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA (US, 37 min)
4:45 PM SEIZED (US, 94 min)
6:30 PM PANEL "Democracy, Ethics and Truth in
the Time of AI" (FREE Admission)

Session 21
7:30 PM PUTIN AND THE 5 SEAS WAR
(France/Russia, 53 min)
8:30 PM OUR COLORS NEVER FADE
(Germany/Ukraine, 84 min)

FRIDAY

10.23

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road

Session 22
4:00 PM BETWEEN SKY AND SEA
(Palestine, 22 min)
4:30 PM THE NARROW BRIDGE (Australia/Israel/
Palestine/Spain, 56 min)
5:30 PM PANEL "In Search of Solutions During
Wartime" (FREE Admission)

Stanford University, CEMEX Auditorium
641 Knight Way

Session 23
6:30 PM STEAL THIS STORY, PLEASE! (US, 101 min)

International Documentary Film Festival

SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

10.18

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road

Session 9
1:00 PM CROSSING THE DIVIDE (US, 11 min)
1:20 PM THE DREAMING GAME (US, 11 min)
1:40 PM THE MARKET AND THE MONKEY'S PAW
(El Salvador/US, 20 min)

Session 10
2:10 PM FEDERICO FAGGIN - THE MAN WHO
SAW THE FUTURE (Italy/US, 52 min)
3:10 PM THY NEIGHBOR (US, 75 min)
4:30 PM PANEL "Communities Between
Homelessness and Extreme Wealth"
(FREE Admission)

Session 11
5:30 PM A WEAVER'S GAZE (India,10 min)
5:50 PM WHO MOVES AMERICA (US, 87 min)

Session 12
7:30 PM SONGS THEY BURIED (Myanmar/US, 25 min)
8:05 PM ABSENCE (Canada/Iran/Sweden, 52 min)
9:05 PM SHOULDERING SANCTUARY (US, 86 min)

MONDAY

10.19

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road

Session 13
4:00 PM A LONG WAY TO GO (Ghana/India/
Philippines/UK/US, 52 min)
5:05 PM SAVING ETTING STREET (US, 85 min)

Session 14
6:40 PM HANGING BY A WIRE
(Pakistan/UK/US, 78 min)
8:10 PM FIRST THEY CAME FOR MY COLLEGE
(US, 105 min)

TUESDAY

10.20

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

Session 15
4:00 PM DREAM TOUCH BELIEVE (US, 85 min)
5:35 PM ADAPTED (US, 87 min)
7:05 PM PANEL "In Celebration of Human
Resilience" (FREE Admission)

Session 16
8:05 PM LIMINAL (Ukraine/US, 22 min)
8:40 PM THE MISSION (Palestine, 88 min)

SATURDAY

10.24

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road

Session 24
1:00 PM THE RIGHTEOUS ROAD TRIP (Hungary/
Poland/Slovakia/UK/US, 40 min)
1:50 PM ALL OF THE ABOVE (US, 85 min)

Session 25
3:30 PM HEATHENS (US, 87 min)
5:10 PM PANEL "Different Faces of Religion"
(FREE Admission)

Session 26
6:30 PM FORGETTING THE MANY: THE ROYAL
PARDON OF ALAN TURING
(UK/US, 81 min)
8:00 PM GIVE IT A SHOT (India/US, 89 min)

SUNDAY

10.25

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Road

Session 27
1:00 PM ONE IN A MILLION
(Germany/Syria/UK/US, 104 min)

Session 28
2:50 PM BAMAKO CHIC: THREADS OF POWER,
COLOR AND CULTURE
(Mali/US, 27 min)
3:30 PM HOLLYWOOD DOES ABORTION
(US, 97 min)

Session 29
5:20 PM YO (LOVE IS A REBELLIOUS BIRD)
(US, 78 min)
6:50 PM IN THE COMPANY OF WOLVES: AN
AMERICAN JOURNEY (US, 81min)

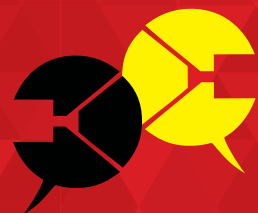
8:30 PM Awards Ceremony and Closing Night
Reception sponsored by Coupa Café,
Douce France, La Boheme and Terun
Music by The Potential Jazz Ensemble

Please keep in mind that the start times within
sessions with multiple films depend on guests and
Q&A durations and are therefore not always
absolutely precise.



UNAFF2026
Passion for Change
International Documentary Film Festival





UNAFF2026 PANELS

SATURDAY October 17

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center

3700 Middlefield Road

6:40 PM PANEL

"Bipartisanship and Climate Change"

(FREE Admission)

SUNDAY October 18

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center

3700 Middlefield Road

4:30 PM PANEL

"Communities Between Homlessness and

Extreme Wealth"

(FREE Admission)

TUESDAY October 20

Stanford University

Stanford Medical School Alway Building

300 Pasteur Drive, Room Alway M106

7:05 PM PANEL

"In Celebration of Human Resilience"

(FREE Admission)

THURSDAY October 22

Stanford University

Lane History Corner Building 200, Room 205

450 Jane Stanford Way

6:30 PM PANEL

"Democracy, Ethics and Truth in the Time of AI"

(FREE Admission)

FRIDAY October 23

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center

3700 Middlefield Road

5:30 PM PANEL

"In Search of Solutions During Wartime"

(FREE Admission)

SATURDAY October 24

Palo Alto, Mitchell Park Community Center

3700 Middlefield Road

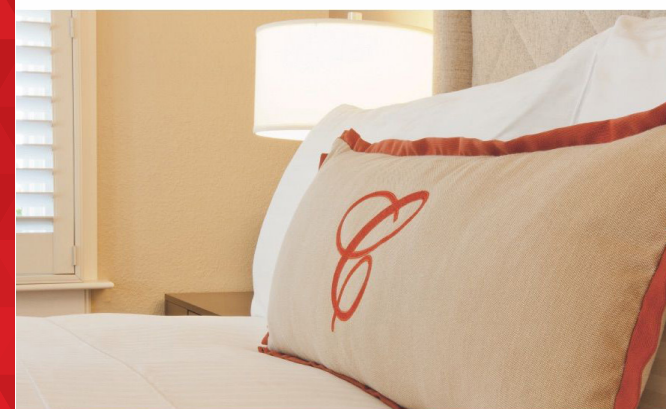
5:10 PM PANEL

"Different Faces of Religion"

(FREE Admission)

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*Congratulations for 29 years of bringing the community
together through powerful documentaries.*

UNAFF2026 PRINT SOURCES



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

ABSENCE
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ADAPTED
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BAMAKO CHIC: THREADS OF POWER, COLOR AND CULTURE
e: maureen.gosling@gmail.com
w: www.maureengosling.com

BECOMING JAMES
e: epossley@gmail.com
w: www.evanpossley.com

BETWEEN SKY AND SEA
e: mvperry12@gmail.com
w: www.bypa.art/#about

CLIMATE REFUGEES: A GLOBAL CHALLENGE
e: info@bullfrogfilms.com
w: www.bullfrogfilms.com

THE COMFORT DOGS OF UGANDA
e: richwainwright@me.com
w: www.thecomfortdogsofuganda.com

THE [CONSERV]ATIVES
e: nadia@encompassfilms.com
w: theconservativesfilm.com

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DREAM TOUCH BELIEVE
e: dreamtouchbelieve@gmail.com
w: www.dreamtouchbelieve.com

THE DREAMING GAME
e: reelchange@gmail.com

EAT MORE TREES
e: olivier@javafilms.tv
w: www.eatmoretrees.org

FAR FROM MAINE
e: roybcohen@gmail.com
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FEDERICO FAGGIN - THE MAN WHO SAW THE FUTURE
e: info@zetagroup.tv
w: zetagroupvideoecomunicazione.it/federico-faggin-luomo-che-vide-il-futuro

FIRST THEY CAME FOR MY COLLEGE
e: newcollegefilm@gmail.com
w: www.newcollegefilm.com

THE FIXER
e: info@stillirisefilms.org
w: www.stillirisefilms.org

FORGETTING THE MANY: THE ROYAL PARDON OF ALAN TURING
e: rosemariereed@filmsforthought.com
w: filmsforthought.com

FROM FIELDS TO FLIGHT
e: festival.sspfilms@gmail.com
w: videoconsortium.org/programs/solutions-storytelling-project

FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA
e: mark@bullfrogfilms.com
w: <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com>

GIVE IT A SHOT
e: giveitashotfilm@gmail.com
w: www.giveitashotfilm.com

HANGING BY A WIRE
e: amun@modoxy.com
w: <https://www.hangingbyawiremovie.com/>

HEATHENS
e: nico@paleblue.film

HIGALUGO (IT ALL KEEPS COMING BACK)
e: seifertjj@gmail.com

HOLLYWOOD DOES ABORTION
e: janet.goldwater@gmail.com
w: www.hollywooddoesabortion.com

IN THE COMPANY OF WOLVES: AN AMERICAN JOURNEY
e: info@inthecompanyofwolvesfilm.com
w: www.inthecompanyofwolvesfilm.com

JUST LOOK UP
e: emma@guesthouseproductions.com
w: www.justlookupdoc.com

LAST CHRISTIAN IN BETHLEHEM
e: stephentalbot1@gmail.com

THE LEGACY OF THE DICTATOR - 50 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN
e: twintimetv@gmail.com
w: <https://vincent-productions.com/en/the-legacy-of-the-dictator-50-years-of-spanish-democracy/>

LIMINAL
e: brennan@brennanvance.com
w: www.brennanvance.com

A LONG WAY TO GO
e: carolyn@carolynjones.com
w: www.alongwaytogo.film

LOVING KARMA
e: johnny@johnny-burke.com
w: johnny-burke.com

MAGICAL BRIDGE: KIND BY DESIGN
e: distribution@splicerfilms.com
w: www.splicerfilms.com/magical-bridge

MAHWASH
e: mahwashdocumentary@gmail.com
w: mahwashdoc.com

THE MARKET AND THE MONKEY'S PAW
e: graham@grahamnewmedia.com
w: www.grahamnewmedia.com/TheMonkeysPaw

THE MISSION
e: mike@roastbeef.tv
w: www.journeymen.tv/film/8891

THE NARROW BRIDGE
e: esthertakac@gmail.com
w: www.thenarrowbridge.com/contact

NUNS VS. THE VATICAN
e: immy@togetherfilms.org
w: www.film2productions.com

ONE IN A MILLION
e: theatrical@pbs.org
w: www.keofilms.com/projects/one-in-a-million

OUR COLORS NEVER FADE
e: contact@infilmpact.com
w: <https://www.ourcolorsneverfade.com/>

PUTIN AND THE 5 SEAS WAR
e: johnson.thomas@wanadoo.fr
w: www.artlinefilms.com/en/portfolio/putin-and-the-five-seas-war

THE RIGHTEOUS ROAD TRIP
e: vanessa@bigyearprods.com
w: therighteousroadtripfilm.com

SAVING ETTING STREET
e: info@savingettingstreet.movie
w: www.savingettingstreet.movie

SAVING WALDEN'S WORLD
e: jimimerkel@gmail.com
w: savingwaldensworld.org

SEIZED
e: sharon@herizonproductions.com
w: www.herizonproductions.com/contact-us

SHOULDERING SANCTUARY
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w: truthanddocumentary.org

SHUFFLE
e: shufflethefilm@proton.me
w: www.stoptheshuffle.com

SILENCED
e: immy@togetherfilms.org
w: www.silenced-film.com

SONGS THEY BURIED
e: songstheyburied@gmail.com
w: <https://www.songstheyburiedshortdocumentary.com/>

STEAL THIS STORY, PLEASE!
e: info@elsewherefilms.org
w: stealthistory.org

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e: areissiger@gmail.com
w: throughthebodyfilm.com

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w: www.hemenwayproductions.com

UNDER THE CANOPY
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w: tarratarra.com

WALKING THE CUBAN TIGHTROPE
e: mark@bullfrogfilms.com
w: www.bullfrogfilms.com

A WEAVER'S GAZE
e: festival.sspfilms@gmail.com
w: videoconsortium.org/programs/solutions-storytelling-project

WHAT'S NEXT?
e: taylor@noiaft.org
w: www.whatsnextmovie.com

WHO MOVES AMERICA
e: info@whomovesamerica.com
w: www.whomovesamerica.com

WIDOW CHAMPION
e: impact@widowchampion.com
w: www.wmm.com

YO (LOVE IS A REBELLIOUS BIRD)
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w: <https://www.theyofilm.org/>

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UNAFF2026 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 – \$19 PER FILM SESSION (1.5 – 3 hours per session)
FESTIVAL PASS – \$290
SENIOR FESTIVAL PASS (62+) – \$90
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. 17)
SESSION 9: SHORT SESSION (Oct. 18)
SESSION 17: UNAFF IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM (Oct. 21)
ALL STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCREENINGS
ALL UNAFF PANELS

SPECIAL EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION WITH THE FILMMAKERS (Oct. 15) – \$60
SESSION 18 SAN FRANCISCO SCREENINGS (Oct. 21) – \$20
CLOSING NIGHT FILMS, AWARD CEREMONY & RECEPTION (Oct. 25) – \$60

ARRIVE EARLY! First-come, first-served at all events EXCEPT SESSION 23, which is FREE, but requires registration. Please use the “Session 23” button at the bottom of our tickets page <https://www.unaff.org/2026/tickets.html>

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](https://www.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/>

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.

UNAFF2026 SPECIAL THANKS TO

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

UNAFF 2026 Trailer: Director/Producer: Jasmina Bojic • Editor: Rey Penezic • Music: Rose

UNAFF 2026 Trailer before the Trailer: Rey Penezic

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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.

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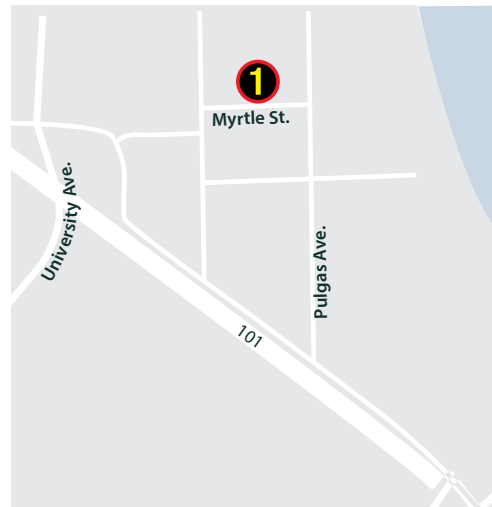
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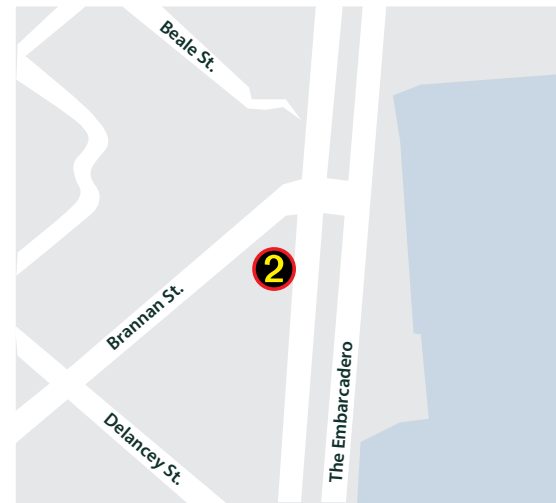
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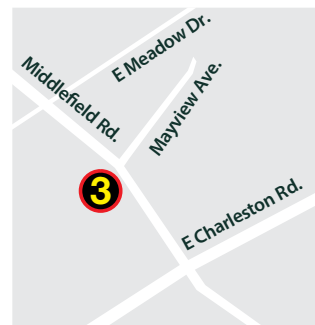
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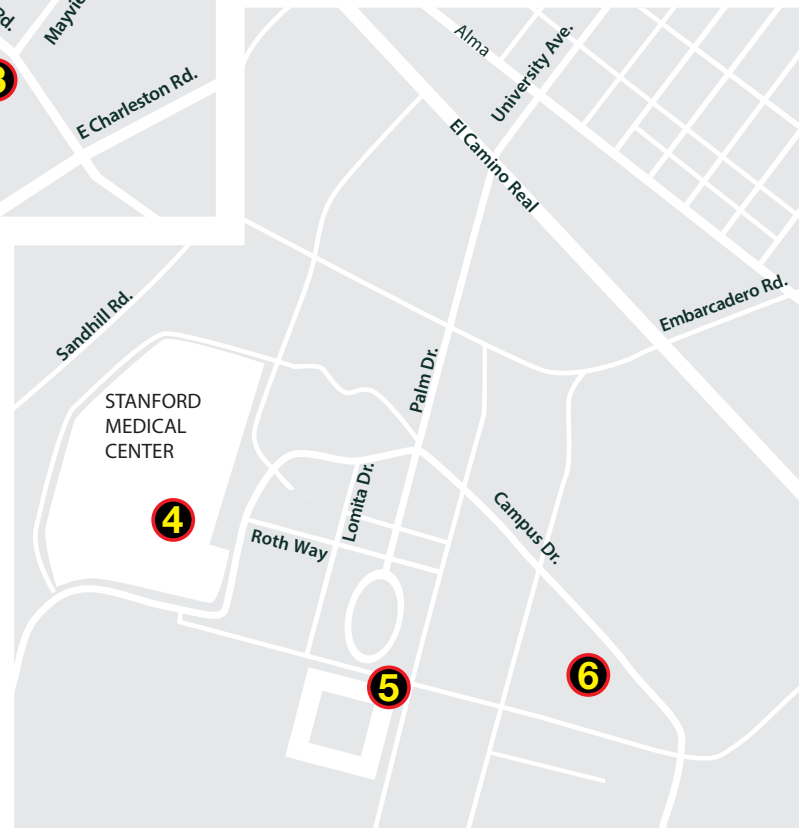
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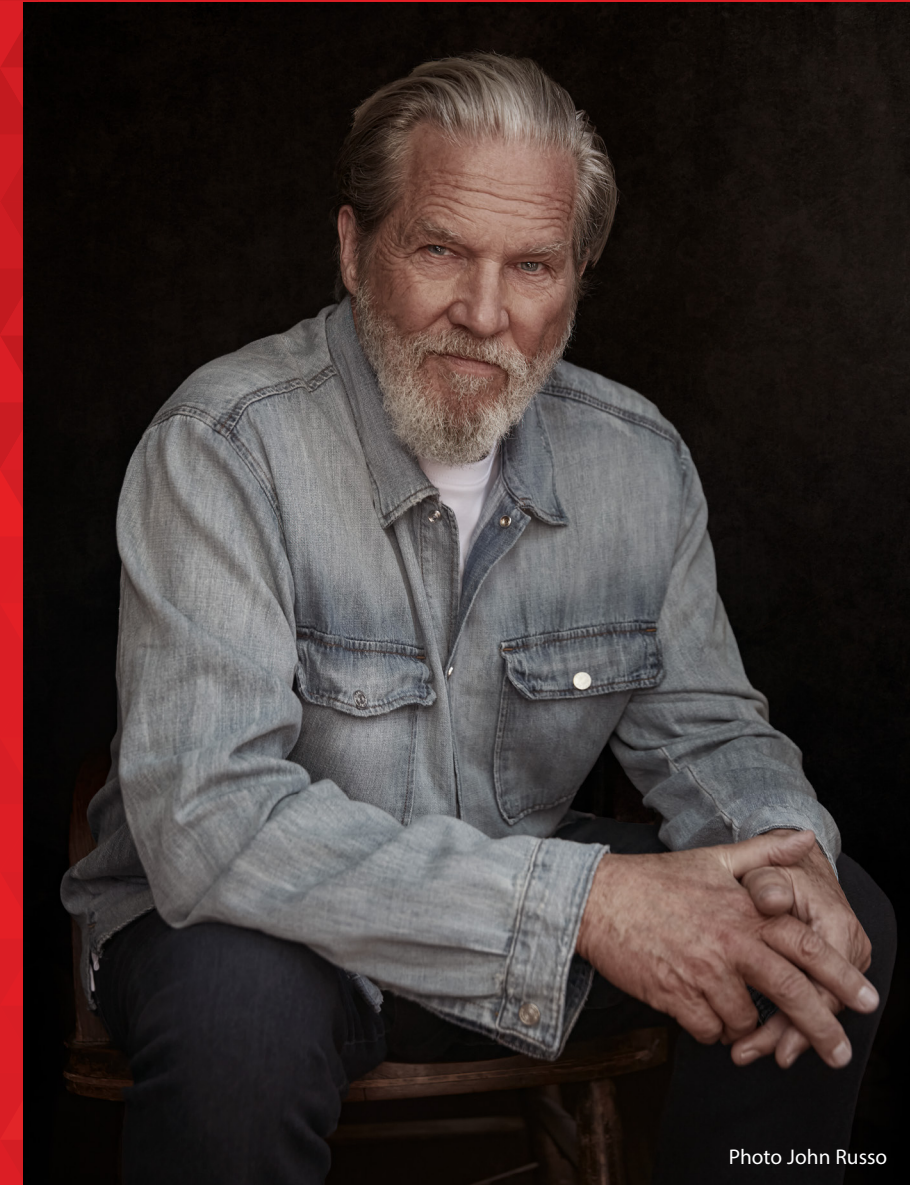


Photo John Russo

29th UNAFF Visionary Award Honors Jeff Bridges

The **29th UNAFF** Visionary Award is presented to Academy Awarded actor, director and environmentalist **Jeff Bridges** for his continuing passion to fight childhood hunger for his devotion to protect rainforest lands and indigenous cultures, and his unwavering devotion to documentary film as a vehicle for activism. He 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 Anna Eshoo and 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.

