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STORIES OF AN IRAQI EXILES DREAM TO RESTORE THE MESOPOTAMIAN MARSHES DESTROYED BY SUDDAM HUSSEIN – LIVES OF CONTEMPORARY CUBAN ARTISTS IN HAVANA- SUSAN SONTANG’S RISE TO FAME ARE A FEW STORIES BEING TOLD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH AT THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL AT THE ANNENBERG AUDITORIUM AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

MARSHLAND DREAMS (*Iraq/USA*)

Once the largest ecosystem in the Middle East, and the rich homeland of Sumerians for millennia, the Mesopotamian marshes were destroyed systematically by Saddam Hussein so that they couldn't shelter rebel forces. Drained and burned, the vital wetland habitat seemed lost forever. Iraqi exile Azzam Alwash, never accepted that this magical place of his childhood could simply cease to exist. Directed by John Antonelli. 1:00pm
FILMMAKER PRESENT

WRENCHED (*USA*)

This film reveals how Edward Abbey's anarchistic spirit and riotous novels influenced and helped guide the nascent environmental movement of the 70s and 80s. Through interviews, archival footage and reenactments, this documentary captures the outrage of Abbey's friends who were the original ecowarriors. Directed by ML Lincoln. 1:15pm

THE PAD PIPER (*India/Japan*)

The Pad Piper is the incredible story of a school dropout and grassroots innovator from India, Arunachalam Muruganantham, and how his innovation, a low-cost sanitary-pad making machine, is changing the face of menstrual hygiene for women across India. Menstruation is a taboo and a subject few men know or dare to ask about. Directed by Akanksha Sood. 3:00pm

DISRUPTION (*Brazil/Colombia/Peru/ USA*)

A band of Latin American activist-economists sets out to reduce inequality in the region with a model that places women at the center of the drive for social change. Collaborating with governments, big banks and women marginalized by poverty in Peru, Colombia and Brazil, they spread financial literacy horizontally using digital education

tools and innovative strategies for financial inclusion. Directed by Pamela Yates.
4:00pm

ALUMBRONES (*Brazil/Cuba/USA*)

This documentary feature looks at the work and lives of twelve contemporary Cuban artists living in Havana today. Visiting each person in their home and studio, the film covers a diverse range of subjects and issues, from supply shortages and constant blackouts to family life, love, sex and music. Directed by Bruce Donnelly. 5:45pm

TRUE SON (*USA*)

This film shows twenty-two-year-old Stanford graduate Michael Tubbs' campaign for a seat on Stockton city council during a year of record homicides and impending bankruptcy. For Michael Tubbs, a Stockton native born to a teenage mother and incarcerated father, engaging with youth is crucial to solving Stockton's problems. Directed by Kevin Gordon. 7:00pm

THE APOTHECARY (*USA*)

In an impoverished former mining town in the American Southwest, a beloved druggist runs the community's main hub: the sole pharmacy within 4,000 square miles. He gamely occupies multiple roles as a surrogate doctor, life counselor and community benefactor. Directed by Helen Hood Scheer. 8:30pm *FILMMAKER PRESENT*

REGARDING SUSAN SONTAG (*USA*)

Film chronicles Sontag's rise to fame; she was one of the twentieth century's most influential thinkers, while struggling privately with her fears, sexuality, self-image, and relationships. Sontag thought deeply about crisis, from war and the Holocaust to personal crisis: a stage IV cancer diagnosis at forty-two. Sontag was by turns brilliant, beautiful, arrogant and insightful. Directed by Nancy Kates. 9:00pm *FILMMAKER PRESENT*

For the full program, press material, photos and other details visit www.unaff.org

The award winning UNAFF (the United Nations Association Film Festival) held annually in October at Stanford, Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and San Francisco, now in its 17th year has grown to be one of the oldest and most respected documentary film festivals in the United States. UNAFF was originally conceived to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was founded by Stanford educator and film critic Jasmina Bojic with the participation of the Stanford Film Society and the UNA Midpeninsula Chapter.

In 2014 the ICFT (International Council for Film, Television and Audiovisual Communication of UNESCO) presented the UNESCO Fellini Medal to Jasmina Bojic, Founder and Executive Director of UNAFF, in recognition of her exceptional contribution in promoting the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through the art of documentary film.