



OPENING NIGHT

17th ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL (UNAFF) KICKS OFF WITH THE THEME *BRIDGING THE GAP* ON OCTOBER 16

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Palo Alto, CA – The 17th Annual United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) will begin **THURSDAY, October 16** in historic downtown Palo Alto at the **Aquarius Theatre, 430 Emerson Street** with 7 World and 16 US Premieres.

The Festival opens on **Thursday, October 16** in Palo Alto with four films: **MARIA OF MANY (USA)** at 7:00pm; **JESUS WAS A COMMIE (USA)** at 7:10pm; **KING'S POINT (USA)** at 7:30pm; **TRASHED (China/Indonesia/Lebanon/Turkey/UK/USA)** at 8:10pm. All four films will be screened at the **Aquarius Theatre in Palo Alto**.

MARIA OF MANY (USA), directed by Alexandra Liveris. After being mistreated as a part-time hire, Mexican immigrant María finds her voice, a community, and dignity within the San Francisco Women's Collective—an all women worker-run group that provides cleaning jobs in exchange for activism on behalf of the rights of domestic laborers.

JESUS WAS A COMMIE (USA), directed by Matthew Modine and Terence Ziegler. Did Jesus speak against economic inequalities, or was he a capitalist who taught about rewards based on ability and achievement? This avant-garde story follows “John Doe” as he examines history and science and whether Jesus might have been a utopian communist.

KING'S POINT (USA), directed by Sari Gilman. In the Academy Nominated documentary about five seniors living in a retirement resort in King's Point, Florida. During the 1970s and 1980s, thousands of New York's primarily Jewish senior citizens migrated to King's Point, a retirement community in Florida. Lured by blue skies, sunshine and the promise of richer social lives, they bought paradise for a mere \$1500 down payment.

TRASHED (China/Indonesia/Lebanon/Turkey/UK/USA), directed by Candida Brady, follows Academy Award-winner Jeremy Irons on a world tour as he discovers the pressing issues surrounding waste and sustainability. Vast landscapes in China are covered in tons of rubbish. The wide waters of the Ciliwung River in Indonesia are now

barely visible under a never-ending tide of plastic. Children swim among leaking bags; mothers wash in the sewage-filled supply.

The Mayor of the City of Palo Alto Nancy Shepard will deliver opening remarks with all invited filmmakers 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.