



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**A MOTHER'S QUEST AFTER THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF HER SON IN A BAY AREA JAIL, TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN THE MILITARY, HOW POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND LEGAL FORCES CAN CONSPIRE TO DISRUPT AND WRECK THE LIVES OF SOCIETIES' MOST VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED PEOPLE and A JEWISH-ISRAELI LAWYER WHO HAS REPRESENTED POLITICAL PRISONERS FOR NEARLY FIFTY YEARS ARE PART OF THE EVENT ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 21st AS THE 22nd UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL CONTINUES IN PALO ALTO WITH SCREENINGS AT THE MITCHELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER**

### **WHAT HAPPENED TO DUJUAN ARMSTRONG? (US)**

When a young man mysteriously dies in a Bay Area jail, his mother begins a determined quest to find out what happened to him, but quickly runs into the opaque and powerful position of American sheriffs. Directed and produced by Lucas Gulkey. 4:40pm. **Filmmakers Present.**

### **BEI BEI (China/Thailand/US)**

*Bei Bei* is a legal and political drama with two extraordinary women at its center: one, a Chinese immigrant charged with first degree murder and the other, a successful white-collar lawyer who unwittingly finds herself defending a woman against legally unprecedented charges. Linda and Bei Bei uncover hidden political motives behind the case that could affect many more women than just Bei Bei. The film is an in depth look at how political, cultural and legal forces can conspire to disrupt and wreck the lives of societies' most vulnerable and

marginalized people. Co-directed by Marion Lipschutz and Rose Rosenblatt. 5:20pm.

### **TRANSMILITARY (US)**

*TransMilitary* chronicles the lives of four individuals defending their country's freedom while fighting for their own. They put their careers and their families' livelihoods on the line by coming out as transgender to top brass officials in hopes of attaining the equal right to serve. The ban was lifted in 2016, but with President Trump their futures hang in the balance again. Around 15,500 transgender people serve in the US military where they must conceal their gender identity because military policies ban their service. Co-directed by Fiona Dawson and Gabriel Silverman. 7:15pm.

### **ADVOCATE (US)**

Lea Tsemel defends Palestinians: from feminists to fundamentalists, from non-violent demonstrators to armed militants. As a Jewish-Israeli lawyer who has represented political prisoners for nearly fifty years, Tsemel, in her tireless quest for justice, pushes the praxis of a human rights defender to its limits. Co-directed by Rachel Leah Jones and Phillippe Bellaiche. 9:00pm.

For the full program, press material, photos and other details visit [www.unaff.org](http://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 22nd 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.*

*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.*