



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OPENING NIGHT

22nd ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL (UNAFF) KICKS OFF WITH THE THEME *SCALES OF JUSTICE* ON OCTOBER 17 AND THE MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION TO THE 22nd UNAFF AS ONE OF THE OLDEST PURELY DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVALS IN THE USA WHICH EDUCATES AND ENGAGES LOCAL COMMUNITY

Palo Alto, CA (September 17, 2019) The 22nd Annual United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) will begin in Palo Alto THURSDAY, October 17 at the Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road with three films: *THEY SAY I'M YOUR TEACHER (US)* at 6:45pm; *AI WEI WEI: YOURS TRULY (China/US)* at 7:00pm; *PATRINELL: THE TOTAL EXPERIENCE (US)* at 8:30pm.

5:30 PM Opening Night Reception • Music by The Potential Jazz Ensemble sponsored by Coupa Cafe

The Mayor of the City of Palo Alto Eric Filseth will deliver opening remarks with all invited filmmakers present.

THEY SAY I'M YOUR TEACHER (US), directed and co-produced by Catherine Murphy and Lucy Massie Phenix presents art of the Literacy Campaign in the United States during and after the Civil Rights Movement, *They Say I'm Your Teacher* is structured from the interview footage from 1985 film *You Got To Move* by Oscar nominated filmmaker Lucy Massie Phenix. **Filmmakers Present.**

AI WEI WEI: YOURS TRULY (China/US), co-directed by Cheryl Haines and co-produced with Gina Leibrecht and Christy McGill. *Ai Weiwei: Yours Truly* begins with the remarkable exhibition *@Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz*. The outspoken artist and activist transformed the former island penitentiary of Alcatraz into an artistic platform. The resulting exhibition engaged nearly 900,000 visitors in a conversation about the plight of prisoners of conscience around the world. Some of the messages from Alcatraz were getting through, and people had been moved—even sustained—by the public's outpouring of concern for their welfare and causes. **Filmmakers Present.**

PATRINELL: THE TOTAL EXPERIENCE (US), co-directed and co-produced by Andrew Elizaga and Tia Young. Rev. Patrinell "Pat" Staten Wright, an extraordinarily gifted African-American gospel singer who grew up in the segregated South, strives to maintain the world-famous Total Experience Gospel Choir that she has directed for forty-five years in the rapidly changing, historically black neighborhood of Seattle's Central District. This is the true story of one woman's journey to share faith and create community through music.

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 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 exception-

al contribution in promoting the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through the art of documentary film.