



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 2019

Media Contact:

Meghan du Mee (Hurder), Publicist

meghan@unaff.org

**UNAFF CONTINUES THE PROGRAM ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20th
AT THE MITCHELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER AND THE MIDPENINSULA
COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER IN PALO ALTO**

**WITH FILMS ON THE TOPIC OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, A
COUNCILWOMAN WHO MAINTAINS HER JOB CLEANING HOTEL ROOMS,
SHOCKING TRUTHS ABOUT THE HARDWORKING IMMIGRANTS WHO
BUILD THE AMERICAN DREAM FROM WHICH THEY ARE EXCLUDED, AND
WHY PEOPLE CONFESS TO CRIMES THEY HAVE NOT COMMITTED**

THIS BEING HUMAN (*Iraq/US*)

A modern hero's journey; a child of war runs the race of his life and knocks on the door of refuge. Supplicating for entrance, and turned away twice in Turkey, finally, Hameed is granted United Nations-guaranteed safe passage to the USA. He lands in Seattle where, after eight years of no education in Iraq, he gains speed with access to resources and the classroom. It seems insurmountable, he encounters adversity and challenge, as he accelerates towards higher education and loftier altruistic dreams. Co-directed by Aimie Vallat and Guido Ronge.
1:00pm. **Filmmakers Present.**

LUMPKIN, GA (*US*)

Lumpkin, GA explores the experience of one small town in rural Georgia, next-door to one of the largest immigration detention centers in the country, Stewart

Detention Center. Through interviews with town residents, local officials, an immigration lawyer in town, and families of detainees, a portrait of the physical and economic isolation our country's immigration policy begins to emerge. Directed and produced by Nicholas Manting Brewer. 1:30pm.

WORLD CITY (*France*)

What happens when a utopian architect sees the birth of a city when no one else does? At least not the French State, nor migrants themselves. What inspiration can build up to a very strong desire to change the world, when the emergency situation holds all cards? In the North of France city of Grande-Synthe, an architect, a mayor, and a group of refugees are experimenting the world-city of the future. Directed and produced by Antares Bassis. 2:10pm. **Filmmakers Present.**

Panel Discussion to follow “Rights and Responsibilities”

COUNCILWOMAN (*US*)

Carmen Castillo is a Dominican City councilwoman who maintains her job cleaning hotel rooms, as she takes on her new role in politics. She faces skeptics who say she doesn't have the education to govern, the power of corporate interests who take a stand against her fight for a \$15/hourly wage in the City, and a tough re-election against two contenders—all of this while balancing the challenges of managing a full-time job cleaning hotel rooms. Directed and co-produced by Margo Guernsey. 4:15pm. **Filmmakers Present.**

MASSACRE RIVER (*Dominican Republic/Haiti*)

Massacre River takes place in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, two ethnically and culturally distinct countries that have been forced to share an island since colonial times. The story follows Pikilina, a Dominican-born woman of Haitian descent, and her family. Racial and political violence erupt when the country of her birth, the Dominican Republic, reverses its birthright citizenship law and she is left stateless, along with over 200,000 others. Directed and produced by Suzan Bereza. 5:20pm. **Filmmakers Present.**

BUILDING THE AMERICAN DREAM (*El Salvador/Mexico/US*)

Across Texas, an unstoppable construction boom drives urban sprawl and luxury high-rises. Its dirty secret: abuse of immigrant labor. Grieving their son, a Mexican family campaigns for a life-and-death safety ordinance. A Salvadorian electrician couple owed thousands in back pay fights for their children's future. A bereaved son battles to protect others from his family's preventable tragedy. A story of courage, resilience and community, the film reveals shocking truths about the hardworking immigrants who build the American Dream, from which they are excluded. Directed and co-produced by Chelsea Hernandez. 6:30pm. **Filmmakers Present.**

HALF A SQUARE METER OF FREEDOM (*France/Germany*)

What could drive men and women, locked up behind bars, to paint the portrait of their twin brother or a field of flowers? Some of these artworks can be quite disturbing as they reflect deeply what imprisonment does to a human being. Why are these prisoners painting? Is it a therapy, a way to escape, a leisurely pastime? This art delves into the profound recesses of the imagination and the soul, and, when exhibited, creates a bridge between prisoners and society. Directed by Inga Lavolé-Khavkina. 8:05pm. **Filmmakers Present.**

FALSE CONFESSIONS (*Denmark/US*)

Experts say that trained interrogators can get anybody to confess, and each year innumerable American suspects do. Defense attorney Jane Fisher-Byrialsen is determined to put an end to interrogation techniques that too often pressure innocent people into false confessions that lead to prison cells. *False Confessions* looks at the psychological aspect of why people confess to crimes they have not committed and the consequences of these confessions. Directed by Katrine Philip. 9:15pm.

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