



27th UNAFF comes to a close on Sunday, Oct. 27 with Matthew Modine at Closing Night

**Actor, Producer, and Environmentalist Matthew Modine to
accept UNAFF Visionary Award in person**

October 22, 2024 - The [United Nations Association Film Festival](#) (UNAFF) will conclude its 27th annual presentation this upcoming **Sunday, October 27, 2024**, with a special in-person appearance from **Matthew Modine**. This year, UNAFF will have presented 60 documentary films from October 17-27 in various venues across the Bay Area, including Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, San Francisco, and Stanford University.

On Opening Night, Modine delivered a special message emphasizing the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#):

"It's important to note that the Declaration was drafted by people with different legal, religious, and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, demonstrating our ability to see ourselves and others and magnify our shared desire for peace, freedom, and equality. This festival is a celebration of that incredible endeavor."

UNAFF is honored to recognize award-winning filmmaker, actor, author, photographer, political activist, and environmentalist Matthew Modine with the

annual Visionary Award during the Awards Ceremony on Closing Night.

The Transformative Power of Art Panel, Oct. 26 at 4:40 pm

Ahead of Closing Night, Matthew Modine will participate on the panel for "The Transformative Power of Art." This panel occurs at Mitchell Park Community Center (3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA) on Saturday, [Oct. 26](#), at 4:40 pm.

"The Transformative Power of Art" panel focuses on how art can influence empathy and action for shared humanity. The panel will also include participation from filmmakers Nada Miljković ([JOYMAKERS](#)), Kim Snyder ([DEATH BY NUMBERS](#)), and Diane Griffin (UNAFF alumni).

The panel is free and open to the public on a first-come, first served basis.

Closing Night will be also be held at **Mitchell Park Community Center**. If you would like to cover the event, please email publicist2024@unaff.org in advance.

Sunday, October 27

Closing Night Film Presentations

Session 26



1:10 pm

[SLUDGE: A PFAS UPRISING](#), directed by Jeffrey Christian

Farmers speak up about "forever chemicals" poisoning their land, water, and livestock, only to lose everything in the process. Doing the right thing costs them everything.

Filmmaker Jeffrey Christian and Executive Producer Matthew Modine are scheduled attend this screening.



Photo Credit: Still from HONG KONG - FINAL DAYS OF FREEDOM

1:45 pm

[HONG KONG - FINAL DAYS OF FREEDOM](#), directed by Sean Fleck

This award-winning documentary chronicles Hong Kong's struggle for democracy against the Chinese Communist Party, featuring interviews with protestors, activists, and politicians that highlight the impact of historical events like the Tiananmen Square massacre, the Umbrella Movement, and the massive 2019 protests against the extradition bill while examining the erosion of civil liberties due to the National Security Law.

Filmmaker Sean Fleck is scheduled to attend this screening.

Session 27



Photo Credit: Still from MAKE A CIRCLE

3:40 pm

MAKE A CIRCLE, directed by Jen Bradwell and Todd Boekelheide

A group of Bay Area child care providers are determined to change how our society values the education of its youngest citizens.

Filmmakers Jen Bradwell and Todd Boekelheide are scheduled to attend this screening.



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Mechanix Film, Yuzu Productions

5:20 pm

TAX WARS, directed by Hege Dehli

An estimated \$427 billion in tax is lost yearly to global tax abuse by multinationals and the wealthy. The pandemic and the war in Ukraine have worsened income inequality, with the world's ten richest men doubling their fortunes while 99% of people saw their incomes drop. Citizen involvement can move the lines.

Filmmaker Hege Dehli is scheduled to attend this screening.

Closing Night Events

7:00 pm

Awards Night & Closing Night Reception, reception sponsored by Anatolian Kitchen, Birdies, and La Boheme; music by the Potential Jazz Ensemble

The festival concludes with the presentation of the following:

- **Visionary Award**
- **Grand Jury Award For Best Documentary**
- **Grandy Jury Award For Best Short Documentary**
- **Award For Best Cinematography**
- **Award For Best Editing**
- **Youth Vision Award**

UNAFF Visionary Award recipient **Matthew Modine** is scheduled to be in attendance to accept the award in person at the Awards Ceremony.

Screeners & Festival Information

Festival Program: <http://www.unaff.org/2024/schedule.html>

List of Films: <http://www.unaff.org/2024/films.html>

Press Assets: <https://www.unaff.org/2024/press.html>

Please reach out to publicist2024@unaff.org for screener requests or information that you need for coverage.

Ticket Information

Film passes and individual session tickets are available for the festival.

- Session 26 of Closing Night is an individual session ticket, priced at \$17.
- Session 27 is packaged with the Awards Ceremony and Closing Night Reception; it is priced at \$70.

More ticket information can be found at

<http://www.unaff.org/2024/tickets.html>.

FESTIVAL LISTING DETAILS

Festival Name: 27th UNAFF (United Nations Association Film Festival)

Location: Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, San Francisco, and Stanford University

Festival Dates: October 17-27, 2024

More Information: <http://www.unaff.org/2024/mission.html>

Email: info@unaff.org

Phone: (650) 724-5544

