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27th UNAFF Visionary Award Honors Matthew Modine



Photo Credit: MatthewModine.com

The [27th United Nations Association Film Festival](#) (UNAFF) presents award-winning filmmaker, actor, author, photographer, political activist, and environmentalist **Matthew Modine** with the annual **Visionary Award**. Modine has produced impactful documentaries, two of which bookend this year's festival, highlighting critical social and environmental issues. He is also the founder of Bicycle for a Day (BFAD), an initiative that empowers individuals with the knowledge to reduce consumption and live more sustainably.

UNAFF is honored to recognize Matthew Modine for his decades of dedication to protecting our oceans and advancing human rights. He joins an esteemed list of previous Visionary Award recipients, including Academy Award winner and United Nations Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas; Congresswoman Barbara Lee; human rights activist, actor, and singer Harry Belafonte; singer and activist Joan Baez; Academy Award nominee and women's rights advocate Dorothy Fadiman; Silicon Valley pioneers William Draper III and Franklin "Pitch" Johnson; philanthropist Juliette Feeney-Timsit; and former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

To request an interview with Matthew Modine, please contact publicist2024@unaff.org.



Photo Credit: Matthew Modine in MATTHEW MODINE'S RIPPLE EFFECT

Opening Night begins with [MATTHEW MODINE'S RIPPLE EFFECT](#), a short film for a proposed documentary series that follows extraordinary people making bold attempts to save the planet. It screens at the Mitchell Park Community Center in Palo Alto, on **Thursday, October 17**, after Mayor Greer Stone gives the opening remarks.

Other films screening on Opening Night include [WATER FOR LIFE](#) and [ZUCCHERO SUGAR FORNACIARI](#).



Photo Credit: Fred Stone in SLUDGE: A PFAS UPRISING

Closing Night concludes the festival with another Modine-produced film. [SLUDGE: A PFAS UPRISING](#) tells stories of farmers who speak up about “forever chemicals” poisoning their land, water, and livestock and ruining their livelihoods. The short film, directed by Jeffrey Christian and produced by Matthew Modine and Adam Rackoff, will screen at Mitchell Park Community Center in Palo Alto on **Sunday, October 27**.

Other films screening on Closing Night include: [HONG KONG - FINAL DAYS OF FREEDOM](#), [MAKE A CIRCLE](#), and [TAX WARS](#).

[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

For the most current schedule, please visit <http://www.unaff.org/2024/schedule.html>.
An interactive schedule will tentatively be up by September 26th.

Find individual film details at <http://www.unaff.org/2024/films.html>.
Find press photos for each film at <https://www.unaff.org/2024/press.html>.

Please reach out to publicist2024@unaff.org if you cannot find press materials or information that you need for coverage.

TICKET INFORMATION

Film passes and individual session tickets will be available for the festival.

- Individual session tickets are priced from \$17 to \$20.
- Festival passes are priced from \$70 to \$240.

Students may receive free tickets by presenting their ID. More ticket information will tentatively be available on September 26 at <http://www.unaff.org/2024/tickets.html>.

ABOUT UNAFF

Founded in 1998 by Jasmina Bojic, film critic and educator, UNAFF (United Nations Association Film Festival) is an international documentary film festival originally established to honor the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Over the years UNAFF has screened some of the most awarded and talked about documentaries in the industry, including eight that went on to win Academy Awards and 36 that were nominated. For more information about UNAFF, please visit https://www.unaff.org/2024/files/UNAFF2024_About.pdf.

The 27th UNAFF will be held from October 17-27, 2024 exploring the theme SHARED HUMANITY. UNAFF celebrates the power of films dealing with human rights, including environmental themes, women's issues, racism, child welfare, war and peace. Over its 26 years, UNAFF and its year-round programs have attracted a broad audience from around the Bay Area, with many finding the screenings to be a rare chance to engage with different cultures and see the state of human rights around the world and at home. UNAFF promotes education, awareness, and social change through images, dialogue, and action.