

ReelAbilities Film Festival, Boston
April 3-14, 2016
boston.reelabilities.org

MISSION

ReelAbilities strives for inclusion of all people and is dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories, and artistic expressions of people with different abilities from a variety of communities.

ACCESSIBILITY

All venues are wheelchair accessible. Individuals needing accommodations should contact us by March 21, 2016 at 617.244.9899 or info@reelboston.org.

Unless noted, all films are recommended for ages 17 and older.

Thanks to our generous donors, complimentary tickets are available for groups from agencies serving people with disabilities.

Please contact the Festival office at 617.244.9899 or info@reelboston.org for more information, or to inquire about bringing a group.

INFORMATION

For tickets, updates, and additional information (including text-only version): boston.reelabilities.org

Co-presented by:
The Boston Jewish Film Festival
1001 Watertown Street
West Newton, MA 02465

With screenings in:
Boston, Cambridge, Hanover, Holyoke, Lexington, Marlborough, Newton, Revere, Somerville, Springfield, and Watertown

SPONSORS

AXA

J.B. & Z.B. Butler Foundation

Chelsea Jewish Foundation

Combined Jewish Philanthropies

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Special Olympics

Diane Troderman

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Jason's Connection

JCC Manhattan

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Media Partners

Jewish Journal

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Co-Presented by

The Boston Jewish Film Festival

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 3: Special Event

Showcase Cinema de lux Revere 10:00 AM *TransFatty Lives*

Monday, April 4: Opening Night

Emerson College

Bright Family Screening Room 6:30 PM *The Way He Looks*

Tuesday, April 5

Cambridge Public Library 6:00 PM

Mimi and Dona

Wednesday, April 6

West Newton Cinema 7:00 PM

Breakfast at Ina's

Thursday, April 7

Leventhal-Sidman JCC

Rierner-Goldstein Theater 6:45 PM

Autism in Love

Springfield JCC/Shorts Program 6:30 PM

Reel Shorts: Short Films

Friday, April 8

Cardinal Cushing Centers 10:00 AM

Teach Me to Sea

Sunday, April 10

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston 12:00 PM

Gabriel

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston 3:00 PM

Do You Believe in Love?

JERICHO Bureau for

Exceptional Children and Adults 3:00 PM

Becoming Bulletproof

Monday, April 11

Perkins School for the Blind

Grousbeck Center 6:30 PM

For Once in My Life

Springfield JCC 7:00 PM

Endless Abilities

Tuesday, April 12

Cotting School 7:15 PM

Becoming Bulletproof

Wednesday, April 13

Museum of Science, Boston 6:30 PM

Endless Abilities

Marlborough High School 6:30 PM

The Crash Reel

Thursday, April 14: Closing Night

Springfield JCC 7:00 PM

The Finishers

Somerville Theatre 7:00 PM

How to Dance in Ohio

SCREENINGS APRIL 3 – 14, 2016

SPECIAL EVENT:

Sun. April 3, 10:00am

Showcase Cinema de lux Revere

TransFatty Lives

Directed by Patrick O'Brien

USA, 83 minutes, Documentary, In English (no captions)

At 30, Patrick O'Brien was TransFatty, a New York City DJ, internet personality, and filmmaker. Then his legs started shaking. *TransFatty Lives* takes you on an emotional rollercoaster into the dark heart of ALS. As the director and star of his own documentary, Patrick films every step of his debilitating journey from first diagnosis through paralysis. Forcefully lacking self-pity, he captures the emotion, humor, and absurdity of life as he makes art, gets political, falls in love, fathers a son, and fights depression. Winner of the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Reception to follow with Director and Film Subject Patrick O'Brien

Tickets \$20 each at www.reelboston.org

All proceeds benefit the Patrick O'Brien Foundation

Presented by the Chelsea Jewish Foundation

OPENING NIGHT:

Mon. April 4, 6:30pm

Emerson College, Boston

The Way He Looks

Directed by Daniel Ribeiro

Brazil, 83 minutes, Narrative

In Portuguese with English subtitles and Audio Description

In this romantic and gentle coming-of-age story, Leo, a blind teenager, is determined to leave Sao Paulo to study abroad– to the dismay of his best friend, Giovana. But Leo's plans change when he is paired on a school project with Gabriel, the handsome new kid in town. As the boys' interest in each other grows, Giovana begins to reveal her own feelings, growing increasingly jealous of Gabriel.

Discussion to follow with Director Daniel Ribeiro

Free admission, suggested donation of \$10

Sponsored by Emerson College, Emerson College School of the Arts, Emerson College Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Emerson College Peace and Social Justice, and Wicked Queer Boston LGBT Film Festival

Tues. April 5, 6:00pm
Cambridge Public Library

Mimi and Dona

Directed by Sophie Sartain
USA, 66 minutes, Documentary
In English with Open Captions

For the past 64 years, 92-year-old Mimi has cared for her daughter Dona, who has an intellectual disability. For Mimi, aging means facing the reality that she will not outlive her daughter. This personal and touching film by Executive Producer Nancy Spielberg (*Above and Beyond*) spotlights the challenges confronting aging caregivers of those with disabilities and details the ripple effects of Dona's disability on three generations

Pre-screening reception 6:00-6:30pm

Discussion to follow with Director Sophie Sartain and Susan Pacheco, Executive Director Cambridge Council on Aging

Free admission

Sponsored by Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Cambridge Public Library, and City of Boston Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Wed. April 6, 7:00pm
West Newton Cinema

Breakfast at Ina's

Directed by Mercedes Kane
USA, 51 minutes, Documentary
In English (no captions)

Known around Chicago as the “Breakfast Queen,” Ina Pinkney is a local legend with an incredible life story to tell. Between greeting customers, Ina invites us into her life as a child partially paralyzed by polio, a woman in an interracial marriage disowned by her Jewish parents, and a business owner propelled by her own self-confidence. After 33 years in business, we watch the diverse clientele, the devoted staff, and Ina herself in the countdown of the month before her restaurant closes. A favorite at the 2015 Boston Jewish Film Festival.

Discussion to follow with Film Subject Ina Pinkney

Reception to follow at L’Aroma Café

Tickets \$12 each

Available at www.reelboston.org

Sponsored by Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project

Thurs. April 7, 6:45 PM
Leventhal-Sidman JCC, Newton
Autism in Love
Directed by Matt Fuller
USA, 76 minutes, Documentary
In English with Open Captions

Finding love can be hard for anyone, but for those with autism the challenges may seem overwhelming. Autism can affect the core characteristics of a successful relationship – communication and social interaction. Filmed in a highly personal style, *Autism in Love* offers a warm and stereotype-shattering look at four people pursuing and managing romantic relationships.

Pre-screening dessert reception 6:45-7:15pm

Discussion to follow

Pre-registration strongly advised at bostonjcc.org/reelabilities

Free admission

Sponsored by CJP Committee on Services for People with Disabilities, Gateways: Access to Jewish Education, Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters, Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston, Jewish Family & Children's Service, Jewish Vocational Service, Special Needs Professionals Committee, Synagogue Council of Massachusetts, and Yachad/National Jewish Center for Disabilities

Thurs. April 7, 6:30 PM
Springfield JCC
Reel Shorts: A Selection of Short Films

Hear This!
Soulaima El Khaldi
15 minutes, Documentary

The Interviewer
Genevieve Clay-Smith
12 minutes, Fiction

Coaching Colburn
Jeff Bemiss
16 minutes, Fiction

Finding Miracles
Tom and Elaine Hershon
10 minutes, Documentary

During intermission, light refreshments will be served.

All ages are welcome.

Free admission

Sponsored by Springfield JCC

Friday, April 8, 10:00 AM
Cardinal Cushing Centers, Hanover
Teach Me to Sea
Directed by Mara Bresnahan
USA, 38 minutes, Documentary

In English (no captions)

Teach Me to Sea follows students from the Perkins School for the Blind on an ambitious five-day senior class cruise to Mexico. The film follows the students through the end of their time in high school, including important senior rites of passage such as prom and graduation. *Teach Me to Sea* captures their hopes, fears, and dreams for the future as they head out into the world beyond Perkins and into the beginning of their adult lives.

Discussion to follow with Director Mara Bresnahan and Film Subject Ashley Bernard

Free admission

Sponsored by Cardinal Cushing Centers

Sun. April 10, 12:00pm
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Gabriel

Directed by Lou Howe

USA, 87 minutes, Narrative

In English with Open Captions

Gabriel (Rory Culkin) longs for stability and happiness amidst an ongoing struggle with a mental illness and is convinced that reuniting with his ex-girlfriend is the key. In a desperate and increasingly obsessive pursuit, Gabriel tests the limits of his family as his inner demons begin to close in around him.

Discussion to follow facilitated by Goldie Eder, MSW

Dr. Dost Öngür, MD, PHD Chief Psychotic Disorders Division McLean Hospital, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School

Kirsten Bolton, LICSW, Program Director, McLean On Track

Free admission

Sponsored by Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Cambridge/Middlesex

Sun. April 10, 3:00pm
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Do You Believe in Love?

Directed by Dan Wasserman

Israel, 50 minutes, Documentary

In Hebrew with English Open Captions and Audio Description

Tova does not believe in love. But she has had remarkable success as a matchmaker, specializing in finding matches for people with disabilities. Despite her tough-love approach, her passion for her work and her clients is undeniable. Funny, heart-warming, and endlessly entertaining, this documentary follows Tova, who has muscular dystrophy, over the course of a year, inviting us to join in her pain, humor, love and enormous lust for life. A favorite at the 2015 Boston Jewish Film Festival.

Discussion to follow with Alexander Freeman, Disability Advocate

Free admission

Sponsored by Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Sun. April 10 3:00pm

JERICHO Bureau for Exceptional Children and Adults

Becoming Bulletproof

Directed by Michael Barnett

USA, 82 minutes, Documentary

In English with Open Captions

A diverse group of people with disabilities from across the U.S. takes on leading roles in a magical, rip-roaring, costume-drama Western, filmed on vintage Hollywood locations. This riveting film-within-a-film immerses us in a dynamic, inclusive world, raising questions about why we so rarely see real actors with disabilities on the “big screen.”

Discussion to follow with Film Subject Jeremy Vest

Reception to follow

Reservations requested at 413.538.7450

Free admission

Sponsored by JERICHO Bureau for Exceptional Children and Adults

Mon. April 11, 6:30pm

Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown

For Once in My Life

Directed by Jim Bigham

USA, 90 minutes, Documentary

In English with Open Captions and Audio Description

A unique group of singers and musicians, on a journey to show the world the greatness — and killer soundtrack — within each of them. The twenty-eight band members have a wide range of mental and physical disabilities, as well as musical abilities that extend into ranges of pure genius. Winner of the Audience Award at the SXSW Film Festival.

Live pre-show radio interview with band members starting at 6:00pm and streaming on www.radioperkins.org

Free admission

Sponsored by Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown

Mon. April 11, 7:00pm

Springfield JCC

Endless Abilities

Directed by Harvey Burrell and Tripp Clemens

USA, 72 minutes, Documentary

In English with Open Captions

A road trip documentary following three best friends driving across the country in search of adaptive sports for people with physical disabilities. On their journey, the friends encounter incredible athletes with a range of physical abilities and they join them in swimming, playing competitive soccer, rock climbing, and more.

In support of the screening, the JCC Gallery will be hosting a photo

exhibit of Massachusetts Special Olympians April 1st-30th.

All ages are welcome.

Free admission

Sponsored by Springfield JCC

Tue. April 12, 7:15pm
Cotting School, Lexington
Becoming Bulletproof

Directed by Michael Barnett
USA, 82 minutes, Documentary
In English with Open Captions

A diverse group of people with disabilities from across the U.S. takes on leading roles in a magical, rip-roaring, costume-drama Western, filmed on vintage Hollywood locations. This riveting film-within-a-film immerses us in a dynamic, inclusive world, raising questions about why we so rarely see real actors with disabilities on the “big screen.”

Pre-screening reception 6:00-7:00pm

Discussion to follow with Film Subjects AJ Murray and Peter Halby

Free admission

Sponsored by the Cotting School and Zeno Mountain Farm

Wed. April 13, 6:30pm
Museum of Science, Boston
Endless Abilities

Directed by Harvey Burrell and Tripp Clemens
USA, 72 minutes, Documentary
In English with Open Captions

A road trip documentary following three best friends driving across the country in search of adaptive sports for people with physical disabilities. On their journey, the friends encounter incredible athletes with a range of physical abilities and they join them in swimming, playing competitive

soccer, rock climbing, and more.

Discussion to follow with Eli A. Wolff, Director of the Inclusive Sports Initiative at the Institute for Human Centered Design and Film Producer Will Humphrey

Free admission

Sponsored by the Museum of Science, Boston

Wed. April 13, 6:30pm

Marlborough High School

The Crash Reel

Directed by Lucy Walker

USA, 108 minutes, Documentary

In English with Open Captions

This film chronicles the jaw-dropping story of pro snowboarder Kevin Pearce through the powerful use of 20 years of sports and vérité footage. *The Crash Reel* captures the epic rivalry between Kevin and Shaun White and its culmination in Kevin's life-changing crash. As Kevin works his way back to the slopes, we are introduced to his father, glass artist Simon Pearce, and his brother, David Pearce, who struggles to accept his Down syndrome. Winner of the Audience Award at the SXSW Film Festival.

Light reception to follow

Free admission

Sponsored by Special Olympics of Massachusetts

CLOSING NIGHT:

Thurs. April 14, 7:00pm

Springfield JCC

The Finishers

Directed by Nils Tavernier

Belgium/France, 95 minutes, Narrative

In French with English Open Captions

In a bid to bond with his distant father, Julien, a charming 17-year-old with cerebral palsy, challenges him to compete together in the Ironman triathlon—a near impossible feat. This is not just a sports film, but a story of one family’s exemplary journey and a portrait of the love between father and son. Based on the legendary Boston Marathoners Rick and Dick Hoyt.

All ages are welcome.

Free Admission

Sponsored by Diane Troderman and Kehillah Special Needs

Thurs. April 14, 7:00pm

Somerville Theatre

How to Dance in Ohio

Directed by Alexandra Shiva
USA, 89 minutes, Documentary
In English with Open Captions

A first kiss, a first dance. These rites of passage can be exciting and terrifying, but for many teenagers and young adults on the autism spectrum, they are debilitating. In *How to Dance in Ohio*, we join a group of young people with developmental challenges as they prepare for their first formal dance. From practicing social skills to picking dates and dresses, the teens develop their ability to connect, navigate social rules, and take part in a longstanding American tradition – the spring dance. Premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

Discussion to follow with film subject Dr. Emilio Amigo, Founder and Director of Amigo Family Counseling and Karen Lean, Board Member of Asperger/Autism Network

Tickets \$10 each

Online at www.reelboston.org or in person at the Somerville Theatre box office one hour prior to screening.

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ALS Association Massachusetts Chapter
ALS Therapy Development Institute
The Arc of Massachusetts
Asperger/Autism Network
Autistic Self-Advocacy Network
Boston University, School of Education
Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester
Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Cambridge Public Library
Carroll Center for the Blind
Cardinal Cushing Centers
Chelsea Jewish Foundation
City of Boston Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities
CJP Committee on Services for People with Disabilities
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Exceptional Lives
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Gateway Arts
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Institute for Community Inclusion
Institute for Human Centered Design
JERICO Bureau for Exceptional Children and Adults
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Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters
Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston
Jewish Family & Children's Service
Jewish Vocational Service
Mass. Advocates for Children
Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Access Advisory Board

Museum of Science, Boston
NAMI Greater Boston Consumer Advocacy Network
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Cambridge/Middlesex
Northeast ARC
Opening Doors to the Arts
Open Style Lab
Patrick O'Brien Foundation
Perkins School for the Blind
Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Program
Special Needs Professionals Committee
Special Olympics of Massachusetts
Springfield JCC
Threshold Program, Lesley University
UMASS Medical School-Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center
Understanding Disabilities, Inc.
Understanding Our Differences
Vinfen Corporation
VSA Massachusetts
Waypoint Adventure
Wicked Queer Boston LGBT Film Festival
Yachad/National Jewish Center for Disabilities
Zeno Mountain Farm

VENUES

Cambridge Public Library
449 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02138
617.349.4040

Cardinal Cushing Centers
405 Washington Street
Hanover, MA 02339
781.826.6371

Cotting School
453 Concord Avenue
Lexington, MA 02421
781.862.7323

Emerson College
Bright Family Screening Room
Paramount Center
559 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
617.824.8000

JERICHO Bureau for Exceptional Children and Adults
537 Northampton Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
413.538.7450

Leventhal-Sidman JCC
Riemer-Goldstein Theater
333 Nahanton Street
Newton, MA 02459
617.558.6522

Marlborough High School
Little Theater
431 Bolton Street
Marlborough, MA 01752
508.460.3500

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Alfond Auditorium
465 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
617.267.9300

Museum of Science, Boston
Cahners Theater
1 Science Park
Boston, MA 02114
617.723.2500

Perkins School for the Blind
Grousebeck Center
175 North Beacon Street
Watertown, MA 02472

617.924.3434

Showcase Cinema de lux Revere
565 Squire Road
Revere, MA 02151
800.315.4000

Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square
Somerville MA 02144
617.625.5700

Springfield JCC
Neal Webber Building
1160 Dickinson Street
Springfield, MA 01108
413.739.4715

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington Street
West Newton, MA 02465
617.964.8074