

# ReelAbilities

FILM FESTIVAL

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BOSTON

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April 3-14, 2016

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[www.reelboston.org](http://www.reelboston.org)





**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](http://www.reelboston.org)**

All proceeds benefit the Patrick O'Brien Foundation



## **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.

**Celebrating the  
Fifth Annual  
Boston ReelAbilities  
Film Festival**

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

All venues are wheelchair accessible.

Individuals needing accommodations should contact us by March 21, 2016 at 617.244.9899 or [info@reelboston.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@reelboston.org) for more information, or to inquire about bringing a group.





Mon. April 4 | 6:30pm

Tues. April 5 | 6:00pm

Emerson College, Boston

Cambridge Public Library

## OPENING NIGHT

### *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

### *Mimi and Dona*

**Directed by Sophie Sartain**

USA, 66 minutes, Documentary  
In English with Open Captions

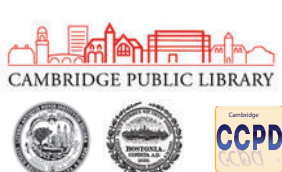
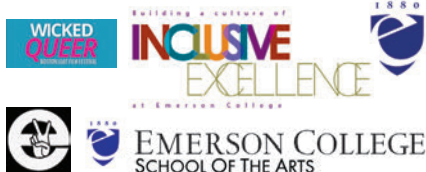
For the past 64 years, 92-year-old Mimi has cared for her daughter Dona, who has an intellectual disability. For Mimi, aging means facing the reality that she will not outlive her daughter. This personal and touching film by Executive Producer Nancy Spielberg (*Above and Beyond*) spotlights the challenges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

**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**





Wed. April 6 | 7:00pm

Thurs. April 7 | 6:45pm

West Newton Cinema

Leventhal-Sidman JCC, Newton

**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](http://www.reelboston.org)



**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](http://bostonjcc.org/reelabilities)

**Free admission**





Thurs. April 7 | 6:30pm

Fri. April 8 | 10:00am

Springfield JCC

Cardinal Cushing Centers, Hanover

**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

**Reception**

During intermission, light refreshments will be served.

All ages are welcome.

**Free admission**

**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**



Cardinal Cushing Centers

*All ages. All abilities. All together.*



Sun. April 10 | 12:00pm

Sun. April 10 | 3:00pm

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

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**

**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**





Sun. April 10 | 3:00pm

JERICHO, Holyoke

**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**



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](http://www.radioperkins.org)

**Free admission**





Mon. April 11 | 7:00pm

Springfield JCC

## **Endless Abilities** oc

**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 1<sup>st</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>.

All ages are welcome.

**Free admission**



Tues. April 12 | 7:15pm

Cotting School, Lexington

## **Becoming Bulletproof** oc

**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**







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**



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**





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



Thurs. April 14 | 7:00pm

Somerville Theatre

### **CLOSING NIGHT**

### **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. 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](http://www.reelboston.org)  
or in person at the Somerville Theatre box office one hour prior to screening.

# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

## Sunday, April 3: Special Event

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

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## Monday, April 4: Opening Night

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

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## Tuesday, April 5

Cambridge Public Library 6:00 PM ..... *Mimi and Dona*

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## Wednesday, April 6

West Newton Cinema 7:00 PM ..... *Breakfast at Ina's*

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## Thursday, April 7

Leventhal-Sidman JCC  
Riemer-Goldstein Theater 6:45 PM ..... *Autism in Love*

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Springfield JCC/Shorts Program 6:30 PM ..... Reel Shorts: A Selection of Short Films

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## Friday, April 8

Cardinal Cushing Centers 10:00 AM ..... *Teach Me to Sea*

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## Sunday, April 10

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston 12:00 PM ..... *Gabriel*

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Museum of Fine Arts, Boston 3:00 PM ..... *Do You Believe in Love?*

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JERICH0 Bureau for  
Exceptional Children and Adults 3:00 PM ..... *Becoming Bulletproof*

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## Monday, April 11

Perkins School for the Blind  
Grousbeck Center 6:30 PM ..... *For Once in My Life*

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Springfield JCC 7:00 PM ..... *Endless Abilities*

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## Tuesday, April 12

Cotting School 7:15 PM ..... *Becoming Bulletproof*

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## Wednesday, April 13

Museum of Science, Boston 6:30 PM ..... *Endless Abilities*

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Marlborough High School 6:30 PM ..... *The Crash Reel*

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## Thursday, April 14: Closing Night

Springfield JCC 7:00 PM ..... *The Finishers*

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Somerville Theatre 7:00 PM ..... *How to Dance in Ohio*

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# 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  
Cotting School  
CVS Corporation  
Disability Law Center  
Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism  
Emerson College  
Exceptional Lives  
Federation for Children with Special Needs  
The Five Project  
Leonard Florence Center  
Gateway Arts  
Gateways: Access to Jewish Education  
IMPACT:Ability  
Institute for Community Inclusion  
Institute for Human Centered Design  
JERICHO Bureau for Exceptional Children and Adults  
Jewish Arts Collaborative  
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

# SPONSORS



# 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

# SPONSORS

## Presenting Partners



## Media Partners



## Co-Presented by





1001 Watertown Street  
West Newton, MA 02465



# ReelAbilities

FILM FESTIVAL



BOSTON

April 3-14, 2016



Boston ■ Cambridge ■ Hanover ■ Holyoke ■ Lexington  
Marlborough ■ Newton ■ Revere ■ Somerville  
Springfield ■ Watertown

For tickets, updates, and additional information (including text-only version): [www.reelboston.org](http://www.reelboston.org) ■ 617.244.9899 ■ [info@reelboston.org](mailto:info@reelboston.org)

Co-presented by The Boston Jewish Film Festival  
Cover Photo: Windy Films