**ReelAbilities Film Festival, Boston**

**March 29-April 6, 2017**

**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 8, 2017 at 617.244.9899 or info@reelboston.org.

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

Co-presented by:

The Boston Jewish Film Festival

1001 Watertown Street

West Newton, MA 02465

With screenings in: Boston, Cambridge, Canton, Lexington, Newton, Somerville

**SPONSORS**

Ruderman Family Foundation

J.E & Z.B Butler Foundation

CJP

Special Needs Financial Planning

Emerson College

Mass Cultural Council

JCDS

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**Presenting Partners**

JCC Manhattan

Jason’s Connection

LADD, Inc.

Saul Schottenstein Foundation

**Co-Presented by**

The Boston Jewish Film Festival

**FESTIVAL SCHEDULE**

Wednesday, March 29: Opening Night

Museum of Science Cahners Theatre 6:30 PM *Life, Animated*

Thursday, March 30

Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital 6:30 PM *The Rebound*

for Children

Emerson College

Bright Family Screening Room 7:00 PM *Asperger’s Are Us*

Sunday, April 2

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston 12:00 PM *True Smile*

Alfond Auditorium

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston 2:30 PM *That Which Is Possible*

Alfond Auditorium

Monday, April 3

Leventhal-Sidman JCC 6:30 PM *My Hero Brother*

Riemer-Goldstein Theater

Brattle Theatre 7:00 PM *Notes on Blindness*

Tuesday, April 4

Cambridge Public Library 6:30 PM *Rachel Is*

Wednesday, April 5

Cotting School 7:00 PM *Gabe*

Thursday, April 6: Closing Night

Somerville Theatre 7:00 PM *Marathon: The Patriots Day Bombing*

**SCREENINGS MARCH 29 – APRIL 6, 2017**

**OPENING NIGHT:**

**Wed. March 29, 6:30pm**

**Museum of Science**

***Life, Animated***

Directed by Roger Ross Williams

USA, 89 minutes, Documentary, In English with Open Captions

This Oscar-nominated documentary introduces us to Owen Suskind, a young man with autism who, as a child, was unable to speak until he and his family discovered a unique way to communicate—immersing themselves in the world of classic Disney animated films. A coming-of-age story, the film follows Owen as he graduates to adulthood and takes his first steps toward independence. Join Ron Suskind, Owen’s father and author of the New York Times bestseller that inspired the film, who will discuss how stories helped his family find their way through hard times.

*Winner, Best Director for US Documentary, Sundance Film Festival*

Discussion, reception and book signing to followwith Ron Suskind, film subject and Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist and author.

Free admission

**Thurs. March 30, 6:30pm**

**Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital**

***The Rebound***

Directed by Shaina Allen

USA, 65 minutes, Documentary In English with Open Captions

The Rebound follows the underdog journey of the Miami Heat Wheels wheelchair basketball team in their quest for a national championship. Despite the team’s dwindling financial resources, these motivated athletes, each with their own emotional and physical challenges, rally toward the title while striving to accomplish their own life goals off the court.

Discussion to follow with athletes from a local wheelchair basketball team

Free admission

**Thurs. March 30, 7:00pm**

**Emerson College**

***Asperger’s Are Us***

Directed by Alex Lehmann

USA, 82 minutes, Documentary In English with Open Captions

Asperger’s Are Us is “the first comedy troupe consisting of openly autistic people.” In this documentary, produced by Jay and Mark Duplass, four friends from the North Shore of Boston prepare for their final, ambitious comedy show before going their separate ways. The film details each member’s experience through their last journey together.

Discussion to follow with director Alex Lehmann and members of the comedy troupe

Reception to follow

Co-presented with Bright Lights Series

Free Admission

**Sun. April 2, 12:00pm**

**Museum of Fine Arts**

***True Smile***

Directed by Juan Rayos

Spain, 82 minutes, Documentary In Spanish with English Open Captions and Audio Description

An astonishing journey as seen through the eyes of 26-year-old Sergio Aznárez Rosado, who was born both blind and with autism, yet lives a life packed with adventure. Over the course of 30 days, Sergio embarks on a 1,300-kilometer tandem bike ride with his brother, Juan Manuel, who pilots the bicycle. Together, they traverse desert and high mountains, starting in Cuenca in central Spain and finishing in one of the most remote villages in Morocco’s Atlas Mountains.

Co-presented with Waypoint Adventure

Free admission

**Sun. April 2, 2:30pm**

**Museum of Fine Arts**

***That Which Is Possible***

Directed by Michael Gitlin

USA, 84 minutes, Documentary In English with Open Captions

This film follows a community of painters, sculptors, musicians, and writers who create art at the Living Museum, an art space on the grounds of a large state-run psychiatric facility in Queens, NY. Shot over the course of two years and structured across the arc of a day, the film observes with an intimate lens and unspools like a musical, both bracing and tender. It explores the liberation and healing that creativity can offer those drawn together by shared struggle, creating a more humane and holistic approach to mental illness, and to the joy of transforming society itself.

Discussion to follow with artists from Gateway Arts

Co-presented with Gateway Arts

Free admission

**Mon. April 3, 6:30pm**

**Leventhal-Sidman JCC**

***My Hero Brother***

Yonatan Nir

Israel, 77 minutes, Documentary In Hebrew with English Open Captions

A group of young Israelis with Down syndrome and their siblings embark on a demanding trip through the Indian Himalayas, where the conflicts and the complexities of the their relationships come to the surface. Set against the richly colorful backdrop of India, new bonds are forged, and familial ties become deep friendships.

From the director of Dolphin Boy.

Discussion to follow

Pre-registration strongly advised at bostonjcc.org/reelabilities17

Free admission

Co-presented with The Boston Jewish Film Festival

**Mon. April 3, 7:00pm**

**Brattle Theatre**

***Notes on Blindness***

Directed by James Spinney and Peter Middleton

UK, 90 minutes, Documentary In English with Open Captions and Audio Description

In 1983, after many decades of deterioration, writer and theologian John Hull became totally blind. To help him make sense of the upheaval in his life, he documented his experiences on audio cassette. Expanding upon the Emmy Awardwinning short film of the same name, actors lip-sync to the voices of the family. The result is a poetic and intimate story of loss, rebirth, and transformation.

*Premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.*

Skype Q&A to follow with directors James Spinney and Peter Middleton

Screening with *Still Running*, Directed by Wayne de Lange & Sven Harding, USA, 5 minutes, Documentary In English with Open Captions and Audio Description

Tickets $12 each

Online at www.reelboston.org or the Brattle Theatre box office.

Co-presented with The DocYard

**Tues. April 4, 6:30pm**

**Cambridge Public Library**

***Rachel Is***

Directed by Charlotte Glynn

USA, 67 minutes, Documentary In English with Open Captions

Rachel is mysterious, funny, difficult, and ready to move out of her mother’s house. Her mother, Jane, is just as ready, but Rachel has a developmental disability, and Jane is desperately seeking a solution as Rachel prepares to graduate high school. The relationship between mother and daughter is full of frustrations, as each wants independence from the other.

*Selected for the PBS Documentary Reframed series.*

Pre-screening reception

6:00-6:30pm

Discussion to follow with director and film subject Charlotte Glynn, and Susan Senator, author of *Autism Adulthood: Strategies and Insights for a Fulfilling Life*

Free admission

**Wed. April 5, 7:00pm**

**Cotting School**

***Gabe***

Directed by Luke Terrell

USA, 72 minutes, Documentary In English with Open Captions

Gabe Weil is a 27-year-old who was born with the most severe form of muscular dystrophy, but that does not stop him from earning a college degree, going on road trips with friends, or indulging his passion for great food. For his entire life, Gabe has been told he would be lucky to live past 25. The news that he was misdiagnosed, and might live well into his 50s, presents a surprising obstacle: Gabe does not have any long-term goals, and is forced to rethink his life from scratch.

Pre-screening reception

6:00-6:45pm

Discussion to follow with director Luke Terrell

Screening with *Quest for the Cup*, Directed by Andrew Mudge, USA, 10 minutes, Documentary In English with No Captions

Free admission

**CLOSING NIGHT:**

**Thurs. April 6, 7:00pm**

**Somerville Theatre**

***Marathon: The Patriots Day Bombing***

Directed by Annie Sundberg and Ricki Stern

USA, 108 minutes, Documentary In English with Open Captions

Using never-before-seen footage, this gripping documentary focuses on the emotional and physical recovery of the individuals whose lives were forever changed by the Boston Marathon bombing. A newlywed couple, a mother and daughter, and two brothers strive to reclaim their lives and communities. An HBO film, produced in association with The *Boston Globe*.

“...puts a viewer right back in the thick of April 15, 2013, and in the panicky days and long, hard weeks of recovery that followed, with an immediacy and an empathy…” —Ty Burr, *The Boston Globe*

Discussion to follow with film subjects Patrick Downes and Jessica Kensky, moderated by Boston Globe reporter Eric Moskowitz

Tickets $10 each

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

Co-presented with GlobeDocs, Spaulding Rehabilitation Network

**OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Access Recreation Boston

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ALS Association Massachusetts Chapter

ALS Therapy Development Institute

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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

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Chelsea Jewish Foundation

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Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters

Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston

Jewish Family & Children’s Service

Jewish Vocational Service

Leventhal-Sidman JCC

Leonard Florence Center

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

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Opening Doors to the Arts

Open Style Lab

Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children

Perkins School for the Blind

Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Program

Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital

Special Needs Professionals Committee

The DocYard

Understanding Disabilities, Inc.

Understanding Our Differences

Vinfen Corporation

VSA Massachusetts

Waypoint Adventure

Work Inc.

Yachad/National Jewish Center for Disabilities

**VENUES**

Brattle Theatre

40 Brattle Street

Cambridge, MA 02138

617.876.6837

Cambridge Public Library

449 Broadway

Cambridge, MA 02138

617.349.4040

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

Leventhal-Sidman JCC

Riemer-Goldstein Theater

333 Nahanton Street

Newton, MA 02459

617.558.6522

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Alfond Auditorium

465 Huntington Avenue

Boston, MA 02115

617.267.9300

Museum of Science, Boston

Cahners Theatre

1 Science Park

Boston, MA 02114

617.723.2500

Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children

3 Randolph Street

Canton, MA 02021

781.828.2440

Somerville Theatre

55 Davis Square

Somerville, MA 02144

617.625.5700