LARGEST DISABILITY FILM FESTIVAL WORLDWIDE

Celebrating Different Abilities Through Film

SAVE THE DATE: April 2–9, 2019
ABOUT REELABILITIES
ReelAbilities Film Festival is the largest film festival in the world dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories, and artistic expressions of people with different abilities.

Founded in New York in 2007, the festival presents award-winning films by and about people with disabilities in multiple locations throughout the city. Post-screening discussions and other engaging programs bring communities together to explore, discuss, embrace, and celebrate the diversity of our shared human experience.

REELABILITIES INTERNATIONAL
In 2012, ReelAbilities expanded its impact by initiating ReelAbilities festivals in cities across the globe. Throughout each year, ReelAbilities’ films and mission travel to locations in the US, Canada, and Latin America, reaching diverse communities. We continue looking for new locations to share the ReelAbilities films and experiences with.

CURRENT REELABILITIES WORLDWIDE FESTIVALS
- Boston, MA
- Chicago, IL
- Cleveland, OH
- Columbus, OH
- Fairfax, VA
- Houston, TX
- Hurleyville, NY
- Los Angeles, CA
- Mexico City, Mexico
- Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN
- Montclair, NJ
- New York, NY
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Portland, OR
- Richmond, VA
- Salt Lake City, UT
- San Francisco, CA
- Santiago, Chile
- Toronto, Canada

AND MORE TO COME...
CORE PRINCIPLES

• Exceptional Films
• Accessibility
• Progressive Approach to Disability
• In-depth Conversation
• Partnerships and Collaborations

GOALS

• Promote awareness about our diverse society
• Provide further exposure to our award-winning films and the people behind them
• Improve accessibility of facilities, events, and viewing experience at the festival and on online platforms
• Advocate for inclusion and employment opportunities for people with disabilities in film and media
“Although I am deaf, with voices like those you will see in the ReelAbilities Film Festival, exciting and new faces from the deaf and disabled acting community, silence is the last thing the world will hear from me and us.”

—Marlee Matlin, ReelAbilities Opening Night, 2018
ACCESSIBILITY

ReelAbilities Film Festival prides itself on being the most accessible festival in the world, providing a wide range of accessibility accommodations to welcome everyone at events.

All ReelAbilities festival venues are fully accessible to mobility devices. Additionally, screenings and events include captioning, audio description, CART, ASL interpretation, braille materials, and more.

Geographical accessibility has also been a main goal for ReelAbilities since its start—holding films and events in multiple locations throughout each city. Furthermore, we share the films with the ReelAbilities International network, giving global audiences a chance to access the films, and our partners a chance to receive international recognition.

In addition to on-site accessibility, ReelAbilities is also continuously working towards creating a more accessible online experience, by adding improvements to the website, and building a ReelAbilities streaming platform, soon to come.
AUDIENCES
Each year, 9,000+ audience members attend ReelAbilities Film Festival in New York alone. Our dedication to accessibility and collaboration with the community create a uniquely diverse audience experience.

WHAT THEY’RE SAYING
• “I can’t tell you how much I love the films in the festival and the people featured in them. I [...] learn so much about physical and mental challenges people face and how they deal with them creatively. It’s really awakening.”

• “Thank you for bringing so many wonderful films, with such moving stories, whether narrative or documentary, to the public.”

• “Everything is excellent, as in past years. The festival is important, has value, is educational and enlightening.”

Festival attendees at ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York 2018
SPECIAL GUESTS

Each year, over 50 filmmakers, speakers, and special guests accompany the films in post-screening conversations, panel discussions, and special presentations throughout the week-long festival. Our guests enhance the level of conversation by sharing their personal stories and raising awareness of our mission.
FILMS AND EVENTS

ReelAbilities receives hundreds of submissions every year from around the world, including features, shorts, narratives, and documentaries. Our films portray a variety of approaches toward disability while presenting progressive and unique cinematic perspectives.

ReelAbilities engages with a variety of corporations and community partners to maximize the films’ visibility and international recognition during and after our festival. Thanks to their support, we are able to increase accessibility, promote films and filmmakers throughout the year, and share films with festivals through the ReelAbilities International program.

**FILMS**

Ballad from Tibet  
Keep the Change  
Macropolis  
Kills on Wheels

**EVENTS**

ReelAbilities also presents special collaborative programs that go beyond film. Art exhibits, dance performances, live music, comedy shows, workshops, panel discussions, and much more have become an integral part of our festivals.

Heidi Latsky Dance - On Display  
Addy & Uno Puppet Show  
The Merry Rockers band
In the US, nearly 20% of the population has a disability, yet, in 2017, only 18.7% of persons with a disability were employed, compared with 65.7% of persons without disabilities. There is much to improve upon with regards to inclusion and accessibility in our society, and ReelAbilities works to support these changes.

Throughout the year, ReelAbilities works outside the festival to raise awareness and promote inclusion by bringing our films and conversations to schools, community centers, corporate offices, and more.

We help build a customized ReelAbilities program with carefully selected films and discussion points to share with organizations in order to create a more welcoming and understanding environment for all.

ReelAbilities also offers free and discounted programs and screenings for schools and employee groups during the festival and at offices and organizations throughout the year.

Contact us for more info: reelabilities@jccmanhattan.org

ReelAbilities could not exist without the ongoing support of our team of staff, volunteers, and these committed individuals, supporting our work along the way:

- Loreen Arbus
- Barbara Dobkin
- Michelle and Jeff Feig
- Jordana and David Manzano
- Lynn and Elisha Weisel
PARTNERS

ReelAbilities partners are the foundation that helps us share our films and develop our programs. Each collaboration, sponsorship, and donation helps us achieve our goals of creating an inclusive and accepting environment at our festivals, while providing quality events.

CORPORATE SUPPORT

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
GET INVOLVED

DONATE/SPONSOR
Help make local and international ReelAbilities festivals more accessible, and expand and enrich our programs by donating to the festival. Sponsorship packet available upon request.
To donate: reelabilities.org/newyork/get-involved/#donate

PARTNER
Engage your organization by becoming a ReelAbilities community partner, providing in-kind donations, inviting your community to a screening, promoting, and more.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Arrange a special ReelAbilities screening and conversation for your school, community center, or corporate office.

VOLUNTEER
Get involved with the festival on the ground level by helping with outreach, production, guest relations, and more.
GET IN TOUCH

Have any questions or comments about how to get involved? Want to stay updated with ReelAbilities events and news throughout the year? Email us, check out our website, and follow us on Facebook for more info.

ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York
Web: http://reelabilites.org/newyork/
Email: reelabilitiesny@jccmanhattan.org
Facebook: facebook.com/ReelAbilities

ReelAbilities International
Web: http://reelabilites.org
Email: reelabilites@jccmanhattan.org
Facebook: facebook.com/ReelAbilitiesFilmFestival

Join us for the 11th annual
ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York
April 2–9, 2019