

**marlene
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manhattan THE CAROLE ZABAR CENTER FOR FILM

**Celebrating Disability
Through Film**

SAVE THE DATE: April 29 – May 5, 2021

ReelAbilities

FILM FESTIVAL

NEW YORK

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 disabilities.

Founded in New York in 2007, the festival presents award-winning films by and about people with disabilities in over 25 locations throughout the NY metro area. Post-screening discussions and other engaging programs bring communities together to explore and embrace 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.

REELABILITIES WORLDWIDE FESTIVALS

- Boston, MA
- Chicago, IL
- Cleveland, OH
- Columbus, OH
- Denver, CO
- Fairfax, VA
- Houston, TX
- Los Angeles, CA
- Mexico City, Mexico
- Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN
- New Jersey, NJ
- New York, NY
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Portland, OR
- Porto Alegre, Brazil
- Richmond, VA
- Salt Lake City, UT
- Santiago, Chile
- Toronto, Canada

AND MORE TO COME...



CORE PRINCIPLES

- Exceptional films
- Accessibility
- Progressive approach to disability
- In-depth conversation
- Partnerships and collaborations

GOALS

- Elevate the voices and creation of people with disabilities
- Promote first-rate films and the people behind them
- Improve media accessibility as part of filmmaking and moviegoing experiences
- Advocate for inclusion and employment opportunities for people with disabilities

LAST YEAR'S VIRTUAL SUCCESS

Due to the developments in COVID-19 restrictions three weeks prior to our planned festival, ReelAbilities shifted live events to an online platform, completing seven days of the first fully virtual ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York from March 31–April 6, 2020. Despite the quick shift, the large majority of our planned programming and film screenings were able to take place. The events themselves were far more successful than expected, with over 6,000 viewers logging in to participate. We received remarkable responses and celebrated this festival as the most accessible ReelAbilities to date.



25 films streaming
virtually



55 attending
filmmakers and
speakers



19 live conversations
and Q+As via Zoom



7,000+ virtual
attendees



7 special events,
panels, and
performances



Shared films
and events in
200+ locations



ACCESSIBILITY

- Captions and CART (live stenography) included in all films and conversations
- Audio description available for all films
- ASL interpretation for conversations and special programs



STREAM—COMING SOON

ReelAbilities is continuously working toward creating a more accessible online experience. ReelAbilities STREAM will grant audiences everywhere a chance to watch ReelAbilities films from the comfort of their home.

REELABILITIES INTERNATIONAL IN NUMBERS



Screened
300+ films



Presented films from
45+ countries



Hosted **550+**
filmmakers, speakers,
and guests



Collaborated with
550+ partners



Reviewed **4,000+**
film submissions



Shared films
and events in
200+ locations



Reached **80M+** through marketing and advertising



“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 continues to devote itself to enhancing cultural and media accessibility, providing audiences with a wide range of inclusive accommodations. Films, screenings, and events include:

- Accessible venues
- Open captioning
- Audio description
- CART (live captioning)
- ASL interpretation
- Braille materials
- and more

To support geographic accessibility, screenings and events are held in multiple locations throughout each city, many also broadcast virtually.

AUDIENCES

Each year, thousands of audience members attend ReelAbilities Film Festival in New York alone. Persons with disabilities, caregivers, family members, and the wider public continue to enjoy a uniquely diverse shared audience experience, accommodating of all.



AUDIENCE TESTIMONIALS

- "I've never been able to attend this festival in person due to distance. Would love a chance to attend virtually every year!"
- "It is eye opening, even when I thought I was aware, there is always someone else's perspective to learn from."
- "I always, always, find this film festival to be intellectually, morally, and emotionally a growth experience. There is always something to learn, to admire, and to share with others. This holds true for both the films and the Q+A sessions."

Attendees of the Virtual ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York 2020

SPECIAL GUESTS

Each year, over 50 filmmakers, speakers, and special guests accompany films in post-screening conversations, panel discussions, and special presentations throughout the week-long festival.



Zack Gottsagen (Actor,
The Peanut Butter Falcon)



Judith Heumann (Activist)



John Krasinski (Director,
A Quiet Place, Actor, *The Office*)



Marlee Matlin (Actor)



Mark Ruffalo (Actor)



Millicent Simmonds (Actor,
A Quiet Place)



Steve Way (Actor, Hulu's *Ramy*)



Danny Woodburn (Comedian,
Actor, *Seinfeld*)



Maysoon Zayid (Comedian,
Activist)

FILMS AND EVENTS

ReelAbilities presents features, shorts, TV/Web series, music videos, narratives, and documentaries from around the world. Our films portray a variety of approaches toward disability, in front of and behind the camera, while presenting progressive and creative cinematic perspectives.

FILMS

Our extended catalog of ReelAbilities films throughout the year is available online and for bookings.



Bedlam



Keep the Change



Kills on Wheels



Macropolis

EVENTS

In addition to film, ReelAbilities also presents special collaborative programs such as art exhibits, dance performances, live music, comedy shows, workshops, panel discussions on fashion, music, art, design, beauty, and much more, creating a week-long celebration of culture.



Addy & Uno
Puppet Show



Heidi Latsky Dance—
On Display



ReelAbilities
Comedy Night



The Merry
Rockers Band

EDUCATION

There is much to improve upon in regards to inclusion and accessibility in our society, and ReelAbilities works year-round to support change through film and conversation.

ReelAbilities works outside the festival to raise awareness around accessibility and inclusion by offering:

- Free and discounted educational screenings and programs for students and school groups
- Films and conversations for employees at corporate offices and organizations
- ReelEducation online platform with free downloadable resources (films and lesson plans) for teachers and educators to teach students about inclusion and social barriers for people with disabilities

Find out more at: reelabilities.org/reeeducation/

Contact us for more info: reelabilities@mmjccm.org

ReelEducation is made possible thanks to



FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL

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, festival co-chairs
- Jordana and David Manzano
- Wendy Barasch
- Lynn and Elisha Wiesel, festival co-chairs

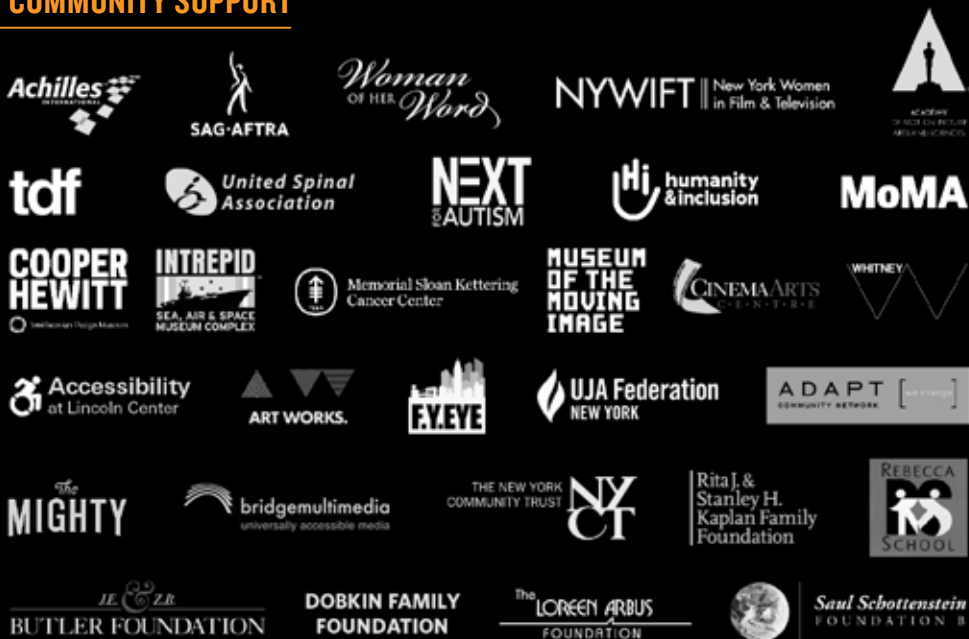
PARTNERS

ReelAbilities partners are the foundation that helps us share our films and develop our programs. 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.

CORPORATE SUPPORT



COMMUNITY SUPPORT



GOVERNMENT SUPPORT



GET INVOLVED



DONATE/SPONSOR

Help us make the festival more accessible, and expand and enrich our programs by donating to ReelAbilities. Sponsorship packet available upon request.

To donate: reelabilities.org/newyork/get-involved/#donate

PARTNER

Become a ReelAbilities community partner by inviting your community to a screening, promoting the festival, providing in-kind donations, and more.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Host a ReelAbilities screening and conversation at your school, community center, or corporate office.

VOLUNTEER

Get involved on the ground level by being the face of ReelAbilities at our venues, helping with outreach, production, hospitality, and more.



GET IN TOUCH

REELABILITIES FILM FESTIVAL: NEW YORK

reelabilities.org/newyork/
reelabilitiesny@mmjccm.org



REELABILITIES INTERNATIONAL

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Join us for the 13th Annual
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