15th Annual ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York

April 27–May 3, 2023

All films and conversations in person + streaming

For full festival information, visit **reelabilities.org/newyork**.

# FEATURE FILMS

## OPENING NIGHT: UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS

Dir. Juan Felipe Zuleta | US | 2022 | 100 min

Peter’s isolated daily routine is interrupted when his free-spirited neighbor shows up at his door, forcing him out of his shell and on an impromptu road trip.  
MMJCCM: Thu, Apr 27, 6:30 pm

MOMI: Sat, Apr 29, 4 pm

## BEING MICHELLE

Dir. Atin Mehra | US | 2022 | 80 min

*New York Premiere*

When an incarcerated deaf woman with autism meets a prison life coach who is blind, art becomes a path for healing.

MMJCCM: Mon, May 1, 8:15 pm

MOMI: Sat, Apr 29, 1:30 pm

MC: Tue, May 2, 3:30 pm

## JASMINE IS A STAR

Dir. Jo Rochelle | US | 2022 | 60 min

In pursuit of her dream to become a professional model, a 16-year-old with albinism confronts societal norms and explores what independence and self-acceptance look like.

MMJCCM: Sun, Apr 30, 2 pm

BAM: Mon, May 1, 7 pm

## NO ORDINARY CAMPAIGN

Dir. Chris Burke | US | 2022 | 82 min

*East Coast Premiere*

Following Brian’s diagnosis of ALS, he and his wife Sandra embark on a journey to reclaim their future and create a patient-led revolution, empowering millions to find their voice in a broken system and become active participants in finding a cure.

MMJCCM: Fri, Apr 28, 6 pm

## PUSHING BOUNDARIES

Dir. Lesia Kordonets | Switzerland | 2021 | 102 min

With the Russian annexation of Crimea, the Ukrainian Paralympic team loses their training base overnight. Will they succeed in qualifying for the upcoming Paralympics under difficult conditions and amid political turmoil?

MMJCCM: Sat, Apr 29, 6:30 pm

CAC: Tue, May 2, 7 pm

## THE QUIET EPIDEMIC

Dir. Lindsay Keys + Winslow Crane-Murdoch | US | 2022 | 102 min

After years of living with mysterious symptoms, a young girl from Brooklyn and a Duke University scientist are diagnosed with a disease said to not exist: Chronic Lyme disease.

MMJCCM: Tue, May 2, 8 pm

Maysles: Fri, Apr 28, 7 pm

CAC: Mon, May 1, 7 pm

## SHADOW

Dir. Bruce Gladwin | Australia | 2021 | 57 min

Desperate to save the world from the threat of AI, a group of disabled activists holds a public meeting. As the assembly unravels, they discover the greatest threat to their future is already in the room.

MMJCCM: Mon, May 1, 6:30 pm

JBFC: Wed, May 3, 7 pm

## STRAIGHTEN UP AND FLY RIGHT

Dir. Kristen Abate + Steven Tanenbaum | US | 2022 | 88 min

*New York City Premiere*

Kristen, a New Yorker with a severe form of arthritis, walks dogs for a living but dreams of being a writer. When her life starts to unravel, she must make a choice to fall apart or straighten up.

MMJCCM: Sat, Apr 29, 8:30 pm

## UPSIDE DOWN

Dir. Luca Tornatore | Italy | 2021 | 93 min

*International Premiere*

Paolo, a 19-year-old with Down syndrome, meets Armando, a kindhearted boxing trainer at the local gym. When Paolo steps into the ring, he discovers a sense of belonging.

MMJCCM: Sun, Apr 30, 4:30 pm

JCC SI: Mon, May 1, 7 pm

## CLOSING NIGHT: OKAY! (THE ASD BAND FILM)

Dir. Mark Bone | Canada | 2022 | 86 min

*East Coast Premiere*

Four musicians on the autism spectrum come together to write, record, and perform their first album of original songs.

MMJCCM: Wed, May 3 | 6 pm reception | 7 pm screening

DCTV, Fri, Apr 28, 7 pm

VENUE KEY

MMJCCM: Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan

BAM: Brooklyn Academy of Music

CAC: Cinema Arts Centre

DCTV: Firehouse Cinema

JBFC: Jacob Burns Film Center

JCC SI: JCC Staten Island

LC: Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts

Maysles: Maysles Documentary Center

MC: Manhattan College

MOMI: Museum of the Moving Image

# REELSHORTS: SHORT FILM PROGRAMS

## OUT OF THE BOX

Films that push the limits of creativity and imagination.

MMJCCM: Sat, Apr 29, 2 pm

### Bendix: Site Unseen | Dir. Anthony Scalia

### Culicidae | Dir. Greg Moran

### I Am Irani | Dir. Farhad Irani

### Limbo | Dir. Barak Drori

### Mac & Cheese | Dir. Amanda Pinto

### Mike’s Words | Dir. Jared Jacobsen

## MENTAL HEALTH

Poignant and insightful reflections on the complexities of mental health.

MMJCCM: Sat, Apr 29, 4 pm

MC: Wed, May 3, noon

### Breathe | Dir. Zac Norrington

### Just in Case | Dir. Kirsty Robinson-Ward

### Miette | Dir. Maude Bouchard + Camille Trudel

### Neurodivergent | Dir. Afton Quast Saler

### Remedial | Dir. Laurie Jeanette Gardiner

## FAMILY FRIENDLY

Delightful films that the whole family can enjoy.

MMJCCM: Sun, Apr 30, 12:30 pm

### Andy & Kaliope | Dir. Crystal Arnette + Catriona Rubenis-Stevens

### Charlie and the Hunt | Dir. Jenn Shaw

### The Hero | Dir. Andrew Arguello + Courtney Ropp

### Rite of Identity | Dir. Youmee Lee

### Super Powers | Dir. Chase Fritz

## THE ART OF LIVING

Celebrate the power of creativity and human expression.

MMJCCM: Mon, May 1, 5 pm

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### Imagined Touch | Dir. Jodee Mundy OAM + Sofya Gollan

### Imaginings | Dir. Anja Hiddinga

### SOUL(SIGNS): OPERA | Dir. Kevin Newbury, Brandon Kazen-Maddox + James Matthew Daniel

## WITH AN EDGE

Films that challenge conventions.

MMJCCM: Tue, May 2, 6 pm

### Act of God | Dir. Spencer Cook + Parker Smith

### Big Bang | Dir. Carlos Segundo

### Coming Out Autistic | Dir. Steven Fraser

### Flirting (with Possibilities) | Dir. Garrett Zuercher

### It’s Personal | Dir. Kyla Harris + Lou Macnamara

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MORE SHORT FILM PROGRAMS

Imagined Touch | LC: MAY 2, 7:30 PM

Reel Docs | DCTV: MAY 2, 7 PM

CONVERSATIONS, COMEDY NIGHT, ARTS, PANELS, AND MORE

SEE ALL FILMS + EVENTS ONLINE **REELABILITIES.ORG/NEWYORK**

**REELABILITIES INDUSTRY SUMMIT:**

**Disability Inclusion and Equity in Film + Performing Arts**

Join industry professionals as we discuss topics of inclusion, representation, and accessibility in the film industry and performing arts. For full schedule + info visit reelabilities.org/summit**.**

MMJCCM: May 1 + 2

**ACCESSIBILITY**

All films are presented with open captions and all venues are accessible to mobility devices. At MMJCCM, the main festival venue, the following are available:

* ASL interpretation
* CART
* Audio description
* Hearing assist
* Information in braille

For specific accommodations at all other venues, please check online or contact the screening venue directly by April 13.

**THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS**

[Logos]  
*In formation. As of March 10. Visit reelabilities.org/newyork for an updated list of sponsors + partners.*