

ReelAbilities

FILM FESTIVAL

NEW YORK

16th Annual
April 4-10
2024

ReelAbilities

FILM FESTIVAL
NEW YORK

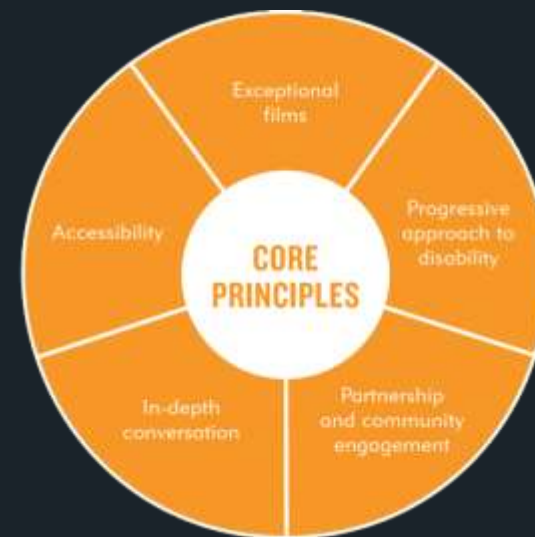
Founded in 2007, ReelAbilities Film Festival blazed a trail as the first event of its kind, exclusively showcasing films by and about people with disabilities.

It has quickly evolved into the nation's premier festival dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories, and artistic expressions of people with disabilities.

With the flagship festival hosted annually in NY, the festival is renowned for its wide-ranging international film selection, riveting conversations, professional workshops and arts events, as well as a leader in setting the highest standards of accessibility and inclusion in the film industry.

The festival is a rare opportunity to put the spotlight on disabled individuals as protagonists, role models, artists and producers, all on the big screen.

The festival connects people with and without disabilities in celebration of cinema, diversity and accessibility.



In 2012, ReelAbilities expanded its impact by introducing its Affiliate Festivals Program, making it possible for organizations around the country and the world to present ReelAbilities at their communities, celebrating diversity and further spreading ReelAbilities' mission.

REELABILITIES AFFILIATE FESTIVALS INCLUDE:

Los Angeles, CA • San Diego, CA • Denver, CO
Coral Gables, FL • Chicago, IL • Montclair, NJ
Cleveland+Akron, OH • Columbus, OH • Portland, OR
Pittsburgh, PA • Houston, TX • Richmond, VA
Mexico City, Mexico • Santiago, Chile • Toronto, Canada

ABOUT

AT A GLANCE

ReelAbilities presents premiere and award-winning films from around the globe, that include disability in front and behind the camera.

The groundbreaking films are followed by thought-provoking conversations with filmmakers, protagonists, and other selected speakers to further explore the topics brought forth by the films. Art exhibits, dance performances, live music, comedy shows, workshops, book talks, theater readings and much more bring the community together to celebrate our shared human experience.



7 DAYS



100+ SPEAKERS



35+ FILMS



9K+ ATTENDEES



10+ VENUES



130+ PARTNERS



Unidentified Objects



Jasmine is a Star



The Specials



Cha Cha Real Smooth



Not Going Quietly



Best Summer Ever



CODA



Single



The ASD Band



The future of the Beauty Industry



Honoring Itzhak Perlman + Live Music by Lachi



Flaunt It SEL Activity



Disgraced Pilot Reading



Heidi Latsky Dance—On Display



Opening Night at the Queens Drive-In



ReelAbilities Comedy Night

FILMS

EVENTS



Mark Ruffalo
Actor + Humanitarian

“Film festivals like ReelAbilities are a platform for artists to be able to bring another look at the world, another point of view, and launch that into the world...ReelAbilities Film Festival is such an important vehicle.”



Sigourney Weaver
Actor



Robert De Niro
Actor



Lauren Ridloff
Actor



Danny Woodburn
Actor + Comedian



Troy Kotsur
Actor



Kyra Sedgwick
Actor

CELEBRITY GUESTS

MORE FROM REELABILITIES:

FILMS CELEBRATING DISABILITY NOW AVAILABLE TO STREAM [REELABILITIESSTREAM.ORG](https://reelabilitiesstream.org)

ReelAbilitiesStream.org is the largest online hub for disability-themed films, providing an unparalleled opportunity to appreciate and embrace these powerful stories with full accessibility. Every film on the platform is available with full captions and audio description. Additional accessibility features are expected to launch in the coming months.



REELABILITIES INDUSTRY SUMMIT: **DISABILITY INCLUSION AND EQUITY IN FILM + PERFORMING ARTS**

Presented annually as part of ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York, in collaboration with the NYC Mayor's Office for Media and Entertainment, this summit invites industry experts to engage in conversations encompassing accessibility, inclusivity, and representation across all dimensions of the film and performing arts domains, delving beyond the fundamental concepts to explore innovative best practices.



REEL EDUCATION

Throughout the year, the Reel Education program provides free film and resources for educators and administrators to teach students about disability and Deaf culture.

Topics of inclusion, empathy, universal design, mental health and stereotypes, as well as attitudinal and employment barriers are all addressed through film.

A selection of films, along with extensive classroom guides are easily accessible online and free of charge - reelabilities.org/reeleducation

During the festival week in NY, we are delighted to host day-time screenings & conversations for educators and students of all age groups.



REELABILITIES AT THE OFFICE

ReelAbilities has forged partnerships with HR departments and ERGs in organizations across the United States to provide film programs and workshops advancing diversity, inclusion, and accessibility in the workplace.

By harnessing the power of ReelAbilities' acclaimed films and facilitating guided discussions, organizations have the means to delve into these vital subjects and foster meaningful dialogue among their members, catalyzing a culture of inclusion.





John Krasinski
Actor + Director



William H. Macy
Actor



Millicent Simmonds
Actor



Maysoon Zayid
Activist + Comedian



Judith Heumann
Activist



RJ Mitte
Actor



Marlee Matlin
Actor

“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.”



ReelAbilities continues to be an industry leader in setting accessibility standards, providing audiences with a wide range of inclusive accommodations, including:

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

To provide further accessibility, screenings and events are available to stream, as well as held in multiple locations throughout each host city.



ACCESSIBILITY

VARIETY

Troy Kotsur to Receive Spotlight Award at ReelAbilities Film Festival



Photo: Michael Ochs

The **ReelAbilities Film Festival** returns for its 15th year, as the largest film festival in the U.S. dedicated to increasing awareness and appreciation for the lives, stories, and artistic expression of people with disabilities.

The festival announced Academy Award winner **Troy Kotsur** as the 2023 spotlight Award recipient, as well as listed the festival's lineup, which includes 10 features and 24 shorts, from nine countries.

Forbes

3 Disability Features Not To Miss At The 2023 ReelAbilities Film Festival



Photo: Michael Ochs

On April 27, the 15th annual **ReelAbilities Film Festival** opens for a seven-day silver-screen extravaganza as the largest festival in the United States celebrating the lives, stories and artistic expression of people with disabilities.

Since being co-founded in 2007 at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan by producer and director Isaac Zalkovskij and United Jewish Appeal veteran Anita Altman, the festival has expanded to some 16 cities across the country in addition to having an international presence in Canada and Mexico.

The Hollywood Reporter

ReelAbilities New York Director on the State of Disability Inclusion and Changes Over the Fest's 15 Years

Isaac Zalkovskij, who is one of the festival's largest donors, talks about the state of disability inclusion, why people with disabilities are underrepresented in Hollywood, and how the festival's annual gala is raising money for the community.



Photo: Michael Ochs

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the **ReelAbilities Film Festival** New York, one of the country's — and world's — most accessible annual events. Founded in 2007 by Anita Altman and Isaac Zalkovskij, the festival was the first of its kind to create and screen award-winning films by, about and for people with disabilities.

EYEWITNESS NEWS abc7NY WABC-TV

Film festival explores stories of people with disabilities



ReelAbilities Film Festival showcases stories and talent of the disabled community.

MANHATTAN, New York — Celebrating the unique stories of the disabled community, the **ReelAbilities Film Festival** featured original films, a comedy night, an industry summit and powerful conversations about the narrative of disability in society.

In its 15th year, the festival ran from April 27 to May 3 at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan. The festival was fully accessible with ASL interpreters, visual descriptions and wheelchair access at all venues.

CBS NEW YORK



#CBSNEWS NEW YORK "UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS" OPENS 15TH ANNUAL "REELABILITIES" FILM FESTIVAL TONIGHT

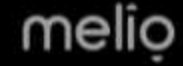
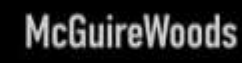
ReelAbilities Film Festival kicks off tonight in Manhattan

It's the largest in the country dedicated to sharing and celebrating stories of people with disabilities through film.

APR 27, 2023



PRESS



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GET IN TOUCH

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Email: info@reelabilities.org

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 ReelAbilities-Film-Festival

