

April 15, 2019 - Please include in your announcements and listings

**The 4th Annual  
ReelAbilities Film Festival  
Announces 2019 Programming  
Jess Thom, Luca “Lazylegz” Patuelli, and more**

**ReelAbilities Film Festival** returns to Toronto for the fourth year in a row, May 24 - June 2, 2019, showcasing Canadian and International shorts, features, and documentaries about Deaf and disability cultures and by filmmakers and actors with disabilities and/or who are Deaf.

**ReelAbilities Film Festival** will also include filmmaker Q&As, dance performances, workshops and an Accessible Comedy Night.

**ReelAbilities Film Festival** will screen over 20 films including **Dan Habib's** *Intelligent Lives* at the opening night gala on Wednesday, May 29, and **Sophie Robinson's** *Me, My, Mouth and I* at the closing night gala on Saturday, June 2. *Intelligent Lives* is a feature length documentary about three pioneering young adults with intellectual disabilities who challenge perceptions of intelligence as they navigate high school, college, and the workforce. *Touretteshero: Me, My, Mouth and I* is a funny and unpredictable documentary about **Jess Thom's** journey into Beckett's play *Not I* to reconsider issues of disability, representation and social exclusion. Jess Thom will be in attendance at the screening of *Touretteshero: Me, My, Mouth and I!*

The feature, short and documentary films at **ReelAbilities Film Festival** cover a wide variety of topics and issues including: ***Muhi: Generally Temporary***, a doc following a boy from Gaza living in an Israeli hospital; ***Shakespeare in Tokyo***, a narrative film about a man with Down syndrome who embarks on a solo adventure to discover Tokyo; ***Refuge in the Rockies***, a short doc about young Columbian refugee and Para-alpine ski champ Anderson Losada; and ***Wild Prairie Rose***, a period piece taking place in the 1950s about a woman who returns to her rural roots in South Dakota to care for her ailing mother. Once there, she falls in love with a Deaf man and must decide if she has the courage to follow her heart.

On Saturday, May 25 **ReelAbilities** will present a night of stand-up, storytelling, clown, musical comedy, and more, celebrating Deaf and Disability comedy at Streetcar Crowsnest Theatre. Hosted by **Ophira Calof** (Generally Hospital), the Comedy Night will include performances by **Sage Lovell** (Deafening Darkness), **Michael McCreary Aspie Comic** (JFL42 Showcase; Funny, You Don't Look Autistic), **Desirée Walsh** (The New Normal), **Rosani Christy** (SHADE Toronto), **Jason Goldberg** and more.

On Sunday, May 26 at Al Green Theatre, **ReelAbilities** will host a relaxed performance by **PushPULL Dance**. PushPULL Dance is a company of inclusive, non-professional dancers from different backgrounds, who create shows that embody a variety of dance styles.

**ReelAbilities** will also present workshops including: **Luca “Lazylegz” Patuelli** on May 28; **Accessible Media Inc** on June 1 about incorporating audio description into the filmmaking process; and a **Film Critics Panel** with Michael McNeely (The Buzz Mag), Shay Erlich, Angelo Muredda (Cinema Scope) and Linda Luarasi on June 2.

**ReelAbilities Film Festival** was established in New York in 2007. In 2016, it crossed the border into Canada as ReelAbilities Film Festival: Toronto, making it the first international chapter of the Festival.

**ReelAbilities Film Festival Toronto**

May 24 - June 2, 2019

Matinee screenings are FREE

Evening Screenings are \$12 - \$30

Discounted ticket prices are available for seniors, post-secondary students and those experiencing financial barriers.

Screenings are free for support persons and students up to Grade 12.

Full Schedule Available Now at [www.reelabilities.org/toronto](http://www.reelabilities.org/toronto)

**ACCESSIBILITY**

- All festival venues are wheelchair accessible and companion seating is available
- All films will screen with open captioning and/or subtitles
- American Sign Language interpreters will be present at select screenings and panels
- There is no charge for Support People
- Service animals are welcome
- Several of the films have audio description with Phonic Ear Assistive Listening Devices available
- A scent-free policy will be in effect
- All screenings will be sensory friendly

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The following artists will be in attendance and are available for interviews: **Jess Thom** from *Me, My Mouth and I*, **Adam Cohoon** and **Fotis Kanteres** from *Barrier Free*, **Spencer Mackay** from *Same Nightmare*, and **Kaio Kathriner** and **Matt Drake** from *Refuge in the Rockies*.

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