

May 3, 2021 - Please include in your announcements and listings

**The 6th Annual
ReelAbilities Film Festival
May 18-30, 2021
Full Programming Announced including
ReelAbilities Comedy Night**

ReelAbilities Film Festival Toronto is proud to announce programming for the 6th Annual Festival taking place online May 18 - 30, 2021. **ReelAbilities Film Festival** showcases Canadian and International shorts, features, and documentaries about Deaf and disability cultures and by filmmakers and actors with disabilities and/or who are Deaf. **ReelEducation Matinees** will take place May 18-21, followed by the **ReelAbilities Film Festival** and **Comedy Night** May 26-30, 2021.

ReelAbilities Film Festival 2021 will include online presentations of 15 films including the Opening Night screening of ***Give Me Liberty***, directed by Kyrill Mikhanovsky, on May 26. *Give Me Liberty* is a dramatic comedy about a perpetually late medical transport driver steering a bus that's effectively a microcosm of American society. The Closing Night screening of **ReelAbilities** on May 30 is the Youth Shorts Program featuring six short films from around the world, including three Canadian films: *#HospitalChic* by **Ophira Calof**, *Fluid* by **Mari "Dev" Ramsawakh**, and *Endomic* by **Camille Hollet-French** and **Ipek Ensari**.

The feature programming at **ReelAbilities Film Festival** offers strong points of view and unique perspectives from around the world with films including: the acclaimed documentary feature ***The Reason I Jump***; the Venezuelan narrative feature ***The Special***, which follows Chuo navigating the challenges of early adulthood with Down Syndrome as he seeks to build a life of independence; the documentary feature from Mexico ***Maricarmen***, which follows blind cello player, music teacher, writer, and marathon runner Maricarmen Graue; and the Canadian doc feature ***The World is Bright***, directed by Ying Wang, following the epic 10-year journey of a Chinese couple searching for the truth behind their son's death in Canada.

ReelAbilities Film Festival will also include workshops, filmmaker Q&As, and post-screening panels and events where audiences are invited to hear more from Festival filmmakers, creators, and artists.

The **ReelAbilities Comedy Night** returns May 27 with a wide range of comedic

mediums from Toronto and Ottawa. ReelAbilities Comedy Night will feature a mixture of live and filmed content from hilarious comedians including **Desiree Walsh, Avan Porte, 2 CPOs - Tim Rose and Sivert Das, Velvet Wells, Krystal Nausbaum, Rosani Christy, Michael McNeely, Dan Barra-Berger, and Therese Estacion**. ReelAbilities Comedy Night will be followed by an online community after party.

ReelEducation will feature online matinees and workshops for grades K-12 with ten short films May 18-21, including two French films. From sledge hockey to musical theatre, **ReelEducation** offers exciting at-home workshops for all ages.

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 18 - 30, 2021

Online screenings via Eventive, Live events via Zoom

All screenings are Pay-What-You-Can

(\$10 Suggested Donation)

Full Schedule Coming Soon

www.reelabilities.org/toronto

ONLINE ACCESSIBILITY

- All films will screen with open captioning and audio description
- Select films will screen with audio description as an option
- All workshops, panels, and post-film discussions will feature live captioning and ASL

facebook.com/reelabilitiesTO / twitter.com/ReelAbilitiesTO /

instagram.com/reelabilitiesto

ReelAbilities Film Festival Funders: MNJCC, Government of Canada, Toronto Arts Council, P&L Odette Foundation, and TELEFILM Talent Fund.

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