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ABILITYFEST[®] 2025

India International Disability Film Festival

7 - 10 July 2025

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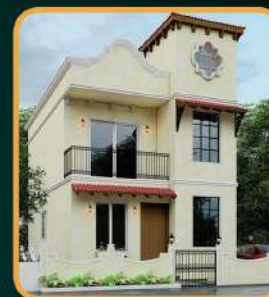
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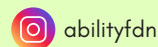
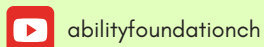
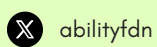


Looking Beyond Disabilities & Breaking Barriers Together

Ability Foundation is a national cross disability umbrella organisation working across the country and headquartered in Chennai. Moving steadfastly towards an equitable society for every citizen with disability, the Foundation focuses on empowerment and the potential of persons with disabilities and bridges the divide between people with and without disabilities.

The core areas of Ability Foundation's involvement include advocacy, empowerment, information dissemination and rights. Towards this, the Foundation's activities cover a wide range from publishing, employment, media, culture, legislation, human rights and implementation of policy. The unwavering commitment is towards an equitable civil society, making available the right opportunities at the right time. So much more then becomes possible...all it takes is an open mind.

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Ability Foundation presents **AbilityFEST 2025**: India International Disability Film Festival , the pioneering event that was first launched in 2005. Now in its ninth edition, AbilityFEST 2025 returns to PVR-INOX Sathyam Cinemas, Chennai, from July 7 to 10, with a bold and diverse lineup of films — films by, with and about people with disabilities.

AbilityFEST is more than just a celebration of cinema. It's a space for advocacy, awareness, and dialogue. Each film has been thoughtfully selected to challenge outdated perceptions, encourage empathy, and start conversations — whether you're a filmmaker, film lover, student, family member, or person with a disability.

AbilityFEST 2025 brings to the film loving public a rich mix of award-winning short films, documentaries, and features from around the world that give the festival a global perspective of disability and inclusion. Screenings are free and open to all, with four shows daily. Accessibility is a top priority - subtitles/captions, audio description, and an accessible venue. This year's line-up includes Daruma and THUNDER ROLLS! The World of Blind Baseball (U.S.A) ; Upside Down (Italy), Ab, Bad, Khak, Nan (Iran), Zomervacht (Netherlands), Ania z Piekielnika (Poland), Dancer (Mongolia) and Working Differently (UK).

AbilityFEST 2025 is proud to present two feature length films from India with persons with disabilities in key roles, the heartwarming Ahaan(2019) and the 2025 sports comedy drama Sitaare Zameen Par. We are also delighted to present the first public screening with audio description for the blind of the 2025 Tamil blockbuster Tourist Family.

AbilityFEST 2025 is not just about films — it's about connection, visibility, and the power of storytelling. These are stories that move us, challenge us, and remind us that disability is not a separate world — it's part of all our lives.

See you at the movies!



JAYSHREE RAVEENDRAN
Festival Director



C K RANGANATHAN
Festival President



REVATHY ASHA KELUNNI
Festival Chairperson



**JAYSHREE RAVEENDRAN**

Festival Director

Dear Guests, Participants, and Friends,

Welcome to the 9th India International Disability Film Festival!

It fills my heart with immense joy and pride to see our festival back after the challenges of the past years of the post covid era. This festival is a celebration of creativity, determination, and the unyielding spirit of individuals with disabilities and the diversity we enjoy as part of humanity.

Film is a powerful medium that transcends barriers and connects us all. It allows us to share stories, foster understanding, and create a world where our abundance and multiplicity of talents is enjoyed. This year, we have curated an extraordinary lineup of films from eleven countries that showcase talent, resilience, and the myriad experiences of people with disabilities and those who care about them.

As we gather to witness these inspiring stories, let us remember our shared responsibility to promote inclusivity and accessibility in every aspect of our lives. Together, we can create a society where every voice is heard, and every dream is possible.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. Enjoy the festival!

Jayshree Raveendran

**C K RANGANATHAN**

Festival President

Cinema has the unique ability to transcend barriers. A compelling film doesn't just entertain—it stirs emotions, challenges beliefs, and most importantly, it connects us. Stories told through the medium of film can mirror our lives, our struggles, and our triumphs. They invite us to see the world through a different lens, and sometimes, they change the way we see ourselves.

This festival stands as a tribute to that transformative power of storytelling—stories that illuminate the lived realities of people with disabilities. These are not tales of sympathy, but of strength. They speak of courage, resilience, humour, frustration, hope—and above all, humanity.

Each time we come together to celebrate this festival, I walk away humbled and inspired. The films featured here don't just showcase artistic brilliance; they open doors to empathy and deeper understanding. They remind us that inclusion is not a distant goal, but a mindset that must reflect in everything we do—from our workplaces to our public spaces, and from our policies to our attitudes.

As a team, we are proud to contribute to a space where these narratives are not only shared but celebrated. Our goal is not merely to screen films, but to spark thought, ignite conversations, and catalyze change. Because every time we shift a perspective, we move closer to a society that values every individual—irrespective of ability.

We remain committed to this journey. Together, let's listen, reflect, and reimagine what an inclusive world can truly be.

C K Ranganathan

**REVATHY ASHA KELUNNI**

Festival Chairperson

Today, as we celebrate the 9th edition of AbilityFEST – India International Disability Film Festival, I can't help but reflect on the very beginning of this journey. My memories go back to the day in 2005, when Jayshree and I travelled to Pune to meet the legendary Shri PK Nair, former Director, NFAI. When Jayshree first proposed the idea of a film festival dedicated exclusively to disability-related themes, P.K. ji was initially hesitant. He was unsure whether a festival with such a specific focus would connect with a broader audience or even gain enough traction.

However, once he was convinced of the vision, his support was wholehearted. He not only believed in the idea but also generously guided us, helping us source some of the finest films from around the world. His involvement played a crucial role in making that first edition of the Fest a great success. With each edition, AbilityFEST has become stronger and the experience more impactful. It continues to showcase inclusive, accessible, and critically acclaimed world cinema, making it a powerful platform for representation and dialogue.

The screening of *Taare Zameen Par* with audio description for the very first time in the country marked a significant breakthrough, breaking down a major barrier in accessibility and setting a precedent for inclusive cinema in India. Building on that success, we went on to screen other mainstream blockbusters such as *Deiva Thirumagal* in 2011, *Margarita with a Straw* in 2015, and *Vikram Vedha* in 2017 all with audio description. Each screening has brought us one step closer to our goal of making cinema a space that welcomes everyone.

Now, as we look ahead, we come together and enjoy one of the most powerful forms of storytelling: films, in a space that embraces inclusion and accessibility. That is the heart and soul of AbilityFEST: India International Disability Film Festival.

Revathy Asha Kelunni



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ABILITYFEST®2025

INDIA INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY FILM FESTIVAL





4 DEAF YORKSHIREMEN GO DATING

UK/ 2022/28 min

Louis Neethling

*Nominated for Best Television Programme at Deaffest –
The Deaf Film Festival (UK)*

Comedy about the adventures of four grumpy old deaf men in a Yorkshire village. In this episode, three of the men go on dates. Tim is desperate to make a good impression when he goes out with Madeline, while Angus and Vikram have a dating competition, with Fred's help... but who will win?!



4 DEAF YORKSHIREMEN AND A WEDDING

UK/ 2022/28 min

Louis Neethling

*SignLight International Film Festival (SIFF) 2024
– Nominated for Best Episodic*

When Dawn announces that she is getting married, Angus worries that she's chosen the wrong man. He is given numerous tasks as father of the bride.



4 DEAF YORKSHIREMEN'S CONTEST

UK/2022/28 min

Louis Neethling

*Winner, Best Episodic at the SignLight International
Film Festival (SIFF) 2024*

A grumpy friend group of old deaf men enter a Tough Old Deafie contest. After getting entered into the competition against his wishes, Fred takes off. Can the rest of the group find him amid their wacky hijinks? Can Fred make it back home?



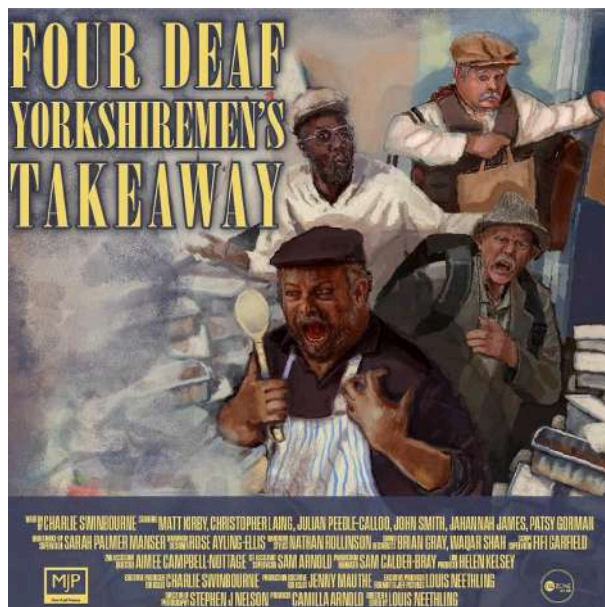
4 DEAF YORKSHIREMEN GO TO BLACKPOOL

UK/ 2022/28 min

Charlie Swinbourne

*Winner, Best Film at the International Sign
Language Festival in Tolosa, Spain (2015)*

Four grumpy old Deaf men travel to Blackpool's annual Deaf event hoping to make new friends. When they meet three young Deaf men, things don't quite go as planned...

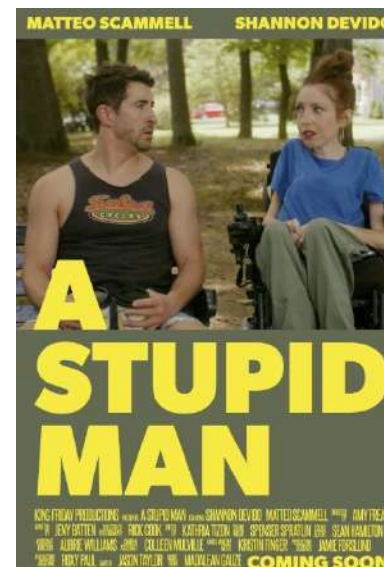


4 DEAF YORKSHIREMEN'S TAKEAWAY

UK/ 2022/28 min

Louis Neethling

The four men set up a takeaway business to show off Vikram's cooking skills, but as the orders increase, can they keep up?!



A STUPID MAN

USA/ 2023/ 9 min

Amy Frear

*Official Selection, Jury Prize, Best Actor at the Easterseals
Disability Film Challenge 2023, with Shannon DeVido
among the finalists*

In this witty romantic comedy, wheelchair user Milly navigates friendship and potential romance when her best friend Owen seeks her help in winning back his ex-girlfriend.



AB, BAD, KHAK, NAN (WATER, WIND, DUST, BREAD)

IRAN/ 2021/52 min

Mahdi Zamanpour Kiasari

*Winner, Short Joy Section Winner - 29th Ji.hlava
International Documentary Film Festival*

The poetic documentary by Iranian director Mahdi Kiasari depicts scenes from the everyday life of Abolfazl, a young boy who is missing both hands.



ABRASH

IRAN/ 2023/ 30 min

Soren Rezaee

Abrash is about the life of a blind old man named Uncle Rashid and his beautiful horse Abrash, who lives with his family in the village on the slopes of the mountain.



AFARIDEH

IRAN/ 2021/ 39 min

Rayeh Mozaffarian

Afrideh is a documentary that depicts a mother's sacrifice for her young daughter suffering from Usher Syndrome.



AHAAN

INDIA/ 2021/ 81 min

Nikhil Pherwani

Official Selection, Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (2019)

A self-indulgent man with OCD is jilted by his wife and finds eye-opening common ground and camaraderie with his neighbour, a young man with Down syndrome.



ANGELS

SYRIA/ 2023/ 27 min

Mahdi Zamanpour Kiasari

Winner, Special Jury Award – Uhvati Film Festival (2024)

Little Zahra lives happily with her blind parents in the chaotic conditions of Syria. This 7-year-old child owes her good mood to her parents, whom she calls them “angels sent by God” as a gift.



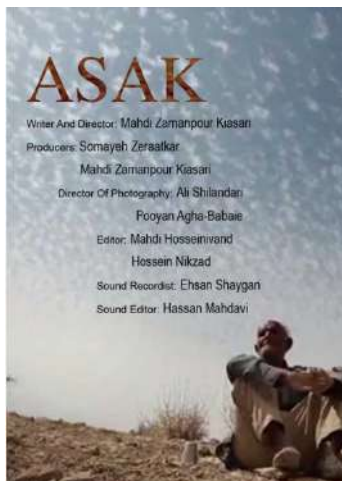
ANIA Z PIEKIELNIKA (ANIA FROM PIECKIELNIKA)

POLAND/ 2023/ 30 min

Monika Melen

*Winner, Audience Award – European Film Festival
“Integracja Ty i Ja” (Koszalin, 2024)*

The film presents the extraordinary biography of Ania; a woman born without arms who has created a full, rich life against all odds as she proves that human capabilities are not limited by physical shortcomings.



ASAK

IRAN/ 2020/ 29 min

Mahdi Zamanpour Kiasari

*Winner, Best Short Documentary – 15th Vienna
Ethnocineca International Documentary Film Festival
(Austria, 2021)]*

An 80-year-old blind man from the south of Iran has the gift of narrating dreams. He chooses rocks from the heart of the mountains by touching and tasting them, and with simple tools and a handsaw, he makes traditional pots for the villagers.



BECOMING JAZZY WHIPPS

UK/ 2024/ 10 min

Bim Ajadi

*Official Selection, BFI London Film Festival 2024 –
Screened under the “Life Beyond Labels” shorts program*

Jazzy Whipps is the UK’s biggest deaf content creator – raising awareness on life as a deaf person in the UK – as well as a beauty and fashion creator. Her drive and inspiring outlook propelled her to the top.



COMEDY AGAINST THE ODDS

USA/ 2023/ 30 min/ **AD**)))

Suzanne Luna

Official Selection, 2024 American Documentary and Animation Film Festival (AmDocs), Palm Springs

This short documentary spotlights the struggle of growing up with labels, and how Austin uses comedy to embrace and overcome them.



DANCER

MONGOLIA/ 2023/ 13 min

Nomin Gantulga

Official Selection, 71st Sydney Film Festival (Australia, June 2024)

Gerelee, a Deaf teenage girl, decides to follow her dreams and audition for a dance company despite her father's protests.



DARUMA

USA/ 2023/ 104 min

Alexander Yellen

Winner - Best Actor, Slamdance Film Festival (2024)

Unemployed paraplegic Patrick learns he's a father; he and his amputee neighbour Robert drive the four-year-old girl to her grandparents across the country.



DIAGNONSENSE

UK/ 2024/ 27 min/ **AD**)))

Samuel Dore

Superfest Disability Film Festival (USA, 2024)

A social worker fights discriminatory attitudes to get a wrongly-diagnosed patient released from hospital.



HEAD OVER WHEELS

AUSTRALIA / 2022/ 8 min

Genevieve Clay-Smith

*Official Selection, ReelAbilities Pittsburgh Film
Festival 2023, (USA)*

Elle and Luke meet each other on the way to their respective blind dates – their chance encounter unexpectedly turns their evening upside down.



HEARTBREAK AND BEAUTY

AUSTRALIA / 2014 / 15 min

**Genevieve Clay-Smith, Libby Banks,
Nathan Basha, Robin Bryan**

Winner, Best Documentary at Atlanta Docufest

Devised by twelve people living with an intellectual disability over a period of 10 months, Heartbreak and Beauty is an experimental short film that combines music, visual metaphor, dance and original poetry to express how we are all connected through our shared human experiences of love and loss.



ISSAI

INDIA / 2024/ 5 min

Shamil Raj

*Official Selection - Focus on Ability, Short Film Festival
(Australia, 2024)*

"ISSAI - The Voice Unheard" celebrates the resilience and talents of individuals with disabilities who defy societal expectations. This is the story of a lady who is fighting for her brother's talent.



IT WON'T DEFINE ME

AUSTRALIA / 2021/ 16 min

Justice Jones

A documentary about professional athletes overcoming challenges to pursue a career in sports. Dedicated to the underdogs, the people who have refused to let the hand they've been dealt with in life define them.



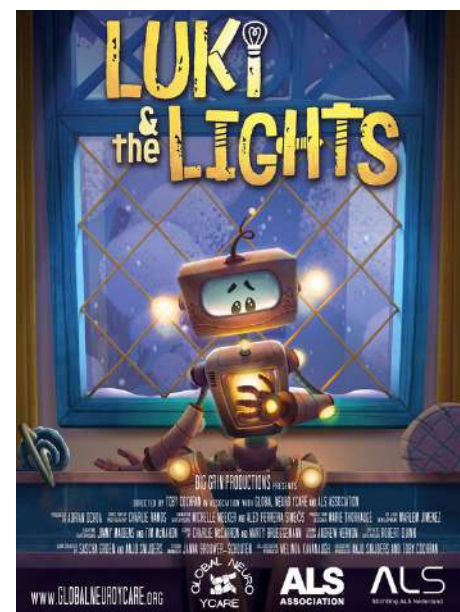
KAL FATEMEH

IRAN / 2020/ 52 min

Mahdi Zamanpour Kiasar

*Official Selection, Cinema Verité – Iran International
Documentary Film Festival (2020)*

This is the story of a deaf and mute but strong woman, standing on her own feet, who does not stop working hard so that the hardships of her only daughter's life do not bend her back and she can take care of her two little sons.



LUKI AND THE LIGHTS !

USA / 2024/ 11 min

Toby Cochran

Winner, Audience Award – Florida Film Festival

When Luki the robot's arm malfunctions during a soccer game, he visits the doctor and is diagnosed with ALS. Now he faces a life-altering journey



MILLSTONE

USA / 2024/ 15 min

Peter Hoffman Kimball

Winner, Grand Jury Prize at the Slamdance Film Festival
A story of a married couple who — after having tragically lost a child — seeks out a new, experimental therapy.



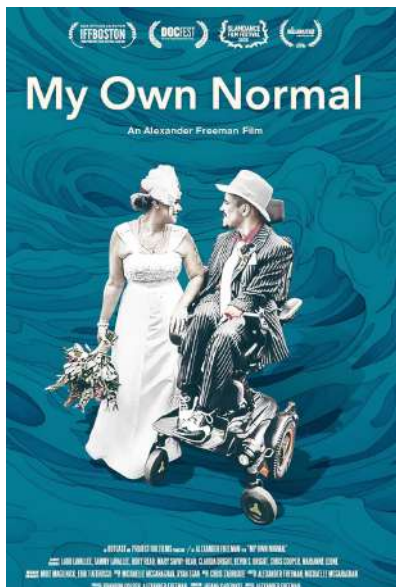
MISE EN PLACE

USA / 2024/ 11 min

Julian Neuhaus

*Official Selection, Best Screenwriting at the
CinefestOZ Film Festival in Western Australia in 2023*

Charlie works as a dishwasher in one of Sydney's most high end restaurants, where one of her coworkers regularly ridicules and belittles her creativity. When her vindictive colleague is struck by karma, Charlie finally has a chance to express herself and showcase her talent for artful plating.



MY OWN NORMAL

USA / 2024/ 15 min

Alexander Freeman

Official Selection, Independent Film Festival Boston, where it debuted in May 2024

Filmmaker Alexander Freeman who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at the age of two, was raised by his loving and supportive parents but the one thing he has always wanted was to be in a loving relationship with a woman and to have a family of his own.



OUT OF MY MIND

USA / 2024/ 102 min

Amber Sealey

Winner - Audience Award, Best Narrative Feature - Woodstock Film Festival 2024

Melody Brooks is navigating sixth grade as a nonverbal wheelchair user who has cerebral palsy. With the help of some assistive technology and her devoted allies, Melody shows that what she has to say is more important than how she says it.



PAPALI (BUTTERFLY)

IRAN / 2017/ 35 min

Mahdi Zamanpour Kiasari

*Official Selection, TRT Documentary
Festival (Turkey, 2017)*

An indomitable young woman goes about daily routines on her family's farmstead in rural Iran.



PYRAMID OF DISUNION

USA / 2023/ 17 min

Ella Glendining and Jessi Gutch

On a quest for inner peace and a more meaningful existence, wheelchair-user Angel joins an eco-commune. However, she gets more than she bargained for when she encounters an old flame.



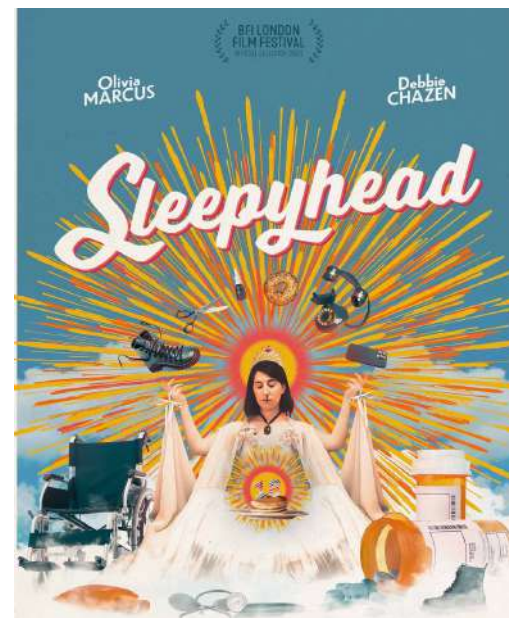
ROBBIE PARENDEH TANHAAI (ROBBIE, A LONELY BIRD)

IRAN / 2024/ 8 min

Daniel

*Official Selection, Girona Film Festival 2025
(Catalonia, Spain)*

Robbie, a bird with mental health struggles, is a part of a group that includes a blind voice actress, highlighting the diverse talents and abilities of people with disabilities.



SLEEPYHEAD

UK / 2024/ 10 min/ **AD**

Milly Garnier

Winner - Best British Short Film

In this dark comedy, sixth-former Rae is chronically ill and stuck at home with her glorious imagination and seething rage for company.



SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR

INDIA/ 2025/ 155 min/**AD**

R S Prasanna

Sitaare Zameen Par is an entertaining and heartwarming film filled with joy, laughter, and happiness. It follows Gulshan, a smug basketball coach sentenced to community service after a drunk driving incident. Assigned to train a team of Neurodivergent adults, he starts off with prejudice and condescension—only to discover that they’re the ones teaching him how to truly live.

Ability Foundation is delighted to present Sitaare Zameen Par at AbilityFEST 2025 with audio description and subtitles. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the film’s director, R. S. Prasanna, and producers Aamir Khan and Aparna Purohit. Our special thanks to everyone involved in bringing this wonderful film to life.



SON OF MOUNTAIN

IRAN / 2022/ 28 min

Ehsan Kamarkhani

Winner- Best Short Documentary Director, 14th Iran International FICTS Festival (Tehran, December 2024)

A boy who was born with disabilities in the wrists of both feet and fingers. One of his legs recovers after several surgeries, but doctors are unable to treat his other leg. During a climbing program, he meets a person who will save his life. He is now one of the best rock climbing and canyoning instructors.



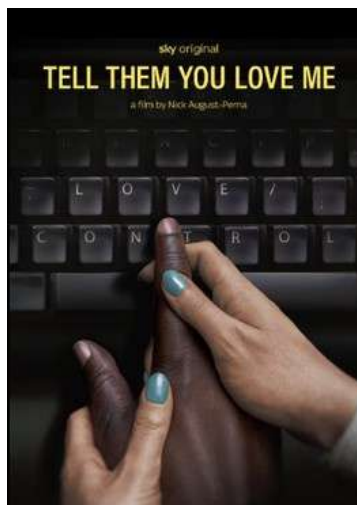
STAIRS

MONGOLIAN / 2019/ 12 min

Zoljargal Purevdash

Winner - Biogen Award at Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2021 (Japan)

A young man's dream to make a living in Ulaanbaatar is put to the test when he must navigate the social and physical obstacles in his path.



TELL THEM YOU LOVE ME

USA / 2024 / 102 min

Nick August-Perna

*Winner, Best Documentary Feature (Jury Award)
– Hamptons International Film Festival 2023*

Anna Stubblefield, an esteemed professor becomes embroiled in a controversial affair with Derrick Johnson, a non-verbal man with cerebral palsy, that eventually leads to a criminal trial challenging perceptions of disability and nature of consent.



THE COLOUR BOOK

USA / 2024 / 105 min

David Fortune

*Winner - Best Documentary Feature (Jury Award),
Hamptons International Film Festival 2023*

Lucky and his 11-year-old son Mason, who has Down syndrome, navigate an eventful trip across Metro Atlanta to attend their first baseball game together. As transit mishaps and unexpected delays disrupt their plans, father and son discover new ways to connect and communicate, revealing how detours can make shared destinations more meaningful.



THUNDER ROLLS! THE WORLD OF BLIND BASEBALL

USA / 2025 / 96 min

Susanne Schwibs

Official Selection, Heartland Film Festival 2023

How can individuals who are blind and visually impaired play baseball? THUNDER ROLLS The World of Blind Baseball tells the story of how this is possible. The documentary follows the Indy Thunder Beep baseball team and their coach, Darnell Booker, in their quest to win a World Championship.



UPSIDE DOWN

ITALY / 2021 / 90 min

Luca Tornatore

Winner, Best Children's Film at the Cinema Without Barriers Festival, Moscow (2024)

The story of a guy with Down Syndrome, his efforts to have a "normal" life, his training for his debut as amateur boxer.



TOURIST FAMILY

INDIA / 2025/ 150 min/ **AD**

Abishan Jeevinth

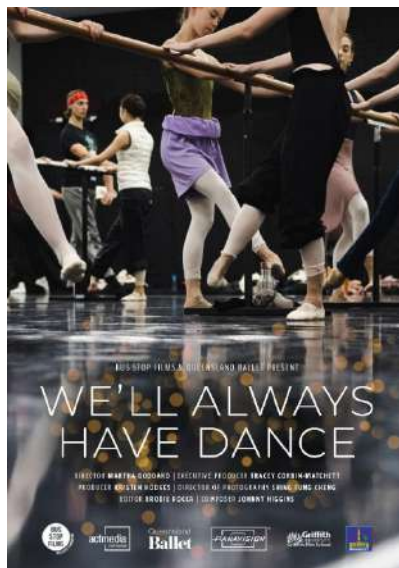
A quirky Sri Lankan family seeking a fresh start in India transforms a disconnected neighborhood into a vibrant community with their infectious love and kindness.

The cinema experience for blind and low-vision audiences is evolving with innovations like audio description. Initially, viewers often relied on friends or partners to explain on-screen events, an arrangement that lacked both inclusivity and immersion. Now, all of this is changing.

In Tourist Family, the film's normal soundtrack is enhanced by audio descriptions that fill in visual details, allowing blind and low-vision audiences to fully engage with the narrative through headphones.

We are delighted to present Tourist Family at AbilityFEST 2025. A Tamil blockbuster, this film has been specially audio-described for the festival.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Abishan Jeevinth and the entire team for their thoughtful efforts to make cinema inclusive for all. We also extend our sincere thanks to the Qube Audio Description Team for their exceptional work in making this film accessible



WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE DANCE

AUSTRALIA / 2021 / 13 min

Martha Goddard

Official Selection, Jury Award for Best Australian Documentary Short at the Brisbane International Film Festival 2022

A day in the life of five extraordinary ballet dancers, interviewed by six passionate, neurodiverse filmmakers with something to say about passion, inclusion and the pursuit of perfection



WHAT HAPPENS TOMORROW

RUSSIA/ 2020/ 13 min

Anastasia Shtandke

Winner, Best Documentary Film at the V Moscow Patriotic Media Festival

Leisan is actively preparing for the European Table Tennis Championship. Her chronic training, awards, the love and support of her family and friends help her overcome the stereotypes and difficulties of society and conquer her dream.



WHAT WAS IT LIKE?

AUSTRALIA/ 2020/ 15 min

Genevieve Clay-Smith

Winner, Best Australian Short at the Heart of Gold International Short Film Festival (2022)

Eight filmmakers with intellectual disability interview their parents about what it was like when doctors delivered the news of their diagnosis.



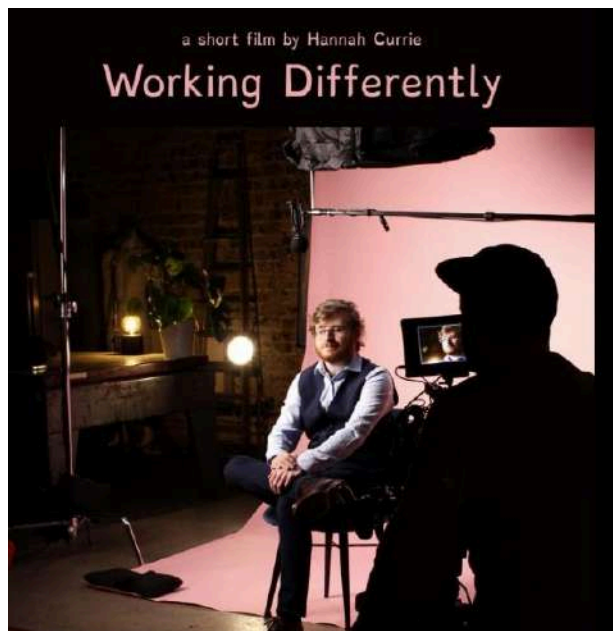
WHOSE VOICE IS IT ANYWAY

UK/ 2022/ 5 min

Kate Caryer

Winner, Jury's Choice Award at Superfest Disability Film Festival (Berkeley, USA)

A darkly funny mockumentary about two identically disabled forty-year-old women, Lottie and Charlie, who have athetoid cerebral palsy.



WORKING DIFFERENTLY

UK / 2023 / 23 min

Hannah Currie

Official Selection, World Premiere at the ReelAbilities Film Festival – New York (2023)

Documentary exploring neuro-divergence in the film and television industry.



ZOMERVACHT (SUMMER BROTHER)

NETHERLANDS/ 2023/ 100 min

Joren Molter

*Winner, Golden Calf for Best Production Design
(Florian Legters) — Dutch Film Festival 2023*

During a sultry summer vacation, thirteen-year-old Brian is stuck with caring for his older brother Lucien, who is severely mentally disabled. But how do you make the right choices when there is still so much to discover for yourself?

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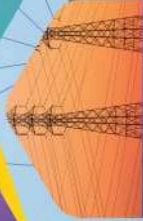
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60 Seconds To Fame!

Can one minute redefine perspectives and inspire change?

In just sixty seconds, storytellers from across the nation have woven together creativity, passion, and purpose to celebrate the beauty of inclusion.

This year, participants embraced the theme "Through your lens: A celebration of disability inclusion" with enthusiasm and sensitivity.

From seasoned filmmakers to first-time creators, the entries have shown how powerful stories can break barriers, challenge perceptions, and spark change.

These one-minute films are a testament to the idea that creativity knows no bounds and that together, we can build a more inclusive, equitable society.

By celebrating inclusion, we celebrate life itself.

60 Seconds to Fame 2025 has been validated by Madras Management Association. The following are the shortlisted movies which will be screened during AbilityFEST 2025.



Complete. Different. Me.

RITIKA SAHNI

Mumbai, Maharashtra

ritika@trinayani.org

Told from the perspective of a disabled person, this poetic film invites viewers into the lived experiences of people with disabilities — urging them to see the whole person and not just perceived limitations.



Dance of Inclusivity

GEETA PODUVAL

Mumbai, Maharashtra

director.drzya@gmail.com

Three male dancers rehearsing a dance shot. The film stands for inclusivity in performing arts - when disabled and non-disabled artists come together, magic in the form of true inclusivity happens.



Fill
VINOTH SINGH
Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu
vinothsinghwriter@gmail.com

In the short film "Fill", a visually impaired little girl lives in this world just like everyone else... yet in certain situations, she finds herself isolated. These gaps—these differences—are filled by another girl who is with her. Through this connection, the visually impaired girl too joins in the celebration with joy.



Friendly Family Forever
PRADEV KUMAR
Chennai, Tamil Nadu
artsbydev.2005@gmail.com

A morning message reveals surprise movie plans—for which tickets are already booked. What starts as playful banter slowly unpacks something more meaningful: quiet care, inclusion, and the kind of friendship that speaks loudest through the little things.



Including me!
VINAYANA KHURANA
Delhi
vinayanakhurana94@gmail.com

A day in the life of a young woman with cerebral palsy.



Just Like Everyone Else
BABSON BABU,
GILBERT GEORGE
Kottayam, Kerala
babsonthottichira@gmail.com

A thought-provoking short film that urges society to stop offering sympathy and start creating equal spaces — where inclusion isn't an afterthought, but a foundation.



Kaathal Yenbadhu
Dheeraj K Panicker
Chennai, Tamil Nadu
dheeraj.k.panicker@gmail.com

Two people who've been talking virtually decide to meet in person for the first time. At the café, a surprising reveal unfolds. A quiet, heartfelt story about connection, unspoken understanding, and the beauty of being seen just as you are.



**Kuviyamilla Katchi Pezhai-
The Blind Shot**
SANKESH ELANGO
Chennai, Tamil Nadu
sankesh353@gmail.com

A person is struggling because he doesn't know how to take good photos. Then, a stranger in the park gives him an idea and helps him. Who is that stranger, and did the idea actually work out or not?



**Living the Meaning
I Chose.**
HARIKA GOUDA
Maharashtra
goudaharika65@gmail.com

A girl lives by a meaning she chose, "losing a limb didn't mean losing balance". She embraced acceptance with courage and seeing disability not as loss but as diversity.



Sail
MATHAN RAJ BASKARAN
Chennai, Tamil Nadu
mathanraj.baskaran@gmail.com

A woman with ADHD loses her job due to missed deadlines. She embraces her creativity, channels it into art, and becomes an art teacher—thriving in a role where she finally feels understood and empowered.



The Candidate
J S SIVARAM
Trivandrum, Kerala
j.s.sivaram11@gmail.com

A Mute Interview.



The Flight
AKASH DEEP
Chennai, Tamil Nadu
akashdeep7271@gmail.com

In just one minute, a rooftop paper plane competition transforms into a hushed clash of bias. The film softly invokes the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016, and asks "What genuinely characterises ability: precision in form or the freedom to fly despite the folds"?



The Inclusive Journey - Rachit
Kulshrestha
SUDHAKAR KUMAR
Bangalore, Karnataka
kumarsudhakar001@gmail.com

A powerful inclusion film featuring Rachit Kulshrestha's inspiring journey as a two-time cancer survivor and single amputee.



The Menu
NIKITA KONARI
Venkojipalem, Andhra Pradesh
konarinikita0503@gmail.com

A waiter who is autistic relies on hand-drawn picture menus to communicate with customers. When a blind woman enters, his system falters but he quickly adapts, offering a braille menu he had thoughtfully made.



The Other Side
DAMMETE AGNEESH
DIVIAA ROSSINI
 Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
 ddrvsp@yahoo.in

A teen appears rude by ignoring a friendly stranger at a park bench, but reveals they're deaf in one ear. The stranger shifts sides and repeats their greeting, leading to shared laughter. The short film promotes empathy and reminds viewers: misunderstandings often stem from unseen realities, not intentional rudeness.



Through Her Lens
Arjun kishan
 Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
 arjunkishan318@gmail.com

When a nervous young filmmaker shows his blind girlfriend his failed debut film, she "watches" it through his voice — and helps him see that beauty lies not in what others see, but in how deeply someone understands you.



Wheels of Change
JOHN SOLOMON K
 Bangalore, Karnataka
 john@sama-foundation.org

"Wheels of Change" captures Ramanathan, a passionate traveler with a disability, on a 5,200 km ride from Bengaluru to Umling La Pass.



MEET THE JURY



A.R Rahman
Musician-
Composer



Simran
Actress



Madhan Karky
Lyricist and
screenwriter



**Mohammed Shams
Aalam Shaikh**
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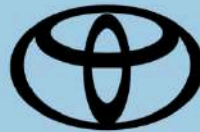
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