

ReelAbilities
FILM FESTIVAL

NEW YORK

HB
STUDIO



HB Public Conversation
Joy Equity:
Accessibility and Art
January 25, 2021 | 7:00PM
Held online via Zoom

HB Studio and ReelAbilities Film Festival New York present

Joy Equity: Accessibility and Art

An HB Public Conversation on accessibility in the performing arts and a discussion of the short films CODA, REVEL IN YOUR BODY and THE MILKY POP KID, followed by a Q&A with the audience.

Monday
January 25, 2021
7:00 PM

Moderated by Magaly Colimon-Christopher
and Desmond Holliday

with:

CJ Jones, actor
Yaara Kedem, ReelAbilities
and Ryan Lane, actor

Edith Meeks, Executive & Artistic Director
Lauren Ritter, Production Manager
Lorraine de Silva, Zoom Tech



This program is supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and many generous supporters.



CODA

A young dancer struggles with her identity and growing up hearing in a deaf family.

Directed by Erika Davis-Marsh

Cast: Kerrynton Jones, Ryan Lane, CJ Jones



REVEL IN YOUR BODY

A short film experience of the joy of flight featuring disabled dancers Alice Sheppard and Laurel Lawson.

Directed by Katherine Helen Fisher | Produced by Lisa Niedermeyer



THE MILKY POP KID

An actor and disability consultant is asked to help a former child star prepare for his triumphant comeback in a likely award-bait role.

Directed by Johanna Garvin

Cast: Tel Benjamin, Emily Dash



Dear Friends,

It is important to acknowledge before we begin that when it comes to accessibility, HB Studio cannot claim expertise. This evening's event is intended to bring our creative community into a deeper conversation about what access really means, and how it relates to joy. In speaking of joy, I am thinking of the joy artists find in their work, in exercising power over the arrangement of their own lives, and in their expression of themselves as both witnesses and representatives of the human condition.

We've borrowed the phrase "Joy Equity," with gratitude from Alice Sheppard, whose dance and choreography are featured in the short film REVEL IN YOUR BODY, and who used the phrase in a talk presented by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Our thanks to Yaara Kedem and ReelAbilities Film Festival for curating the three short films from their collection for us that form the basis of tonight's conversation: THE MILKY POP KID, CODA, and REVEL IN YOUR BODY. And from CODA we are thrilled to welcome the actors Ryan Lane and CJ Jones.

Thank you for being here with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EM' or similar initials, written in a fluid, cursive style.

Edith Meeks
Executive & Artistic Director

About ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York

Founded in 2007 by the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York is the largest festival in the country dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories and artistic expressions of people with disabilities. The weeklong festival is renowned for its wide-ranging international film selection, riveting conversations, and performances, presented annually in dozens of venues across the New York metropolitan area. In 2010, ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York expanded into an international program, presenting its one-of-a-kind programming in cities throughout the United States, Canada, and South America.



Yaara Kedem, ReelAbilities Film Festival NY Associate Director/International Director

Yaara graduated with a B.A. in Film & Television and Special Education Studies at Tel Aviv University in Israel. She spent several years in post-production, program localization, and film brand development for film festivals, interactive gaming, live events, TV networks and children's programs. Alongside, she was working as the Travel Director and Tour Leader at a summer camp and travel program for children and teens with special needs based in Pennsylvania.



Magaly Colimon-Christopher, Moderator

Magaly Colimon-Christopher is an actress/writer/producer and qualified Feldenkrais Practitioner based in New York City. She started her acting journey at HB Studio, where she studied with Herbert Berghof, Earle Hyman, Anne Jackson and Michael Beckett. After completing her graduate studies at Yale School of Drama, Magaly performed in numerous Prime Time, Daytime,

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film, commercial and theater productions. Over the course of her career, Magaly has coached actors, written/produced/directed short films (which were featured in film festivals), a web series, plays and founded film and theater festivals. Driven by her passion for authentic, energized, and organic acting – Magaly completed her certification as Feldenkrais Awareness Through Movement Practitioner and continues to explore and adopt new self-awareness and movement techniques. Her experiences as a performer, director, Feldenkrais Method instructor, and “ever-curious-student-of-enlightenment-and-truth” informs her teaching. She is currently playing "Antoinette Pierre" in the Netflix Original Series GRAND ARMY.



Desmond Holliday, Moderator

Desmond Holliday is the Assistant Registration Manager at HB Studio. He is also a writer, baker, and performance artist based in Brooklyn, NY. After graduating with a degree in Fine Arts from Tufts University in 2016, Desmond's practice sharpened into a focus on the LGBTQ+ community and experience. His work draws mainly on long-term durational habit and research practices, as well as tangible memorial objects and sculpture. Desmond discovered his passion for direct, deliberate, local community action upon moving to Brooklyn and has been actively involved in feeding and empowering his community ever since.



CJ Jones, Actor

CJ Jones is a deaf American actor residing in Los Angeles. He is one of the subjects of SEE WHAT I'M SAYING: THE DEAF ENTERTAINERS DOCUMENTARY. Jones made his feature film debut with Edgar Wright's BABY DRIVER, in which he portrays Joseph, the deaf foster father of Ansel Elgort's protagonist.



Ryan Lane, Actor

Ryan Lane is best known for his series regular role in the popular ABC Family show SWITCHED AT BIRTH, where he starred with Lucas Grabeel, Katie LeClerc, Vanessa Marano, Constance Marie, Lea Thompson, and Marlee Maitlin. He got his start from a director/producer scouting him to reenact Dummy Hoy, a deaf baseball player from the 1800s, in the documentary I HEAR THE CROWD ROAR: THE STORY OF WILLIAM DUMMY HOY. That role led him to guest starring roles on HOUSE, COLD CASE, and MIAMI MEDICAL.