

ABILITY FOUNDATION

presents



ABILITYFEST[®] 2015

India International Disability Film Festival

28 September - 1 October 2015

Sathyam Cinemas, Chennai, India





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Looking Beyond Disabilities & Breaking Barriers Together

Ability Foundation is a national cross disability umbrella organization 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® 2015



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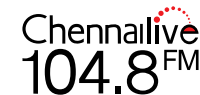
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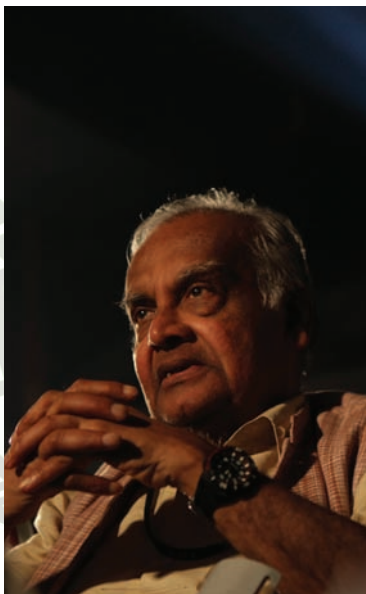
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REVATHY
Festival Vice-Chairperson

CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF CINEMA BY, WITH AND ABOUT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Ability Foundation proudly presents AbilityFEST 2015, India International Disability Film Festival, from 28 September to 1 October 2015 at Sathyam Cinemas. This is the 6th edition of the festival, and we would like to thank everyone for coming in large numbers over the years to watch each screening.

AbilityFEST is held every two years with the purpose of:

- Giving people the unique opportunity of watching movies from all over the world that sensitise the public to disability. These movies are not only well appreciated in global film festivals, but are beautiful in their portrayal of life and disability.
- Providing access to movies, by introducing techniques like captioning and audio description. With these techniques, complete accessibility of movies is ensured. People with and without disabilities experience the magic of cinema together. Access includes holding the Fest at a disabled-friendly location as well.
- Creating awareness about disability through cinema. Cinema is a popular medium of informing and entertaining mass audiences. What better way to celebrate the diversity?

AbilityFEST 2015 brings to the film loving public a host of award winning feature films, documentaries and short films from around the world by, with and about people with disabilities. Award winning films from across the world have been selected to give this year's Fest a global perspective of disability and inclusion.

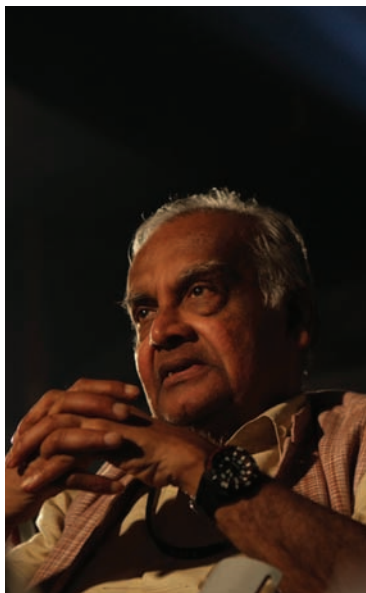
This year we have two offerings from India - the highly acclaimed *Margarita with a Straw*, for the first time with audio description for the blind and the Tamil film *Thiran* (Talent). Our other features include the poignant Iranian films *The Painting pool* and *M for motherly*, as well as the thought provoking film from U.S.A, *Dolphin Tale*.

AbilityFEST 2015 also includes the screening of shortlisted one minute films from the competitive section "60 seconds to fame!". The theme this year was "Coming together: hand-in-hand!"

Be a part of AbilityFEST 2015...
see you at the movies !



ABILITYFEST® 2015



P K NAIR

When we are celebrating 20th anniversary of Ability Foundation, it is time to take stock of the progress of AbilityFEST, India International Disability Film Festival. We started the festival 10 years ago in 2005. I could not attend the first festival because I was involved in an accident which made me 'disabled'. This enabled me to understand them, the disabled and be one with them. However I made it a point to attend all the subsequent events. We had to change the venue in the first couple of years. But now, we have our screenings at Sathyam cinemas. We are grateful to the SPI cinemas management for making a theatre available for our bi-annual screenings.

This is the sixth edition of our festival, held every alternate year. This festival has now become highly recognised among international disability film festivals held globally. However it continues to be non-competitive. Perhaps in the coming years we will plan to make it competitive at least for the national entries and also increase the venues to other centres. This year we could not get many national entries. We hope to overcome this in the coming years. Perhaps if a competition will held many will enter.

The audience participation is the most important aspect of any Film Festival from this point of view, We are happy that the Chennai audience, both the general public and school kids, are patronising this festival with their full support. We hope they will continue to do so.

Our grateful thanks to all those who have been supporting our event, in the hope of building an inclusive society.

Celebrating “India International Disability Festival?” - AbilityFEST 2015 truly portrays our constant and ardent desire in sensitizing the issue of disability amongst many, and what better medium to choose from than Cinema. Capturing the attention even if it is for a period of time, a film with a strong message has the greatest potential in transforming the mindset of the viewers at large. In a country where cinema is worshiped equivalent to religion, this powerful tool has time after time proved important in creating massive awareness on various concerns and our Fest stands as a strong testimony to it by promoting Universal Access.

Film is the greatest educational medium the world has ever known - Preston Sturges

We as a team are honored to play a catalytic role once again, as we are all set to successfully roll out the sixth edition of AbilityFEST in October. Handpicked from the very best, a variety of award winning films and documentaries from across the world offer a global perspective on disability and inclusion appealing to all. Scheduled for four, full, consecutive days, the screenings from varying cultures and backgrounds will leave the audience enthralled.

Our persistent efforts over the years, have made us grow by leaps and bounds and we at Ability Foundation will continue to educate the public on disability and change the way of thinking. Through our high profile event, we are sure to impact many lives and achieve our overall mission of an inclusive society in the near future.



C K RANGANATHAN



JAYSHREE RAVEENDRAN

This time, AbilityFEST 2015, coincides with 20 years of Ability Foundation! Double the celebration for us! A feeling of elation fills the air. From being a fledgling in the film festival circuit, to this sixth edition – we have really seen strides take place. Our feelings of trepidation and anticipation however, remain the same as they were, when we took our first baby steps in 2005.

A lot of developments have happened in the Indian movie scenario, that we are right proud of... from nowhere, we are now somewhere.

Every Thursday, across all Sathyam Cinema, movies are captioned. Audio description is now, slowly but steadily, gained foothold and beginning to be recognized and appreciated.

If in Take One of AbilityFEST, we did the Silent Movies, just to make the movie loving public enjoy the great classics and watch films the way deaf people watched them, then in the few subsequent Takes, we brought you the silent classics with musical presentations, live on stage, specially composed for the occasion and beautifully rendered by Sriram Parasuram, as well as a presentation by the students of A R Rahman.

Now, we find – during the course of bringing you Take Six, several makers of blockbusters and technical giants like Real Image, themselves coming forward with super hit films that they want audio described for our Fest.

Overseas film makers express their interest in wanting to be present.

Sign language is a popular, sought after aside, desired by the public... keen to acquire skills in this extra language.

All of which, have made the process of editing this Fest, near perfect... a crisply presented package... awaiting indulgence by you all... the discerning public to take this forward to becoming a runaway success.

For us at Ability Foundation, the enthusiasm with which we began the Foundation itself... working towards an equal society continues. No matter what activity we undertake – be it in the sphere of education, employment, recreation, culture or policy – to walk hand in hand... to work shoulder to shoulder... Where every man, woman and child with disability is considered on par with their non-disabled brethren. Not as special or different people, but just the same as everyone else, just requiring some considerations and an equitable playing field. Not to be compared with, but to be celebrated along with, as contributing, sought after members of society. I do not know if I will live to see the day, but I am thrilled that I have lived to see the difference between the then and the now... just as in a decade earlier.

So, here, in Take 6, of AbilityFEST 2015, the “action” has begun... and it’s all at your end. To enjoy and take pleasure in... for four full days of four full show times.

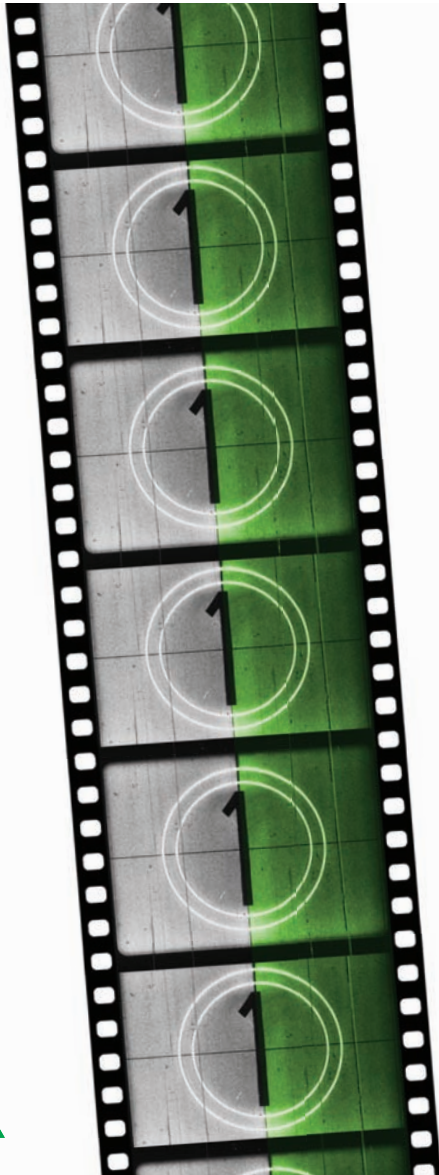
I eagerly await your reviews.

This is the 6th edition of AbilityFEST. I’m really happy that we have been able to consistently do this and it has gained importance of its own in the midst of many film festivals in our country. The difference being, AbilityFEST screens films that are either talking about disability or are made by people who are disabled.

In the last few years our mission has been to create an awareness that disability needs to be portrayed correctly in the media without it being an element of sympathy. We have come a long way in this mission as in the recent past India has produced several films including main stream films with a disabled person as the main character. It has been heartwarming to see this growth.



REVATHY



Recently I worked in a mainstream film, *Margarita with a Straw*, where the director Shonali Bose beautifully and sensitively tells the story of a young girl affected by cerebral palsy trying to come to terms with her sexuality. It is a very bold theme, told with such truth and sensitivity. The response that the film got all over India reiterates the fact that when a film has a soul it touches the viewers and is accepted in its totality. It also creates a platform to talk about issues related to a disabled person. Persons with disability are better understood and accepted as people who have the same emotions, issues and relationships as anyone else.

Personally, I feel that *Margarita with a Straw* as a film is a milestone in Indian films and I am proud to have been a part of it.

AbilityFEST has also been a pioneer in making film viewing accessible to all which is what we at Ability Foundation strive for in every aspect of the society. The subtitles help hearing impaired persons to enjoy the film to its fullest and audio description makes visually impaired persons view the film in its completeness. The success we had with *Tare Zameen Par* in 2007 with audio description is something unforgettable. We had a full audience where blind people who had watched the film before told us that the experience of watching the film with the audio description made them enjoy it to the fullest.

Entertainment is for all and movies are the most popular one. It is important to make this accessible to all. We live in a world where technology can make anything possible. It is up to us to put that extra effort to make this beautiful medium of entertainment accessible to all. AbilityFEST strives to do so.

Happiness is not the absence of problems, it's the ability to deal with them. We should all choose not to place the "Dis" in our ability. Sometimes life knocks you down - get up, get up!! There should be no place in our society for prejudice of any kind, yet those with disabilities are often not given equal rights and opportunities. Is the cause 'ignorance or indifference' - either is not acceptable.

With a focus on abilities rather than disabilities, 'Ability Foundation' has improved the quality of life for those with visible and invisible challenges, paving the way to possibilities. They continue to work with those facing diverse mobility, sensory and communication challenges as well as mental health issues and addictions, which often compound disabilities. We can all take pride in the work 'Ability Foundation' has accomplished.

Yet, there is more to be done, which is why it is good not only to celebrate our successes but to look forward at what still must be done. As long as we never forget that every life is a miracle and each person has something to contribute, we will succeed.

Jaya Bachchan

Member of Parliament,

Rajya Sabha



JAYA BACHCHAN



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ABILITYFEST[®] 2015

India International Disability Film Festival





A WHOLE LOTT MORE

USA / 2013 / 90m

Victor Buhler

Hotdocs 2013, Indie Memphis Film Festival, Cincinnati Film Festival.

A WHOLE LOTT MORE looks at the impact of Lott's struggles and examines the wider world of employment options for people with disabilities. The film showcases their incredible resilience and makes the case for greater employment opportunities for all.



AKA DOC POMUS

Canada / 2012 / 99m

William Hechter, Peter Miller

Stony Brook Film Festival (2012)

This documentary celebrates the life of Doc Pomus, a rock & roll icon. A blues singer and songwriter, Doc Pomus didn't let Polio come in the way of his dreams. Having been paralysed waist down, Doc Pomus chose to live a happy and fulfilling life - and produced some of the most iconic rock & roll numbers of his era.

ALGORITHMS

India / 2012 / 96m

Best Story Award - Krasnogorski International Festival of Sport Films, Moscow, Best Editing Award - Mumbai International Film Festival for Shorts and Documentaries, The Dogwoof Audience Film Prize at the RAI International Festival of Ethnographic Films.

In India, a group of boys dream of becoming Chess Masters, driven by a man with a vision. But this is no ordinary chess and these are no ordinary players. Algorithms is a documentary on the thriving but little known world of Blind Chess in India.

Going beyond sight and story, this sport doc with a difference moves through the algorithms of the blind chess world challenging the sighted of what it means to see. It allows for the tactile and thoughtful journey that explores foresight, sight and vision to continue long after the moving image ends.



DOLPHIN TALE

USA / 2011 / 113m

Charles Martin Smith

*ASCAP Film and Television Music Awards,
Crystal Reel Awards.*

A lonely boy discovers a dolphin stuck in a crab trap. The dolphin's tail needs to be cut off to save its life. The boy believes that the dolphin can swim again with a prosthetic tail. Will that come true?



FIXED: THE SCIENCE/FICTION OF HUMAN ENHANCEMENT

USA / 2013 / 62m

Regan Brashear

*Superfest International Disability Film Festival,
Picture This...International Film Festival, Cincinnati Reelabilities.*

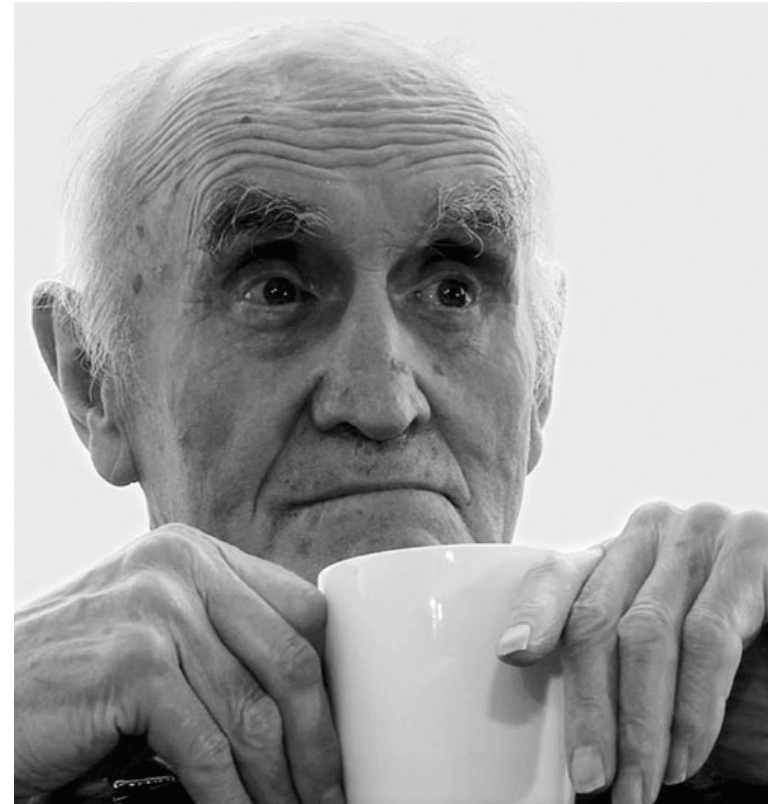
This film deals with the paradox of achieving perfection with technology. By using bionic limbs and brain insertions, are we trying to “fix” people with disabilities instead of accepting them? And by spending millions of dollars on technologies like this, instead of focusing on healthcare for basic preventable diseases, are our priorities misplaced?

HIM

UK / 2015 / 14m

Sheila Hill

Somewhere between theatre and visual art, Him will reflect back, via Tim Barlow’s extraordinary life as a soldier, a deaf man and a Buddhist, on the natures of stillness and ageing.





HOPEFUL SOLUTIONS (SOLUTIONS D'ESPOIR)

France / 2013 / 53m

Romain Carciofo

This film is the director's journey through France, as he tries to understand the attitude people have towards Autism in his country. Shot as a road-movie, it gives us a glimpse into the variety of perceptions people have about Autism Spectrum Disorders.

I SIGN, I LIVE (IK GEBAAR, IK LEEF)

Netherlands / 2012 / 58m

Anja Hiddinga and Jascha Blume

International Disability Film Festival 2012 'Breaking Down Barriers', Soleluna International Documentary Festival 2013, Picture This... International Disability Film Festival, Seattle Deaf Film Festival.

Jascha is a young deaf art student who doesn't much care about the hearing world. But he can't escape it if he wants to fulfill his ambitions. This makes him rebellious and uncertain. Armed with a camera, he visits Europe's only home for elderly deaf people and tries to find out how these people have lived their lives.





iWITNESS

UK / 2014 / 73m

Steve Rainbow

Madrid International Film Festival 2015,

Southend Film Festival 2015.

iWitness is a thriller based on a young boy, who's recently been injured and is now in a wheelchair. Living by himself in a lonely caravan park in England, his only connection to the outside world is through technology and the internet. Does this connection turn into an obsession, disconnecting him from reality altogether?



JUST AS I REMEMBER

Canada / 2012 / 18m

Andrew Moir

Toronto Film Critics Association Awards.

When Andrew was four years old his father learned he had ALS, a fatal and incurable illness. Seventeen years later and now a filmmaker, Andrew documents the experience of Brad, a father with three young boys who also has ALS. What emerges is a portrait of two families documenting the struggles and hopes that they share.

MARGARITA, WITH A STRAW

India / 2014 / 100m

Shonali Bose, Nilesh Maniyar

Asian Film Award, Montclair Film Festival, Galway Film Fleadh, Toronto International Film Festival.

A rebellious young woman with cerebral palsy leaves India to study in New York. On her journey of self-discovery, she unexpectedly falls in love.



MIDFIELD (MEIO CAMPO)

Portugal / 2014 / 6m

Pedro Amorim

Toronto International Film Festival, Leuven International Film Festival, Go Short International Film Festival.

Midfield profile an ordinary workday in the life of a stevedore, who does his work with surprising grace and simplicity. But when Sunday comes, he's a different man.



MIMI AND DONA

USA / 2014 / 65m

Sophie Sartain

Thin Line Film Festival,

Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival.

A 92-year-old mother has cared 64 years for her daughter who has an intellectual disability. But now she must find a home for her daughter in this poignant film that is “as unflinching as it is beautiful”. (The New York Times)

M FOR MOTHER (MIM MESLE MADAR)

Iran / 2006 / 113m

Rasoul Mollaghipour

A couple is devastated to learn that their unborn child will have serious birth defects, due to the mother’s exposure to chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war. The father is reluctant to let the baby be born but the mother insists on going ahead with the pregnancy.





MOTHERLY (MAADARAANEH)

Iran / 2013 / 13m

Navid Nikkhah Azad

Tehran International Film Festival, Sun Independent Film Awards, Autumn Shorts International Film Festival

A blind woman is very keen on getting to know the lady her son wants to marry. The son is a wheelchair user and the mother is concerned about the future daughter-in-law. A chance encounter leads to an unexpected discovery and the beginning of a beautiful relationship.

Q FILM

USA / 2015 / 2m

Alice Elliot

Reelabilities Film Festival, Picture This...Film Festival.

Beginning in a world of restrictions and gravity, we are transported along with the subject of the film into an environment of weightlessness and freedom. A visceral film experience, Q Film showcases the transformation that can occur when one enters the water.



THE GLOBE COLLECTOR

Australia / 2012 / 7m

Summer DeRoche

Philadelphia Film Festival, Sheffield International Documentary Festival.

Andrew Pullen collects light globes. He has well over 10,000 of them in one of the world's largest private collections. This short documentary takes us into his incredible world; a world where a passion for electronics is all-consuming and a diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome is nothing more than a label.

RUN IF YOU CAN (RENN, WENN DU KANNST)

Germany / 2010 / 112m

Dietrich Brüggemann

German Films Critics Awards Association.

Ben is in a wheelchair and Christian is his carer. Both men fall in love with the same woman, a musician. This film talks about their unusual love triangle, featuring witty dialogues and lots of black humour.



THE HYPERGLOT

USA / 2013 / 25m

Michael Urie

Teen View Award at Nantucket Film Festival, Best of Fest at Palm Springs International, Audience Award at Friars Club Comedy Film Festival, Best Film & Best Actor at International Film Awards Berlin, Best Film at London City Film Festival.

Despite an unrivaled talent for communicating, Jake has trouble talking to women. And when he's presented with an impossible situation, Jake takes it upon himself to communicate effectively... without actually speaking!

THE INTERVIEWER

Australia / 2012 / 13m

Genevieve Clay-Smith, Robin Bryan

Fargo Film Festival, Canberra Short Film Festival, International Family Film Festival, ReelHeART International Film Festival.

Thomas Howell is nervous as he enters a job interview at a prestigious law firm. He's taken by surprise when his interviewer insults his tie and asks him questions related to Harry Potter, of all the things! Watch how his interview plays a role in strengthening a bond between a father and a son.



THE PAINTING POOL (HOWZE NAGHASHI)

Iran / 2013 / 90m

Maziar Miri

Audience Award Best Film by Audiences at the Fajr Film Festival 2013, Best Set & Costume Design at the Fajr Film Festival 2013, Best Cinematography at the Fajr Film Festival 2013, UNESCO Award at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards 2013.

Suheil is a boy born without any disability, to a mentally challenged couple. Initially unaware of the difference between his parents and the rest of the society, Suheil slowly begins to understand his parents' disabilities. He then begins to worry that they will humiliate him in school. Can the parents' love help Suheil erase the differences he perceives?



THIRAN (TALENT)

India / 2014 / 7m
M.Ganesan

A young man goes to the owner of a local tea shop for advice quite often. The owner advises the young man to work hard, and shares his own inspiring story.

WRETCHES AND JABBERERS

USA / 2012 / 94m

Gerardine Wurzburg

*Autism Society Media Excellence Award,
TASH Media Award.*

Tracy Thresher and Larry Bissonnette are two men with autism who have limited speech but a whole lot to say. As young people, both faced lives of isolation, unable to convey their inner intelligence. It was not until adulthood when each learned to communicate by typing – giving them a way to express their thoughts, needs and feelings - that their lives changed dramatically. After more than ten years of advocating for people with autism, they felt it was time to take their message global - to help people with autism in other countries around the world break through the isolation they both knew so well.



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SIX O'ONE



Can your thoughts create magic on film when you've got a minute to win it? AbilityFEST's "60 Seconds to Fame!" challenges just that. Innovation, perceptions and attitudes are showcased in just sixty seconds as creative and sensitive persons from across the country try and harness their potential. This year, entries have come from nineteen states across the country, by people with, and without, disabilities. They range from talented film makers to amateur students wishing to use their creativity to make a difference in society.

The theme of the competition for this edition is "Coming Together: Hand-in-Hand". As we go through the course of our lives, our experiences are many. We meet people. We make friends. Something almost magical happens. Dissimilarities melt away... like being disabled or non-disabled. Diversities are understood. And celebrated. Disabled or non-disabled, we are all people first. With the same joys, sorrows, likes, dislikes, hopes, despair, ambition, dreams, aspirations, wants & needs, like anyone else. People with disabilities are part of the same society, have their own space under the sun-same as anyone else.

Often, for a person with disability, several things come in the way of being friends with a non-disabled person-as equals. The barriers-both physical and attitudinal are many. Understanding the other person, sharing a joke or a problem is a unique barrier-breaker. There is no underestimating the powers of togetherness. Together, we can march on, achieve, and enjoy life, so much more: hand-in-hand. Hand in hand through good times and bad, through thick and thin, joys and sorrows.

It becomes such that, there is no "me" and "you". It becomes "we" and "us". However, for a person with disability, a little more empathy, sensitivity and above all accessibility of the facilities are important. Only then can we enjoy a truly equitable and balanced life. But these are not always available for persons with disabilities to realise all that s/he wants to. These have to be made available & accessible – with sensitivity & empathy as well as a matter of rights. These requirements will be required everywhere – for our classmates in school/college; for our colleagues at the workplace; our pals/friends in life, sharing simple pleasures of going to a movie, or dinner or a holiday together, appreciating one another... all that you can think of.

Ability Foundation's vision is to make possible a society where people with and without disabilities walk hand in hand, work shoulder to shoulder and are accepted as equals; where help comes out of empathy, not sympathy as a matter of course.

Thus our theme this year... "Coming Together... hand-in-hand" gave people the freedom to unleash their creativity... just have their say... in 60 seconds... about challenging stereotypes, about changing preconceived notions, about opening up fresh vistas and thinking as well as opening up people's minds with their innovative thinking. Overcoming all prejudices and creating an equitable as well as equal society-where every member of society enjoys a level playing field-with dignity, joy and as a matter of right. The following are the shortlisted movies which will be screened at AbilityFEST 2015.



60 Seconds Jo Fame!®

All India One Minute Film Competition on Disability

Theme: “Coming Together: Hand-in-Hand”



ALONG WITH ME

K VIMAL RAJ

Tamil Nadu

vimi.chennai@gmail.com

In a family the eldest son who is visually impaired, sensitizes his family and request them to promote eye donation.



AN EDUCATOR

TAHER ALIHUSEN KACHWALA

Gujarat

taher.zahebiya@gmail.com

Who says that a disabled person cannot teach? If we have confidence and dedication, nothing is impossible. This film inspires us to believe in ourselves.



BIRTHDAY GIRL

ANJANA S

Kerala

varunprabha@gmail.com

The film narrates how barriers can be broken and the joy of togetherness instilled by way of adapting to sign language at a deaf girl's birthday celebrations.



BUS

M ARIKARASUDHAN
Tamil Nadu

aridoci@yahoo.co.in

“Bus” celebrates the spirit of togetherness. A classroom of inclusion is a moment of joy and creativity. When children with and without disabilities come together, they blend like water and puts our prejudice to shame.



BUTTERFLIES IN THE WIND

DEEPIKA RAJADAS
Tamil Nadu

deepika.rajadas@gmail.com

The true story of Manohar and Mahema Devadoss - she, a quadriplegic, he, losing his vision to retinitis pigmentosa. They walked hand in hand to help social causes dear to them. Long after her demise, he keeps alive her memory through books and art.



BUT

SANDEEP KANABAR
Tamil Nadu

sandeepkanabar@gmail.com

This film tells viewers to accept diversity and promote inclusion through the story of bunny and money.



COLORS

HARIKRISHNAN.G
Kerala

harikrishnan54@gmail.com

Colors are part of celebrations. A smile can make colours come alive. Few of us deserve it. This short film tells the story of a girl who forgets her disability as she joins others in a holi celebration.



COLORS

RAMESH ISANAKA
Tamil Nadu

mailspellbound@gmail.com

Colors is about three friends and how they experience the colors of life - anger, sadness and happiness.



GORA KAGAZ

MUNESHWAR SATISH KUMAR
Telangana

muneshwarsatish@gmail.com

The film depicts the various perspectives of individuals through the analogy of a sheet of white paper, and how each one can write their own destiny with some support.



DISABLED

PARAN DUGGAL
Chandigarh

paranduggal@gmail.com

The film is about perception of everybody towards disability. It depicts an incident in the life of a young dyslexic girl, and how her approach to life changes.



HIGH5

JAWAHAR G
Tamil Nadu

jawaharg@zoho.com

The film depicts the bonding of five friends in overcoming the challenges that come up at various phases and how they move ahead in life.



JOY
A. VINOTH SINGH
Tamil Nadu

singh_vinoth@yahoo.com

This film looks at children's enthusiastic behaviour in helping a child with disability. Sensitization at an early stage of life will lead to inclusive society.



LET'S BICYCLE TOGETHER
SNEHASIS DAS
Odisha

snehasis.das@gmail.com

The story emphasises the importance of friendship despite hardships and promotes companionship.



LET ME TRY
K JANARTHANAN
Tamil Nadu

positivejana@gmail.com

A game of carrom proves that one should not judge a person by his appearance. A youngster with disability asks for a chance to play, and the result is astounding.



MIRROR
RATHA A RAMENEN
Tamil Nadu

ratha.a.ramenen@gmail.com

A biker knocks down a person. The lesson that the biker receives from that person creates a twist in the story line.



ONENESS

PRAJIN PAZHUVIL
Kerala

prajin.wav@gmail.com

“Oneness” is a movie based on the impact of togetherness on a disabled person when he perceives his own baby for the first time in his life.



SAY SOMETHING

VIVEK
Tamil Nadu

iamvivek60@gmail.com

It's a dream for many hearing & speech impaired kids to see, hear and open their mouth and say something. This film is about one such kid.



**PUSTHAKATHIL
ILLATHATHU**

DEEPAK.G. NAMBOOTHIRI
Kerala

deepakgnamboothiri@gmail.com

The film promotes inclusion of a child with disability who is given a role in a school play along with the other children.



SMILEYS

M PRASANTH
Tamil Nadu

prasanthvmm@gmail.com

Pallavi is blind, but she never feels conscious of that when she is around with her friends. This is one of such incident that shows that in love and friendship disability doesn't matter.



SPECIALLY ABLED

RIYAS ABOOBACKER (RIYAS KP)
Kerala

riyaskpa@gmail.com

Promotion of sign language is yet another language that should be included while people consider learning a new language.



THE HOPE

DR D DEEPA
Tamil Nadu

deepadr.bds@gmail.com

“The hope” is a film about a visually impaired girl who is interested in learning dance and the parental and societal support she gets to achieve her dream to dance.



THE COMPANION

DEEPAK DEOPA
Uttarakhand

deepak.deopa@gmail.com

The film portrays the challenges of overcoming disability and the need to use resources to achieve the desires and goals in life.



THE MOMENT

AKILESH KATHAMUTHU
Tamil Nadu

visual.mystic@gmail.com

Hidden under the rubble of modernisation and materialism, always lies the tender heart that cares for others. A knock is sometimes needed to open that door . This is such moment...



THIS 'ABILITY'

SIBI PANICKER
Kerala

sibi.airlove@gmail.com

Among the general public, disability is still a stigma. And this film is about that stigma which prevents us from lending a helping hand at the right time.



VEERAM - The rasam for warriors
MILANRAJENDRAN
Kerala

milanrajendran@gmail.com

The film shows different types of people in our society and how the togetherness of such people forms a harmonious unity.



**VEEKSHANAM
(PERSPECTIVE)**

RAGESH VIJAY
Kerala

vijay.ragesh@gmail.com

"It's the disability of society's mindset that needs a change". This film depicts how a blind man achieves his target.



"WE" FOR VICTORY

MOHAMMED SULTHAN REFAI M M
Tamil Nadu

refaisultan@gmail.com

A disabled person's excitement of playing a game fades away, until his friend helps him.



JAYA BACHCHAN is undoubtedly one of Indian Cinema's finest actors. A Padma Shri awardee, with an acting career that spans over five decades. While many of us remember her first Hindi film as the iconic protagonist in *Guddi*, she had entered the industry much earlier as a teenager, when she debuted in Satyajit Ray's *Mahanagar*. Going beyond the realm of acting, she now dons the politician's hat, as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha.

PRAHLAD KAKAR. One of the most iconic figures in the Indian advertising industry, Prahlad Kakar became a household name after the famous Pepsi commercial starring Amitabh Bachchan and Sachin Tendulkar. Today, he runs Genesis Film Productions, one of India's leading production houses. Apart from advertising, Kakar is also well-known for his role as an assistant director in many Shyam Benegal films, such as *Ankur* and *Bhumika*. Outside the world of cinema, Kakar is passionate about preserving marine life and is the co-founder of Reefwatch Marine Conservation.



A L VIJAY. Well-known Tamil film director A L Vijay's films such as *Kireedam*, *Saivam* and *Madrasapattinam* have cemented his position in the Tamil film industry. Disability has occupied a central theme in his films *Deiva Thirumagal* and *Thandavam* and shown Vijay to be the sensitive film maker that he is. *Deiva Thirumagal* in fact was screened for the first time with audio description at AbilityFEST 2011. Before becoming a feature film director, Vijay was an extremely successful ad film maker.

JUSTIN JESUDAS is the founder of “Life after Paralysis”, a trust that supports severely disabled persons and an active member of the Spinal Foundation, a Self-Help Group for persons with spinal cord injury. A market strategist and researcher by profession, he works for Cognizant Technology Solutions. He is an International-level swimmer and current national paralympic swimming champion. Playing wheelchair basketball and tennis are his other passions. Justin lives a full and colourful life and has come a long way since a car accident left him paralyzed neck down in 2009.



SRUTI MOHAPATRA is a tireless crusader for people with disabilities. She is the founder and chief executive of Swabhiman, a Bhubaneswar-based NGO, which has been working for the empowerment of people with disabilities in Odisha since 2001. Sruti has conceptualized a unique program for children and youth, Anjali, which has grown to become the only ‘Inclusive Children Festival’ in India. From 1987 till 1996, she trained more than 3000 civil service aspirants. A devastating accident in 1987 left her a quadriplegic, but she surmounted the physical and emotional challenges that she faced, emerging with an indomitable desire to work with other people with disabilities. She has won over 65 awards for her life and service.

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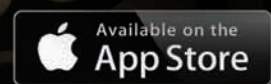
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Jayshree Raveendran

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Vijaya Bhaskaran

SINCERE THANKS TO

Ministry of Information Broadcasting, Govt of India
Directorate of Film Festivals
Home & Cinema Dept, Govt of Tamil Nadu
Department of Commercial Taxes, Govt of Tamil Nadu
The Police Department, Govt of Tamil Nadu

Chennai Volunteers
Emerald Associates
Sanvik Printers

SPECIAL THANKS TO

G Dhananjayan
Geetha Vedaraman
Indira Ramesh
Joshua
Kalki Koechlin
K.Munikanniah
Mahdi Zare
Nilesh Maniyar
Prabhu

Pierre-Emmanuel Jacob
Preetha
Prem Kumar
Ramya
Senthil Kumar
Shonali Bose
Teddy Joshua
Thota Tharani
Usha Davalur

The Hans Foundation provides holistic and integrated support services to empower persons with disabilities across age groups, irrespective of the nature of disability, to maximize their potential and become self-reliant, while working to pave the way for a more inclusive eco system.

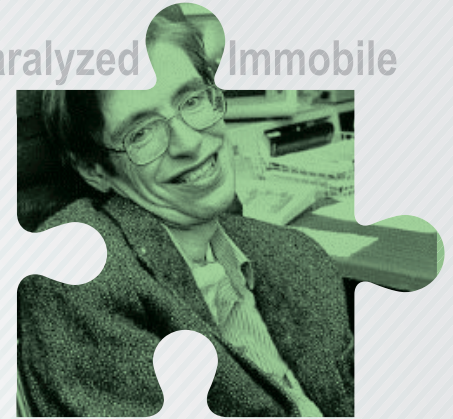


Blind



Marla Runyan
Athlete
Three-Time National Champion

Paralyzed Immobile



Stephen Hawking
Greatest Scientist
of the 20th Century

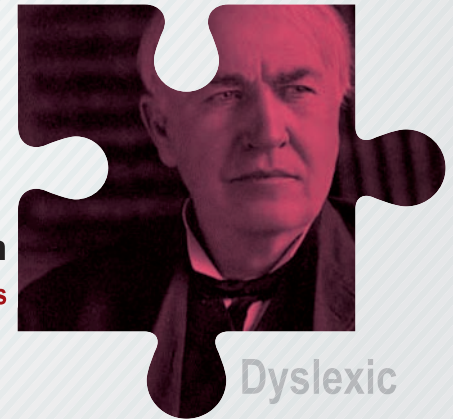
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EMPOWERED



Beethoven
World's Greatest Composer

Deaf



Thomas Edison
Inventor with a 1000 patents

Dyslexic



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