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Pictured right >

Melissa Stockwell stars in Warrior Champions, the opening night selection for DC's inaugural REELAbilities Disabilities Film Festival



Reel Abilities Film Festival Arrives in DC Area

Friday, January 20, 2012

From our friends at [Scott Circle Communications...](#)

[ReelAbilities Disabilities Film Festival](#), a national film festival dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories and artistic expressions of people with different disabilities, premieres in the nation's capital area February 1-9, 2012 at six venues in the District, Maryland and Virginia. Presented as part of the traveling program of the four-year-old New York film festival of the same name, the local ReelAbilities Disabilities Film Festival is sponsored by the [Washington DCJCC](#), [JCC of Greater Washington](#) and [JCC of Northern Virginia](#).

The ReelAbilities Disabilities Film Festival DC-MD-VA presents award-winning films accompanied by discussions and other engaging programs to bring together the community in exploration, discussion and celebration of the diversity of our shared human experience. Nine different films will be shown throughout the festival--features, documentaries and shorts that present stories incorporating a variety of disabilities including autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, blindness and mental health.

On Wednesday, February 1, the Festival's opening night film, [Warrior Champions](#), profiles four Iraq War veterans who returned home with life-changing

injuries that they strive to turn into Olympic dreams. The opening celebration at the District's historic Avalon Theatre begins with hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 pm followed by the film at 7:30 pm and special guest speaker [Richard Bernstein](#). Blind from birth, Bernstein has spent his adult life fighting for the rights of the disabled. His own incredible story includes professional accomplishments in addition to personal ones, including running marathons around the world, finishing the Ironman Competition and creating and hosting a television show.

On closing night, Thursday, February 9, the feature film [War Eagle, Arkansas](#) will be shown in three locations--7:00 pm at the Washington DCJCC and at 7:30 pm at both the JCC of Greater Washington in Rockville and the Cinema Arts Theatre in Fairfax-- followed by a dessert reception in each venue. The tender drama follows Enoch Cass, the star high school baseball pitcher with an innate goodness, a debilitating stutter and fast-talking, life-long best friend with cerebral palsy. Together the friends find themselves at the crossroads of childhood and independence.

The presenting sponsor for ReelAbilities Disabilities Film Festival DC-MD-VA is the Saul Schottenstein Foundation B. Other sponsors include the Estelle Friedman Gervis Family Foundation, Washington Group Special Care Planning Team, Cinema Arts Theatre, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, G4S Secure Solutions (USA) Inc., and Needham, Mitnick and Pollack PLC.

The festival is working with many community sponsors including the ARC of Northern Virginia and Montgomery County, Ivymount School & Programs, Mental Health Association of Montgomery County, PEATC, Potomac Community Resources, Inc., St. Luke's House, Sunflower Bakery, Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning Needs, Jewish Foundation for Group Homes, Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the interPLAY company Band

When:

February 1–9, 2012

Where:

Artisphere Theatre, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA

The Avalon Theatre, 5612 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC

Cinema Arts Theatre, 9650 Main St., Fairfax, VA

JCC of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Rd. Rockville, MD

JCC of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA

Washington DC JCC, 1529 Sixteenth St. NW, Washington, DC

Tickets:

Opening night ticket \$25; all other films \$10 general admission, \$7 seniors (age 60+) and students with ID. Tickets available now at greaterdc.reelabilities.org or by calling 800-494-8497.

Website:

Complete descriptions of the films, schedules, movie trailers and tickets are available at GreaterDC.Reelabilities.org

Questions:

Festival goers who have questions should call one of the presenting organizations: Washington DCJCC film hotline (202) 777-3231

JCC of Greater Washington (301) 348-3712
JCC of Northern VA (703) 323-0880

Schedule:

Wednesday, February 1

6:30 PM Opening Reception at the Avalon Theatre

7:30 PM [Warrior Champions](#)

9:00 PM Keynote Speaker, Richard Bernstein

Thursday, February 2

7:30 PM [Ben X](#) at the Washington DCJCC

Friday, February 3

1:00 PM [Henry O!](#) at the Washington DCJCC

Saturday, February 4

7:30 PM [Ben X](#) at the Artisphere Theatre

Sunday, February 5

10:30 AM [Shameless: The Art of Disability](#) at the Cinema Arts Theatre

11:00 AM [Shooting Beauty](#) and [Crooked Beauty](#) at the Washington DCJCC

1:00 PM [Henry O!](#) at the Artisphere Theatre

7:00 PM [Praying with Lior](#) at the JCC of Greater Washington

Monday, February 6

7:15 PM [Zig Zag Love](#) at the Cinema Arts Theatre

7:30 PM [Praying with Lior](#) at the JCC of Northern Virginia

Tuesday, February 7

7:30 PM [Shooting Beauty](#) and [Crooked Beauty](#) at the JCC of Greater Washington

Wednesday, February 8

7:30 PM [Zig Zag Love](#) at the JCC of Greater Washington

Thursday, February 9

7:00 PM [War Eagle, Arkansas](#) at the Washington DCJCC

7:30 PM [War Eagle, Arkansas](#) at the JCC of Greater Washington

7:30 PM [War Eagle, Arkansas](#) at the Cinema Arts Theatre

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