

DEAF ROCHESTER
FILM FESTIVAL 2011



PROGRAM BOOK

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

MARCH 31 - APRIL 3

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Moguls



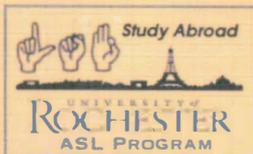
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Table of Contents

About Deaf Rochester Film Festival	4
Letters of Welcome	5
Special Thanks	9
Schedule of Events and Films	10
Program Categories.....	13
Rising Star Awards	13
Feature Film: Marianna Ucrìa	14
Documentary Film: Ingelore.....	15
Film Synopses	16
JrDRFF	27
Forums.....	28
Film Venues.....	30
DRFF 2011 Board and Volunteers	31

To connect with other attendees of the Deaf Rochester Film Festival '11 after the festival, visit our Facebook page and Twitter.

DRFF Facebook Page:
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The views and opinions (implied or directly stated) in the films shown at this festival are those of the filmmakers and may not reflect the views and opinions of the DRFF '11 board nor any of its sponsors.

About Deaf Rochester Film Festival

Festival Mission Statement

Our mission remains very much the same from the past three festivals:

- to promote and showcase films by Deaf and Hard of Hearing filmmakers;
- to showcase films about the Deaf experience;
- to encourage analysis and interpretations of Deaf Cinema and Deaf visual aesthetics;
- to develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Deaf gaze in light of the diversity of genres, cultures, and styles of filmmaking;
- to foster film as a medium for historical preservation of Deaf Culture;
- to provide networking opportunities for Deaf and Hard of Hearing filmmakers and others involved in the field; and
- to inspire future generations of Deaf and Hard of Hearing filmmakers.



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Letters of Welcome



Bienvenue! Benvenuti! Willkommen! Welcome to the fourth biennial Deaf Rochester Film Festival!

As always, Deaf Rochester Film Festival '11 is very proud to be part of an amazing and unique worldwide community of multi-talented artists, writers, and filmmakers. This year, we also aim to be the platform for artists who desire the active involvement of our audiences to connect and act collectively to address social challenges facing our community. Our festival screenings spotlight diverse cultures and stories from around the world and this year's inspirational guest line-up reflects deeply their commitment to their craft and respect for Deaf Cinema's history. Please join us in welcoming and honoring these Deaf and hard of hearing filmmakers and artists who, through their creative work, actively increase awareness, provide multiple viewpoints, and strengthen ties between international audiences!

This year's festival is especially significant for our Deaf and hard of hearing filmmakers because a compelling 1913 film, *The Preservation of the Sign Language*, has been selected as part of the 2010 National Film Registry via the Library of Congress! The creator of that film, George Veditz, became president of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) in 1907. He saw the power and potential inherent in the new motion picture technology and encouraged NAD to finance more such recordings. DRFF and its sister festivals are the descendants of Mr. Veditz's NAD Motion Picture Project, which is why we're thrilled to welcome Howard Rosenblum, the incoming CEO of NAD, to this year's festival!

In addition to the longtime sponsors that have continued to play a paramount role in the ever-growing success of our festivals, the Deaf Rochester Film Festival '11 is very excited to welcome Eastman Kodak as its new Executive Sponsor. Think of it: The renowned Rochester company that made film accessible to billions of people worldwide, working together with one of the largest and most diverse Deaf and hard of hearing communities in the world to showcase the beauty and brilliance of Deaf cinema. Can you imagine a more appropriate and fitting partnership? THANK YOU SO MUCH to Kodak and all of our sponsors! We are very fortunate to have your support!

I especially want to thank the Deaf Rochester Film Festival '11 board and the committee members. Its members – every one of whom has volunteered his or her time – are living evidence of the true spirit of the festival. Because of all the hard work, energy and time that each member has had invested in this festival, Deaf Rochester Film Festival '11 affords you plenty of opportunities to be entertained and inspired by unique film screenings from around the world and to be enlightened by workshops, presentations, and discussions!! Thank you so much for being such a WONDERFUL team!

Thank you as well to our venues: The George Eastman House's Dryden Theatre, NTID's Panara Theatre and Dyer Arts Gallery, Little Theatre, ArtisanWorks, RIT ASL & Deaf Studies Community Center, and Rochester School for the Deaf. From the earliest days of cinema, films have been meant to be viewed and enjoyed in the company of others. We are fortunate to be able to screen our films and welcome our audiences in some of the very best venues in Rochester.

I would like to thank my father, my husband and my children for their everlasting and enduring support of my involvement with DRFF. Their love and their support means a lot to me!

Most of all, thank YOU for coming. Like the proverbial tree that falls with no one around to witness it, there is really no cinema without an audience. With this - please sit back, relax and enjoy Deaf Rochester Film Festival '11!

Stacy Lawrence
Executive Director



International Museum of Photography and Film

900 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607-2298
www.eastmanhouse.org Tel (585) 271-3361 Fax (585) 271-3970

Film enthusiasts,

We are thrilled to help host the fourth biennial Deaf Rochester Film Festival here at the George Eastman House's Dryden Theatre. I invite you take advantage of what the House has to offer -- including the International Museum of Photography and Film.

Our renewed partnership is fitting because we are home to one of the world's most respected film archives and because George Veditz's 1913 film, *The Preservation of the Sign Language*, was recently selected by the Library of Congress to be part of the 2010 National Film Registry. Interestingly, it is with some thanks to the efforts of film preservationists and institutions like George Eastman House that George Veditz's passionate argument for preserving sign language still exists for viewing.

There is an importance to the preservation of film. A film such as *The Preservation of the Sign Language* records the story of our cultural heritage for generations to come. If not properly treated, film can decay within years, along with its significant historical content.

Once again, it is an honor to work with the Deaf Rochester Film Festival to celebrate and preserve the rich history of the Deaf experience on film. Likewise it is an honor to have you here at Dryden Theatre.

Welcome to the George Eastman House!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Bannon".

Anthony Bannon
Executive Director
George Eastman House

R·I·T**Rochester Institute of Technology**

National Technical Institute for the Deaf
Office of the President, NTID
Vice President and Dean, RIT
52 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5604
585-475-6317 (V / TTY) Fax: 585-475-5978

March 2011

To Participants of the Deaf Rochester Film Festival,

As the President of NTID, I would like to extend our warmest greetings to you as you celebrate films which affirm the growing pride and diversity of Deaf people.

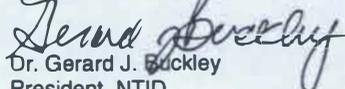
Along with the other co-sponsors of this festival, we join you in celebrating the richness of film as a vital component of the culture of Deaf people in our country and in those throughout the world. We know that the weekend will be filled with experiences that are stimulating, enriching and educational.

It is important to support the growth of this field and give encouragement to Deaf/Hard of hearing people who are pursuing efforts in creating new film works and in analyzing the role of film in Deaf culture.

May the Deaf Rochester Film Festival increase your knowledge and appreciation of Deaf cinema.

Thank you for joining us here in Rochester!

With a warm welcome,



Dr. Gerard J. Buckley
President, NTID
Vice President and Dean, RIT



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Schedule of Events and Films

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2011

Location: RIT ASL and Deaf Studies Community Center

9:00am–3:00pm Project Deaflights

Location: Rochester School for the Deaf

7:00pm–10:00pm Junior Deaf Rochester Film Festival–Film Screenings

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2011

Location: RIT ASL and Deaf Studies Community Center

9:00am–12:00pm Roundtable Discussion with Filmmakers

9:00am–3:00pm Junior Deaf Rochester Film Festival–Workshops

Location: Wallace Center at RIT

1:00pm–1:30pm Emmanuelle Laborit Book Signing

1:30pm–2:30pm Deaf Film Posters and Deaf Film Collection by Newby Ely

2:30pm–4:00pm Archives Exhibit and Reception

Location: The Little Theatre

7:00pm–9:00pm *Marianna Ucria*, Feature-Length Film co-starring Emmanuelle Laborit

Location: Artisan Works

9:00pm–12:00am Introduction

Message: Sorenson

Conversations with Flavia Fleischer, Emmanuelle Laborit, and Dr. Elisbetta D'Amada

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2011

Location: George Eastman House

9:00am–11:00am Introduction: Stacy Lawrence, Executive Director

Message: Kodak

Firework by Katy Perry in ASL–Filmmaker: Jason Listman

The Rosebush–Filmmakers: Patti Durr and Karen Christie

Coming Home–Filmmaker: Louis Neethling

Here and There–Filmmakers: Dave Mason, Jeremy Wells, and Michael T. Cyr

50/50–Filmmaker: David Ellington

Gallaudet–Filmmakers: Ryan Commerson, Dirksen Bauman, and Wayne Betts, Jr.

- 11:00am–11:10am Break
- 11:10am–12:00pm **Keynote Presentation: Toward a Deaf Renaissance in Filmmaking**
Speakers: Dirksen Bauman and Wayne Betts, Jr.
- 12:00am–1:00pm Lunch
- 1:00pm–3:00pm Presentation: Metamorphosis
Speaker: Dr. Jane Norman
- Short On Time–Filmmaker: Jevon Whetter
- L'Enfance Sourde (The Deaf Childhood)*–Filmmaker: Brigitte Lemaire
- Deaf: Hear Me*–Filmmaker: Carol Duffy Clay
- 3:00pm–3:10pm Break
- 3:10–4:00pm **Presentation: The Importance of George Veditz's Film**
Speaker: Howard Rosenblum, CEO of NAD
- The Preservation of Sign Language*–Filmmaker: George Veditz

Location: Dyer Art Gallery at NTID

5:00pm–7:00pm Reception @ RIT/NTID

Location: Panara Theatre at NTID (College Night)

- 7:00pm–8:15pm *Vivacious Fuela*–Filmmaker: Igor Djenge
- Deafhood: The Journey*–Filmmaker: Paul Ososki
- Inbounds*–Filmmaker: Storm Smith
- 8:15pm–8:20pm Break
- 8:20pm–10:30pm **Presentation: The Importance of George Veditz's Film**
Speaker: Howard Rosenblum, CEO of NAD
- The Preservation of Sign Language*–Filmmaker: George Veditz
- Smells Like Victory*–Filmmaker: Marko Vuorheimo (Signmark)
- Where am I? I am hEAR*–Filmmaker: Kyla Zirami
- Mitchell's Story*–Filmmaker: Bridget Klein
- Breathing Underwater*–Filmmaker: Jillian Felsburg
- Red Line*–Filmmakers: Zilvinas Paludnevicus and James Caverly
- Desolee–Sorry*–Filmmaker: Pamela Elizabeth Witcher
- An Experimental Clip*–Filmmaker: Pamela Elizabeth Witcher
- Catch Santa*–Filmmaker: Kamau Buchanan
- Speakerbox*–Filmmaker: Marko Vuorheimo (Signmark)

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2011

Location: George Eastman House

9:00am–11:02am Introduction: Stacy Lawrence, Executive Director
Message: New York Relay and Sprint Relay

American De'VIA Artist: Chuck Baird and His Journey—Filmmaker: Tracey Salaway

Presentation: The Discovery of Verkannte Menschen (The Misjudged People)

Speaker: Joan Naturale

Verkannte Menschen (The Misjudged People)—Filmmaker: Wilhelm Ballier

Presentation: The Misjudged to the Mistreated; Film Speaks More than 1,000 Words

Speaker: Patti Durr

Ingelore—Filmmaker: Frank Stiefel

11:02am–11:12am Break

11:12am–12:00pm **Meet the Filmmaker: Discussion with Frank Stiefel & Ingelore Herz Honigstein**

12:00pm–1:00pm Awards Luncheon (for filmmakers only)

1:00pm–2:50pm *Departure Lounge*—Filmmaker: Louis Neethling

Fairytale of London Town—Filmmaker: Louis Neethling

Meet the Filmmaker: Discussion with Louis Neethling

2:50pm–3:00pm Break

3:00pm–4:30pm *The Letter*—Filmmaker: Marko Vuorheimo (Signmark)

World Deaf Women Day—Filmmakers: Mook Badhir Mahdal and Rajesh Ketkar

Deaf in Pink: 3 Day Breast Cancer Walk in San Diego—Filmmaker: Laura Harvey

Just the Way You Are by Bruno Mars in ASL—Filmmaker: Jason Listman

Schedule is tentative and subject to change.

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Program Categories

This year, Deaf Rochester Film Festival '11 screening committee selected 40 films for exhibition from 165 submissions. More than a thousand deaf, hard of hearing and hearing festivalgoers discover filmmakers' newest talents together through the DRFF program of documentaries, dramatics, shorts, student shorts, and cultural films at various venues in Rochester.

Documentary Competition

Engaged by human rights to popular culture, this film addresses the issues that define our time.

Dramatic Competition

Fueled by fierce creativity and vision, this film is guaranteed to leave a lasting impact on the next generation of cinema.

Shorts Programs

Driven by innovation and experimentation by limited run time, this film showcases filmmaking's most original imaginations.

Student Shorts Programs

Inspired by an emerging hotbed for cinematic innovation, this film highlights work that transcends the rules of conventional storytelling.

Cultural Film About the Deaf Experience by a Hearing Filmmaker

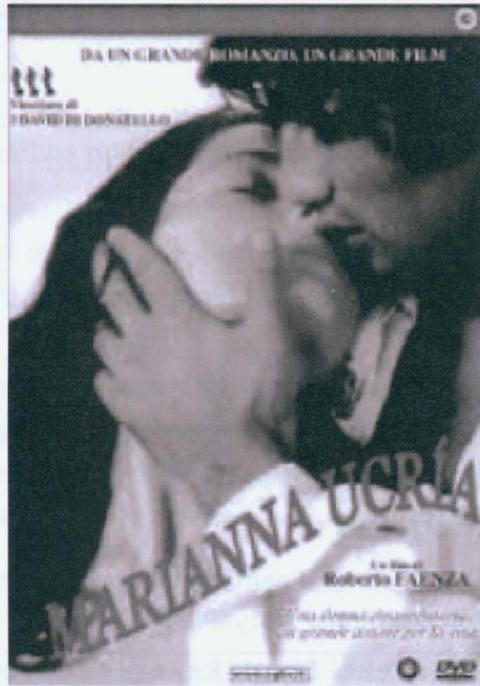
Enlightened by commitment to the important form of storytelling, this film embodies the spirit of Deaf Culture in filmmaking.

Rising Star Awards

The Rising Star award is an award presented by Deaf Rochester Film Festival to two select filmmakers. Recipients of this award provide fresh perspectives and innovative styles that honor the independent spirit in emerging filmmakers everywhere.

DRFF will announce Rising Stars awards and student award winners shortly after the College Night at Robert Panara Theatre on Saturday, April 2, 2011. DRFF will present the award winners during the Film Screenings with Panel Discussions Part II morning on Sunday, April 3, 2011.

Feature Film: Marianna Ucrìa



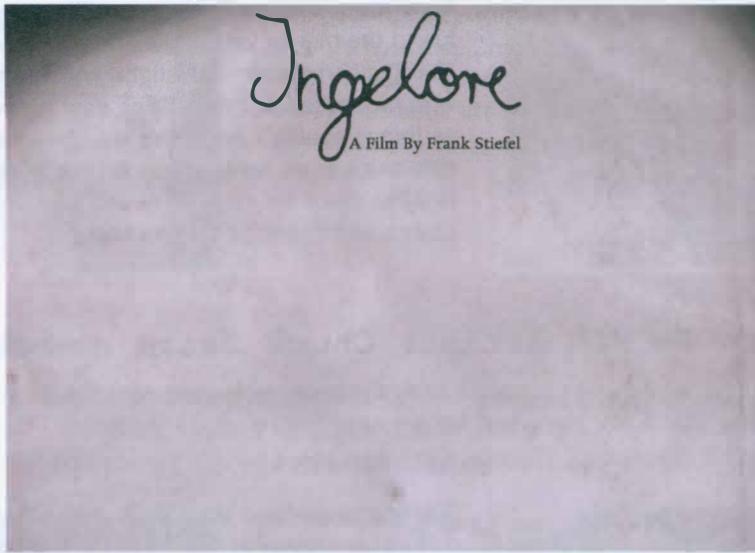
Director: Roberto Faenza **Screenwriters:** Roberto Faenza, Dacia Maraini, Francesco Marcucci, Sandro Petraglia **Producers:** Vittorio Cecchi Gori, Elda Ferri, Rita Rusic
Drama, 1997, 108 minutes, Italy

Friday, April 1 , 7:00 pm, Little Theatre

Marianna Ucrìa is an Italian film based on an acclaimed, well known historical novel by Dacia Maraini and showcases the adventures of a mute woman who strives to escape her dark past and social pressures that force her to remain married to a man she despises. The film features the renowned deaf actress Emmanuelle Laborit, an award winning actress who has claimed a Molière, the French theater's top award, for her performance in *Les Enfants du Silence*, a French version of Mark Medoff's award-winning play *Children of a Lesser God*.

* English subtitles will be played during the showing of *Marianna Ucrìa*.

Documentary Film: Ingelore



Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Frank Stiefel
Documentary, 2009, 40 minutes, USA

Sunday, April 3, 10:15am, George Eastman House

Ingelore Herz Honigstein is an 85-year-old deaf Jewish woman who did not speak a word until age 6, nor complete a sentence until 12. Born in Kuppenheim, Germany in 1924, *Ingelore* is her compelling account of a lonely and confusing childhood, played out against the terrifying rise to power of the Third Reich. After a brutal rape by Nazi cadets when she was a young teenager, her family vows to escape to America. Upon her arrival in New York, she discovers that the rape left her pregnant. Then, she sets out to find a doctor willing to perform an illegal abortion. The film is a mix of first person narrative, archival footage and simple, understated re-enactments. *Ingelore* is a remarkable and uplifting story of personal freedom, told from a truly unique perspective.

Film Synopses

50/50

Director, Screenwriter: James Banks; Producer: David Ellington
 Comedy Short, 2010, 28 minutes, Great Britain
 Saturday, April 2 (morning), George Eastman House

H I S

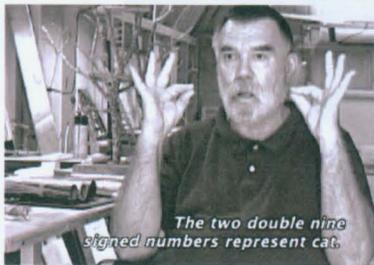


Andy Stein and Jez Stone are millionaires, they just haven't found the money yet. Broke and living in a battered van, Andy, (Deaf) clean-shaven and slightly obsessive shares this space with his messy, scam-creating best friend, Jez (Hearing). Just as things couldn't get worse, Jez dreams up the perfect get-rich-quick plan. Andy will be Britain's Top Deaf Psychic, but is it too much for Andy? A sweet, humorous tale of friendship, scams and speaking to the dead.

American De'VIA Artist: Chuck Baird and His Journey

Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Tracey Salaway
 Documentary, 2010, 47 minutes, USA
 Sunday, April 3 (morning), George Eastman House

D A S



Starting as early as the 1950s, there have been social and cultural changes happening in the Deaf world. Chuck Baird, one of the founding members of the De'VIA art movement, describes his journey of how he struggled with his Deaf identity until he completed his commissioned works.

Breathing Underwater

Director, Screenwriter: Jillian Felsburg
 Short Drama, 2011, 11 minutes, USA
 Saturday, April 2 (evening), Panara Theatre at NTID

D S



A young woman by the name of Sarah has cochlear implants. Life proceeds normally around her when activated and used. One morning, Sarah's bumblesome, yet lovable dog gets hold of the devices. Needless to say, an experience unfolds; will pearls of wisdom be gleaned?

Catch Santa

Director, Screenwriter: Kamau Buchanan; Producer: Brian Milburn, Romeal Hogan
 Comedy, 2010, 27 minutes, USA
 Saturday, April 2 (evening), Panara Theatre at NTID

S A S



Two hearing robbers decide to play the Grinch and rob a deaf family's house of Christmas presents, thinking it would be easy. However, their plot to steal Christmas gets foiled by an overenthusiastic little boy trying to catch Santa on candid camera and hilarity ensues.

Coming Home

Director: Louis Neethling; Screenwriter: Rebecca Atkinson; Producer: David Horbury
 Drama, 2009, 27 minutes, United Kingdom
 Saturday, April 2 (morning), George Eastman House

S H I S



Mark, a young deaf man, adopted by hearing parents, is determined to uncover the truth about his past but in doing so reveals a tragic family secret. Mark and his girlfriend, Kate, travel to Suffolk to find out about his birth mother. However, the atmosphere at his birth mother's cottage, flashes of recovered memory, the revelations of local people and, above all, the combination of beauty and menace in the huge skies and tidal rivers of the landscape – combine to create an environment in which the past crashes into the present.

DEAF: Hear Me

Director, Producer: Carol Duffy Clay
 Documentary, 2007, 38 minutes, India
 Saturday, April 2 (afternoon), George Eastman House

S H A I S



Deaf people in India face many challenges: Difficulties in education, discrimination, inequitable access, and limited job opportunities. This film follows the lives of several Deaf individuals and their families in Delhi – highlighting their experiences of getting an education, interacting at home, at work, and within their communities.

Deafhood - The Journey

Director: Paul Ososki

Dramatic short, 2010, 5 minutes, USA

Saturday, April 2 (evening), Panara Theatre at NTID

D H S



A story about a Deaf person on a journey discovering how American Sign Language can be part of your daily life and your identity as part of Deaf World. Made by Paul Ososki for a service-learning project for graduate school at Gallaudet University.

Deaf in Pink: 3 Day Breast Cancer Walk in San Diego

Director, Producer: Laura Harvey

Documentary, 2010, 24 minutes, USA

Sunday, April 3 (afternoon), George Eastman House

D A S



Follow along with seven deaf women as they come together, united in their desire to eradicate breast cancer. See the sights of San Diego with the women as the Susan G. Komen walk takes place throughout the city. Listen to their stories of bonding, feelings, and hopes as they stride their way towards their goal.

Departure Lounge

Director: Louis Neethling; Screenwriter: Charlie Winbourne; Producer: David Horbury

Short Drama, 2009, 29 minutes, Great Britain

Sunday, April 3 (afternoon), George Eastman House

D I S



Departure Lounge is a celebration of the friendship and deaf solidarity that develops between Sid, an ailing older man and Matt, a young hospital cleaner. Sid is angry, frightened and isolated. Neither his doctors nor his wife, Morag, seem able to help or comfort him. Matt, is also frightened and uncertain – he has a partner, Jill, and a baby, but Matt is running away from his responsibilities. It is their deafness that creates the initial bond between the two men.

Desolee - Sorry

Director, Screenwriter: Pamela Witcher
 Music Video, 2008, 4 minutes, Canada
 Saturday, April 2 (evening), Panara Theatre at NTID



Pamela Witcher's creation, Desolee – Sorry, weaves together a mixture of two languages, American Sign Language and Langues des signes Quebecoise. This abstract video of story telling allows individual viewers the room to have their own interpretation of this song.

An Experimental Clip

Producer, Director: Pamela Witcher; Songwriter: Luc Ledoux
 Music Video, 2008, 3 minutes, Canada
 Saturday, April 2 (evening), Panara Theatre at NTID



Challenge your mind through the silent rhythm of Pamela Witcher. This “music” video inspired fellow musician Luc Ledoux to create a soundtrack for the video. After a brief email interaction, the duo decided to merge their two art-works, forming a paradox that works. In this clip, it is possible to allow yourself to feel the music based on what you see, making the whole greater than the sum of its parts.

Fairytale of London Town

Director, Producer: Louis Neethling; Screenwriter: Rebecca Atkinson
 Drama, 2009, 27 minutes, United Kingdom
 Sunday, April 3 (afternoon), George Eastman House



A bittersweet modern day fairytale where three deaf women, Veronica, Karen, and Sally, face three different Christmas experiences until an unexpected event throws them together. Veronica is just out of prison, Sally's boys have left home, and Karen has to work through Christmas. What could they possibly have in common? A rediscovering of their past unites them through their past experiences at a deaf school. This ignites a yearning for more in their lives and leads them to take another chance on life.

Firework—by Katy Perry in ASL

Director, Producer: Jason Listman
 Music Video, 2011, 4 minutes, USA
 Saturday, April 2 (morning), George Eastman House

D A S



Direct from his Facebook fan page, "Just a deaf guy on a mission to show the world how American Sign Language videos should be." Jason Listman's first personal music video, an interpretation of Katy Perry's Song, "Firework." Upon hitting Youtube, this film gained over 30,000 views in less than a month.

Gallaudet

Director: Ryan Commerson, Wayne Betts; Producer: Dirksen Bauman
 Promotion, 2010, 8 minutes, USA
 Saturday, April 2 (morning), George Eastman House

D A S



A film that involved over 200 Gallaudet students, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators, board/associate members, and members of the community has been released to the public. Beginning with a black and white drawing on a sketchpad, this film distills the essence of Gallaudet into an 8-minute sojourn through its heart and soul.

Here and There

Director: Michael T. Cyr; Screenwriter: Dave Mason; Producer: Jeremy Wells
 Documentary, 2009, 30 minutes, Canada
 Saturday, April 2 (morning), George Eastman House

D A I S



In Here and There, Dr. Dave Mason talks about the relationship between the deaf community and educators, professions, politicians, and the media. He offers insights on how our system functions within and outside the critical field ranging from deaf infants to deaf adults, how the system has been complicating the quality of deaf life when it comes to promoting American Sign Language and Langue des signes quebecoise (LSQ) in Canada. Though these models are experienced by Canadians, similarities abound across all countries and cultures.

Inbounds

Director: Storm Smith; Screenwriter: Danielle Goyette
 Drama, 2011, 53 minutes, USA
 Saturday, April 2 (evening), Panara Theatre at NTID

D A S

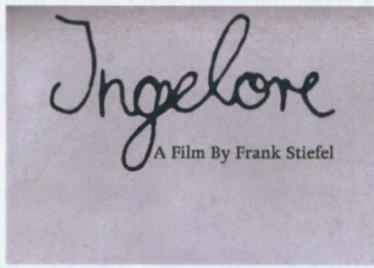


RJ is a newcomer on the basketball team and she has already has a rival, Maddy, on the same team. Both players share the same dream and goal, but only one gets the ball at the end of the game. Which girl will it be?

Ingelore

Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Frank Stiefel
 Documentary, 2009, 40 minutes, USA
 Sunday, April 3 (morning), George Eastman House

D A S



Ingelore Herz Honigstein is an 85-year-old deaf Jewish woman who did not speak a word until age 6, nor complete a sentence until 12. Born in Kuppenheim, Germany in 1924, Ingelore is her compelling account of a lonely and confusing childhood, played out against the terrifying rise to power of the Third Reich. After a brutal rape by Nazi cadets when she was a young teenager, her family vows to escape to America. The film, being a mix of first person narrative, archival footage and simple, understated re-enactments, is a remarkable and uplifting story of personal freedom, told from a truly unique perspective.

Just The Way You Are - by Bruno Mars in ASL

Director, Producer: Jason Listman
 Music Video, 2011, 4 minutes, USA
 Sunday, April 3 (afternoon), George Eastman House

D A



Jason Listman's nascent mission has already spawned legions of Youtube and Facebook fans, garnering over 13,000 views for this film in less than three weeks. A fan's quote direct from his Facebook fan page, "Sitting here with my 4 year old and he is making hand movements with you the 2nd and 3rd time we watched "Just the Way You Are". Very moving to see something that moves him the way it does me."

L'Enfance Sourde (The Deaf Childhood)

Director: Brigitte LeMaine

Documentary, 2008, 64 minutes, France

Saturday, April 2 (afternoon), George Eastman House

D I S



L'Enfance Sourde tells the story of Elsa, a nine year-old hearing girl of deaf parents. In the midst of Elsa's life is this constant duality between the hearing and the deaf. One day, she meets a movie director. This movie director has lived through the same thing as her and Elsa can finally confide her feelings of being a hearing child of a deaf father (sign language professor) and mother (a painter).

The Letter

Performing; Artist: Signmark (Marko Vuorheimo) Director: Sami Vuoriheimo

Music Video, 2011, 5 minutes, Finland

Sunday, April 3 (afternoon), George Eastman House

D I



This song is Signmark's most personal song and it was by far the hardest one on this album for it was very emotional. This song was made for the whole community, especially to Signmark's fan: Emma. The video is directed by Signmark's deaf brother, Sami Vuoriheimo and filmed by Darren Frazier. It had mostly a deaf crew putting it together and it has toured lots of Deaf film festivals around the world.

Marianna Ucrìa

Director: Roberto Faenza; Screenwriters: Roberto Faenza, Dacia Maraini, Francesco Marcucci, Sandro Petraglia; Producers: Vittorio Cecchi Gori, Elda Ferri, Rita Rusic
Drama, 1997, 108 minutes, Italy

Friday, April 1 (evening), Little Theatre

D I S



Marianna Ucrìa is an Italian film based on an acclaimed, well known historical novel by Dacia Maraini and showcases the adventures of a mute woman who strives to escape her dark past and social pressures that force her to remain married to a man she despises. The film features the renowned deaf actress Emmanuelle Laborit, an award winning actress who has claimed a Molière, the French theater's top award, for her performance in "Les Enfants du Silence," a French version of Mark Medoff's award-winning play "Children of a Lesser God."

Mitchell's Story

Director: Bridget Klein
 Documentary, 2009, 6 minutes, USA
 Saturday, April 2 (evening), Panara Theatre at NTID

D H A S



Mitchell's Story was a part of a film project to provide media for non-profit organizations that worked for social change in the D.C. area. For this project, Mitchell tells his story about being homeless and how his life was changed by the non-profit organization, Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place.

The Preservation of American Sign Language

Director: George Veditz
 Documentary, 1913, 14 minutes, USA
 Saturday, April 2 (afternoon), George Eastman House
 Saturday, April 2 (evening), Panara Theatre at NTID

D H A



Due to proponents of oralism at the (International Congress on Education of the Deaf) in Milan voting to ban sign language in education worldwide, the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) produced Preservation of Sign Language to preserve early American Sign Language on film from 1910 through 1920. Featuring George W. Veditz (NAD President at the time), Preservation of Sign Language is a film that was selected in December, 2010 to the National Film Registry at the Library of Congress due to its enduring significance to American culture.

Red Line

Director, Producer: Zilvinas Paludnevicus, James Caverly; Screenwriter: James Caverly
 Romance, 2010, 7 minutes, USA
 Saturday, April 2 (evening), Panara Theatre at NTID

D 1 1



As the recipients of the Best Student Short Film and the Best Student Mini-15 Film at the 2010 WORLDEAF Cinema Festival, Paludnevicus and Caverly take us on a journey of the most innocent kind of love: the kind that happens at first sight. Bashful boy and girl meet at the metro stop, and – something happens. Is it true love – or the end of the line?

The Rosebush

Director, Producer: Karen Christie, Patti Durr
 Short Subject, 2008, 5 minutes, USA
 Saturday, April 2 (morning), George Eastman House



The Rosebush, an original ASL poem by Ella Mae Lentz, is recited in entirety by Lentz in this short film. Filled with metaphors and historical references, the film examines the experiences of deaf signing communities within majority cultures.

Short on Time

Director, Screenwriter: Benjamin Mattingly; Producer: Jevon Whetter
 Short Drama, 2010, 19 minutes, USA
 Saturday, April 2 (afternoon), George Eastman House



When Edith (92) takes a final journey from the hospital to a hospice, she finds an unlikely friend in Howard (34,) the disenchanted orderly charged with delivering Edith to her destination. In retrospect, sometimes all you need is a little push.

Smells Like Victory

Performing; Artist: Signmark (Marko Vuoriheimo)
 Music Video, 2009, 5 minutes, Finland
 Saturday, April 2 (evening), Panara Theatre at NTID

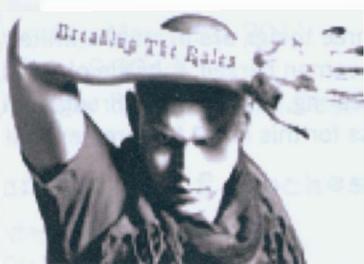


This song got its inspiration from the Deaf Olympics and sports in general. However, during the process and development of the song, the theme was broadened. It's about having a party and feeling victorious after wining a battle. Signmark, as an artist, is saying I made it against all the odds.

Speakerbox

Performing; Artist: Signmark (Marko Vuorheimo)
 Music Video, 2008, 3 minutes, Finland
 Saturday, April 2 (evening), Panara Theatre at NTID

D H I



Speakerbox is a song made for the Eurovision song contest. It was a collaboration with a very talented Finnish musician, Osmo Ikonen. This song acted as an introduction of Signmark for the hearing audience and was a kick-start for Signmark's career as an equal artist. In the music video the director wanted to try out very fast cuts and experimented on the second verse with a new way of visualizing Sign Language.

Verkannte Menschen (Misjudged People)

Director: Wilhelm Ballier
 Documentary, 1932, 32 minutes, Germany
 Sunday, April 3 (morning), George Eastman House

H S



This documentary explores the everyday lives of deaf people during the 1930s and how these individuals experienced school and work. With the objective of drawing attention to deaf people, this film portrays how deaf people were misunderstood in society. Following the July 1933 passing of the Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases, this film was banned in 1934 by the Reich Ministry for Propaganda and Education of the Masses.

Vivacious Fuela

Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Igor Djenge
 Short Subject Drama, 2011, 12 minutes, USA
 Saturday, April 2 (evening), Panara Theatre at NTID

D S



As a young woman in search of acceptance and love, Fuela faces obstacles along the way in her life, beginning from a young age. While Fuela carries the weight of the world on her shoulders, her brother's refusal to learn sign language exacerbates her problems. After a life-changing event occurs, prevailing attitudes are challenged.

Where am I? I am hEAR

Director, Producer: Kyla Ciranni

Artistic Short, 2010, 5 minutes, USA

Saturday, April 2 (evening), Panara Theatre at NTID

D



An art film of which three things are in play: A white room, jars of paint, and the woman herself. A battle of two cultural identities, Deaf and Hearing, is portrayed through editing prose and a willingness for this artist to bare her soul for all to see.

World Deaf Women Day

Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Mook Badhir Mahdal, Rajesh Ketkar

Short Promo, 2011, 4 minutes, India

Sunday, April 3 (afternoon), George Eastman House

D I



A show of solidarity worldwide is shown in a quick video conversation made by two deaf women in their efforts to unite all women as one. In watching this film, over 250 women's thoughts changed and as a result, felt inspired and motivated. While this video was made in India, World Women's Day has inspired many groups of women across the globe to unify under the idea of women's rights and fair treatment.

The Deaf Filmmaker Website is a networking and resource tool to assist you in finding other people involved in the Deaf Film world. There is a directory where you can add yourself by filling out the form on this website:

<http://www-staging.rit.edu/ntid/deaffilm>

Please spread the word/sign about this resource!

Purple®

JrDRFF

Junior Deaf Rochester Film Festival '11 Screenings

Thursday, March 31, 2011

7:00pm–9:30pm

Rochester School for the Deaf

Junior Deaf Rochester Film Festival '11 Workshops

Friday, April 1, 2011

9:00am–3:00pm

RIT ASL & Deaf Studies Community Center

About the JrDRFF

Junior Deaf Rochester Film Festival (JrDRFF) offers high school students the incredible opportunity to experience a balance of education and entertainment from workshops, presentations, and panel discussions with esteemed filmmakers that Deaf Rochester Film Festival presents.

This extraordinary program showcases films, with a selection of documentary, narrative, and dramatic films, that are selected by the Deaf Rochester Film Festival '11 Screening Committee to provide ample opportunities for students to explore the medium of film as entertainment and as a powerful tool for raising awareness of issues that affect our students. Rigorous attention was given to ensure films that contain appropriate content and issues our age group deals with today.

As part of Deaf Rochester Film Festival's dedication to the discovery and development of independent artists and our commitment to local community involvement, we invite the entire Rochester community to discover and enjoy our distinguished artists' presentations between screenings with our high school students and their families at Rochester School for the Deaf on March 31, 2011. The JrDRFF workshops on Friday, April 1, 2011 is another exciting opportunity for the students to fully immerse in the festival's most celebrated gathering of the independent film community!

Thank you to JrDRFF Volunteers

Nick Giagios

Jeff Pratt

Chris Cuculick

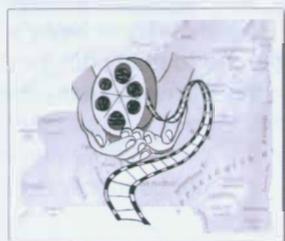
Carolyn Demko

Vicky Gutierrez

Barbara DiGiovanni

Junior Class of 2012

Senior Class of 2011



The JrDRFF logo was created as a joint venture by Heather Smith and Loriann Macko. The goal was to visually demonstrate the desire of DRFF to nurture and promote young deaf film makers on their "journey" towards making films. DRFF is proud to be involved with this second year of JrDRFF!



Forums

Emmanuelle Laborit: Discussion



A recipient of the prestigious Molière award for best actress in her role in *Les Enfants du Silence* (the French version of *Children of a Lesser God*), Laborit comes to DRFF '11 from Paris, France with a wealth of knowledge. During her presentation at DRFF '11, Laborit will talk about her numerous experiences of being an actress in a wide range of films and plays, as well as her experiences of being the director and main star of IVT (International Visual Theatre). This presentation promises to be a very exciting one as it will demonstrate the parallels between American and European cultures, as well as how the battle

for needing to bridge communication between deaf and hearing people still continues on in the 21st century.

Frank Stiefel & Ingelore Herz Honigstein: What is the Story?



Before you spend a moment thinking of any of the crafts of film making; directing, editing, cinematography, special effects, sound and music; you have to think about the "story." What is the story? How can I tell it in the clearest way possible? How can I lead the audience to the emotional beats of the story? How can I use the various crafts in service to the story telling? We will explore the thinking behind the decisions that led to the making of *Ingelore*.

Howard Rosenblum: The Importance of George Veditz's Film



Deaf culture contradicts the widely-held beliefs of hearing people that culture cannot be created as a result of being an imperfect human being. To be considered normal is to have all your mental and physical faculties, which also includes the ability to hear and speak. Over time, deaf culture has quietly developed and endured challenges, oppression but also achieved and overcome throughout the annals of history. One lasting symbol of Deaf Culture is former NAD President George Veditz's film made in 1913, "*Preservation of Sign Language*." Chosen from over two thousand films for

2010's top 25 Film Registry, "*Preservation*" is now registered for all posterity.

Howard Rosenblum, incoming CEO of National Association of the Deaf (NAD,) expounds on the meaning of this film and its importance to deaf individuals' and their culture. Almost one hundred years old, "*Preservation*" was created at a time when the oralist movement was gaining steam in the education of hearing-impaired people. With sign language gaining rapid popularity in today's world along with a deeper understanding of what it means to be deaf being found in many different fields of knowledge, "*Preservation*" serves as a symbol of what is possible in today's world and tomorrow's time.

Dirksen Bauman & Wayne Betts, Jr.: Toward a Deaf Renaissance in Filmmaking



Long before the advent of film, sign language users communicated in a three-dimensional language of moving images and ideas. Now that technology has finally caught up with signed languages, questions arise: what sorts of innovations in film are to emerge from the fertile resource of sign language users? How can the cinematic-like syntax of signed languages open new possibilities in filmmaking? How can Deaf communities be at the forefront of the creation and use of visual media as a means of cross cultural communication and education?



This presentation will explore these questions, first by placing the relationship between signed languages and film in its historical, cultural and philosophical context. It will then invite the audience to see where we are now and where we are headed in the future: Toward a Deaf Renaissance in filmmaking.

Louis Neethling: Discussion



An acclaimed film director in Great Britain, Louis Neethling will be covering a range of topics. Having a long list of experiences including working with different agencies including BBC (British Broadcasting Company), Mutt and Jeff Pictures, and working as a freelancer, Louis will dive into several different topics. Touching on Filmmaking essentials, Mr. Neethling will speak about scripts, funding, finding a crew, preparation essentials, and more. Running along with this, personalizing film for a creator, Neethling will also talk about making and marketing films, a process including making sure a good script,

cast and crew, festivals, press kits, etcetera are all in place. Another topic covered is sign language and Deaf culture in film, including Neethling's anticipations and predictions for the industry from a deaf aspect. Time will be put aside for a question and answer period after the presentation. Happy Filmmaking!

Flavia Fleischer: Media Representations of Deaf People



On Thursday, March 31st, Ms. Flavia Fleischer will be giving a twenty minute presentation as a part of Junior Deaf Rochester Film Festival. Believing that film is one of the most powerful media mediums in terms of its influence and impact on thinking patterns of our society, Flavia's presentation will explore how deaf people have been portrayed in the media and discuss film as one of the mediums. This will involve the exploration of sociopolitical issues in which Deaf people are embedded in and how this manifests through film. The rationale for the exploration is to establish the need for partnership with deaf

people in every aspect of film production to ascertain ethical portrayal. In addition to this, Flavia will also give a twenty minute debriefing and analysis of *Marianna Ucrìa* on Friday, April 1st as well as a live interview of Emmanuelle Laborit pertaining to her experiences during the filming of the aforementioned film.

Film Venues

The Little Theater

240 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14604

Artisan Works

565 Blossom Road, Suite L
Rochester, NY 14610

George Eastman House

Dryden Theater
900 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607

RIT Wallace Center

90 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623

Robert F. Panara Theatre at NTID

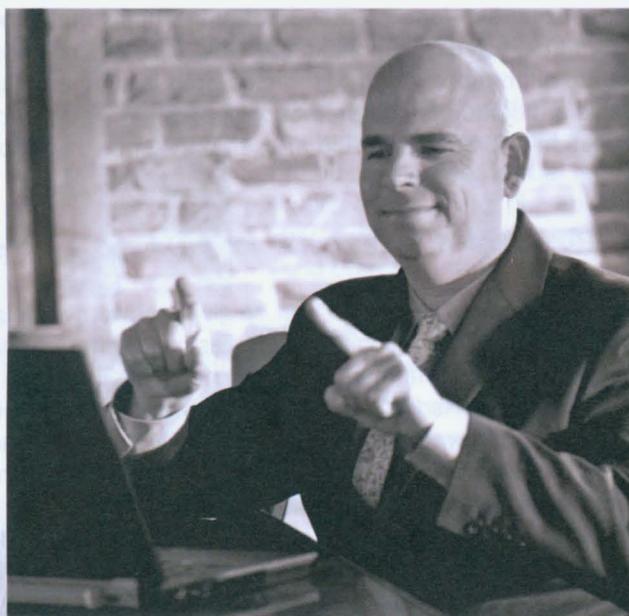
52 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623

RIT American Sign Language and Deaf Studies Community Center (RADSCC)

164 Lomb Memorial Drive
SAU Room 2530
Rochester, NY 14623

Rochester Deaf School

1545 St. Paul Street
Rochester, NY 14621



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 Lauren Bain: Volunteer Coordinator
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 Renee Postl: Contributor
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 David Spiecker: Editor

Volunteers

Acknowledgment of our wonderful volunteers is of utmost importance to us. DRFF would not be successful without the kindness of these volunteers. Many, many thanks to the individuals who have given their time and talent to DRFF '11. This year we also would like to pay special tribute to Ellie Rosenfield, DRFF's esteemed volunteer. Please look for "Ellie's Friends" (volunteers) during the film festival and thank them for their support to DRFF '11!

DRFF 2011 Design



The DRFF 2011 design was born from the concept of wanting to represent an "indie" and "low budget" feel... something tactile with hand-made elements and appearing as if it's something you could actually pick up and touch. We also wanted to honor ASL and other signed language in the design, thus the use of the sign for "movie" in the image. Design work was created from the joint efforts of Alicia Lane-Outlaw and Loriann Macko, with invaluable input from the DRFF board.

Festival at a Glance

Thursday, March 31, 2011

- 9:00am–3:00pm **Project Deaf Lights**
RIT ASL and Deaf Studies Community Center
- 7:00 pm–10:00pm **Junior Deaf Rochester Film Festival–Film Screenings**
Rochester School for the Deaf

Friday, April 1, 2011

- 9:00am–12:00pm **Roundtable discussion with Filmmakers**
RIT ASL and Deaf Studies Community Center
- 9:00am–3:00pm **Junior Deaf Rochester Film Festival workshops**
RIT ASL and Deaf Studies Community Center
- 1:00pm–1:30pm **Emmanuelle Laborit book signing**
Wallace Center at RIT
- 1:30pm–2:30pm **Deaf film posters & Deaf Film Collection by Newby Ely**
Wallace Center at RIT
- 2:30pm–4:00pm **Archives Exhibit and Reception**
Wallace Center at RIT
- 7:00pm–9:00pm **Marianna Ucria, feature film co-starring Emmanuele Laborit**
Little Theater
- 9:00pm–12:00am **Reception with Emmanuele Laborit**
Artisan Works

Saturday, April 2, 2011

- 9:00am–4:00pm **Film Screenings with Panel Discussions Part I**
George Eastman House
- 5:00pm– 7:00pm **Reception with Artists**
Dyer Art Gallery, NTID
- 7:00pm–10:30pm **College Night**
Panara Theater, NTID

Sunday, April 3, 2011

- 9:00am–12:00pm **Film Screenings with Panel Discussion Part II**
Ingelore, documentary film
George Eastman House
- 12:00pm–1:00pm **Awards Luncheon (for filmmakers only)**
George Eastman House
- 1:00pm–4:30pm **Film Screenings with Panel Discussion Part II (continued)**
George Eastman House