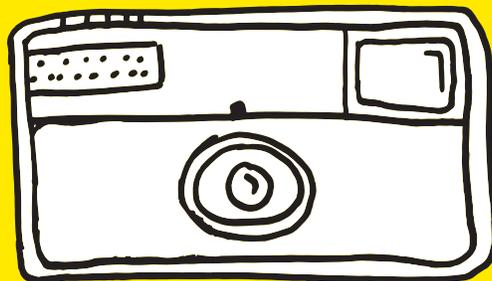


# Reframing the Deaf Lens

Deaf Rochester Film Festival  
March 22 - 25, 2017

Program Book

[www.DeafRocFilmFest.com](http://www.DeafRocFilmFest.com)



# ■ What's inside....

Deaf Rochester Film Festival 2017

**2**

Thanks to Partners &  
Sponsors

**4**

Where to Buy Tickets &  
Festival Pass

**6**

Messages from our  
Partners & Sponsors

**8**

Film Festival  
Committee Members

**10**

Film Festival Schedule  
at a Glance

**12**

Wednesday March 22  
Program

**14**

Thursday March 23  
Program

**16**

Friday March 24  
Program

**21**

Saturday March 25  
Program

**27**

Workshops

**29**

Presenter Biographies

**32**

Acknowledgments

This program book was designed by Meeya Tjiang  
a CIAS student majoring in Graphic Design at RIT.  
[www.meeyamtjiang.com](http://www.meeyamtjiang.com)

# Thanks to our festival partners:

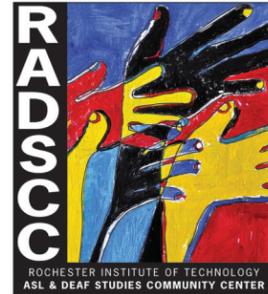


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# Where to Buy Tickets & Festival Pass

**Online:** Tickets and passes may be ordered online until midnight the night before each event at DeafRocFilmFest.com. Tickets can be purchased at door one hour before each event.

**To Purchase tickets:** For each event, click Tickets button, then select your ticket type and your desired quantity. Follow the prompts to checkout. You may print your tickets at home or show your tickets on your smartphone to gain entry at each event

---

## Ticket Options/Film Festival Venues

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017, 12-5 PM. SHORT FILMS** at the Rochester Recreation Club for the Deaf (RRCD), 1564 Lyell Avenue, Rochester, NY. \$5 for RRCD members and \$10 general audience.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017, 7-10 PM. Jr. DRFF FILMS** at the Rochester School for the Deaf, Westervelt Building, 1545 St. Paul Street, Rochester, NY. \$5 for non-participating students and family members and \$10 for general audience.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017, 1-5 PM. INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS** at University of Rochester, Hubbell Auditorium, Hutchison Building, 500 Joseph C. Wilson Blvd, Rochester, NY. \$10 students with college ID and \$15 for general audience.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017, 6-9:15 PM. BEST OF DRFF FILMS** at the Little Theatre, 240 East Avenue, Rochester, NY. \$25.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017, 9:15PM-12 AM. RECEPTION** Celebrate with the Filmmakers at Spot Coffee, 200 East Avenue, Rochester, NY. \$20.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017, 9 AM-4:15 PM. WORKSHOPS** at RIT ASL & Deaf Studies Community Center (RASDCC), Wallace Library, RIT, One Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY. \$10 for students with college ID and \$20 for general audience.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017, 5-7 PM. RECEPTION/FILMS** Meet the Filmmakers at the Dyer Arts Center, NTID, 52 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY. \$20.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017, 7-11 PM. ELEVEN FILMS/PRESENTATION** at the Panara Theatre, NTID, 52 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY. FREE ADMISSION!

**FESTIVAL PASS \$100.** A festival pass guarantees you space/seating to all events, including workshops and receptions. Come to events 15 minutes early for the best seating.

# Welcome

Welcome to the fifth Deaf Rochester Film Festival! This festival was made possible through the collaborative power of the big four in the Rochester area: the Rochester Recreation Club for the Deaf, the Rochester School for the Deaf, the University of Rochester's ASL Program and – last but not least – the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. The synergy between organizations in Rochester is what makes this film festival a success.

One new element this year is our collaborative hosting of the opening series of films with the Rochester Recreation Club for the Deaf. During their regularly scheduled Deaf Elders Around Rochester's (DEAR) activities on Wednesday, the opening films are intended to appeal to general audiences, with a line-up that includes comedy and romance.

We hope to repeat our success with previous Jr. DRFF events at the Rochester School for the Deaf, where on Thursday evening this year's films will showcase amazing talent from young filmmakers around the country. We are honored that the esteemed filmmaker Louis Neethling will join us to create a web series with students at RSD, reflecting current trends in Deaf Cinema and at other presentations throughout the film festival.

A new venue this year is the University of Rochester. Working with the UR ASL program, we will screen international shorts on Friday afternoon. On Friday evening, keeping with tradition, we will showcase the best of our films at the Little Theatre, followed by a reception at Spot Coffee. Storm Smith and Jules Dameron, both amazing Deaf Women in Film, will be joining us during Friday's festivities.

On Saturday we will feature workshops by professionals who are well respected in the field of Deaf Film and Theatre at RADSCC (RIT ASL and Deaf Studies Community Center), at RIT Wallace Library. After these workshops we have a reception at the Dyer Arts Center where the audience can mingle with the filmmakers.

And finally, on Saturday evening we are opening the Panara Theatre to all, with free admission, to view films we think would appeal to the under 40 crowd. As you can see, we hope to have something for everyone!

This year's theme, Reframing the Deaf Lens, guided us to select films we believe represent stories told through the Deaf gaze. Now more than ever, Deaf people in cinema are creating and producing films, rather than being passive participants in other people's work. The quality of Deaf filmmaking has never been better! During the festival, please feel free to contribute to the ongoing discussion of characteristics of films with a Deaf Lens.

We hope that our choice of films – in their marvelous variety of genres, perspectives, and styles – will inspire future generations of Deaf filmmakers.

Thank you for joining us in this celebration of Deaf cinema. Thank you for your continued patronage of this festival!

Stacy Lawrence and Brenda Schertz, Festival Coordinators



# Messages from our Partners & Sponsors

As president of the Rochester Recreation Club for the Deaf (RRCD), I want to offer you a warm welcome to the 2017 Deaf Rochester Film Festival.

Rochester is a great place for Deaf people, who are considered fortunate to live in a city that has so much to offer. And RRCD is the heart of the Deaf Rochester Community! We call ourselves “Birds of a feather who flock together.” Our shared interests help us stay together in one community.

Our Club has numerous social activities. We have parties, go on picnics and excursions, and enjoy activities together with our friends and families. Enjoy the Rochester Deaf film Festival. And while you are in town, please stop by our Club. You will be welcome!

RRCD is located at 1564 Lyell Avenue, Rochester, NY. I am sure you will enjoy the friendships you make and renew here!

Visit us online at [www.RochesterDeafClub.com](http://www.RochesterDeafClub.com) or like us on Facebook.

Walter L. Genther  
President, RRCD



The University of Rochester ASL Program invites you to feast your eyes on this afternoon’s selection of international Deaf films. These movies give us a unique insight into the Deaf culture and language of South Korea, Spain, the UK, and more. What will you discover? Differences between signs? Similarities of the Deaf perspective?

We hope this rare opportunity to see Deaf productions made accessible through English captioning is an unforgettable experience.

Thank you to our UR ASL students for their wholehearted commitment to volunteer for this event and to our faculty for their support. From all of us at the University of Rochester ASL Program - enjoy the show!

Norma Tourangeau    Guillaume Chastel  
Co-directors, University of Rochester ASL Program



**University of Rochester  
ASL Program**

It is indeed my high honor to welcome one and all to Rochester School for the Deaf (RSD) for “Young Perceptions: Reframing the Deaf Lens” – The Junior Deaf Rochester Film Festival (Jr. DRFF).

Tonight, Deaf and Hard of Hearing middle school and high school students from across our great country will showcase their creativity, ingenuity, and originality as storytellers and filmmakers through short films they crafted. Whether students worked independently or collaboratively as a team, each resulting film is intended to move us to laugh or cry, lift our spirits, or stir our thoughts and emotions.

Congratulations to all of the budding, young Deaf and Hard of Hearing filmmakers who submitted their films for consideration. Each of you certainly challenged yourself and along the way likely learned something new about who you are and where you may see yourself in the future. You set goals and achieved them and tonight you proudly show your film in this Jr. DRFF World Premier event.

As they say in Hollywood – “Lights! Camera! Action!” Sit back and relax and enjoy this unique feast for the eyes, The Junior Deaf Rochester Film Festival here at RSD.

Best regards,  
Antony A. L. McLetchie  
RSD Superintendent and CEO



Greetings, DRFF attendees!

Rochester Institute of Technology and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf are pleased to be part of the Deaf Rochester Film Festival. This exciting event is a wonderful celebration of creativity in the film medium and of the Deaf heart, Deaf spirit and Deaf creativity that abounds throughout our diverse community.

I hope you will take the opportunity to participate in DRFF events on the RIT/NTID campus and enjoy our beautiful Dyer Arts Center, Panara Theatre and RIT ASL and Deaf Studies Community Center. I am sure you will find that the exhibits, films and panel discussions help to open even greater avenues of understanding and celebration of the abundant Deaf talent throughout the country and around the world.

Thank you to the DRFF organizers and volunteers for their tireless work to make this event such a success. On behalf of the RIT/NTID community, I extend best wishes for a successful and enjoyable festival.

Yours in Tiger Spirit,  
Gerard J. Buckley  
President, NTID  
Vice President and Dean, RIT

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# Film Festival Committee Members



Stacy Lawrence  
Co-Chair



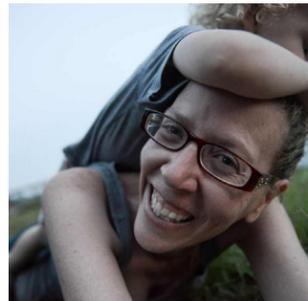
Brenda Schertz  
Co-Chair



Margaret Jennings  
Secretary



Patti Spiecker  
Treasurer



Cat Cassidy  
Social Media



Jenna Stewardson  
Social Media Assistant



Jeanne Behm  
Workshops



Rick Postl  
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Joan Naturale  
Films & Archives



Tabitha Jacques  
Venues & NTID Liaison



Karen Christie  
Editor



Lisa DeWindt Sommer  
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DJ Monahan  
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Susan Demers McLetchie  
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Isaiah Tyler  
Film Tech Editor



Sarah Margolis-Greenbaum  
Awards



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# Film Festival Schedule at a Glance

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017 12-5pm Film Shorts

Rochester Recreation Club for the Deaf  
1564 Lyell Avenue, Rochester, NY

- 12:00 PM Luncheon
- 12:45 PM Introductions
- 1:00 PM *Who Cares*  
*Four Deaf Yorkshiremen*  
*Still Here*
- 2:30 PM Q & A with Louis Neethling
- 3:00 PM *If I Don't Lose, I'll Lose*  
*Lost Community*  
*A Cake of Soap*  
*World War II: Unheard Memories*  
*Thin Lines*  
*The Kiss*

## THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017 5:30-10pm Jr. DRFF Competition

Rochester School for the Deaf  
Westervelt Building  
1545 St. Paul Street, Rochester, NY

- 5:30 PM Private Reception for students who have submitted their films and their families
- 7:00 PM Introductions
- 7:15 PM *Tree Fairy*  
*Are You For Real? Lady Meets Jack Frost*  
*Welcome to the Deaf World*  
*SuperSonic*  
*Chasing Cotton Clouds*  
and Jr. DRFF Student Submissions
- 9:15 PM Remarks from Louis Neethling and Storm Smith

## FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017 1-5pm International Shorts

University of Rochester  
Hubbell Auditorium, Hutchison Building,  
500 Joseph C. Wilson Blvd, Rochester, NY

- 1:00 PM Introductions, and Louis Neethling introduces his film.
- 1:10 PM *Shakespeare: Found in Translation*
- 2:00 PM *Honeymoon*  
*Our Basketball Dream*  
*Look At Me When I Talk to You*  
*Cuckoo's Teeth*  
*Copper*  
*Chasing Cotton Clouds*  
*Nonsense*  
*Four Deaf Yorkshiremen Go To Blackpool*

## FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017 6-9:15pm The Best of DRFF 2017

Little Theatre, 240 East Avenue, Rochester, NY

- 6:00 PM Introductions with Lance Pickett, Sorenson
- 6:10 PM *Power In Our Hands*  
*Exhibition of Loyalty*  
*Bellanca*
- 8:00 PM *Chris Fonseca, the Street Dancer*  
*Tick Tock*  
*Møkkakaffe : Episode #1*  
*Møkkakaffe : Episode #2*
- 9:00 PM Q & A with Jules Dameron

## FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017 9:15pm-12am Reception

Spot Coffee, 200 East Avenue, Rochester NY

## SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017 9am-4:15pm Workshops

RADSCC, Wallace Library, RIT,  
One Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY

- 9:00 AM Introductions to Workshops
- 9:10 AM Chantal Deguire: inVisible rEvolution: Through Deaf Eyes
- 10:15 AM Lance Pickett: Filmmaking with a Hole in Your Pocket
- 11:25 AM Miriam Nathan Lerner: Deaf Characters in Mainstream Films: Why are they there?
- 12:20 PM Lunch
- 1:05 PM Jules Dameron: History of #DeafTalent & Using It As A Tool
- 2:10 PM Catherine Joell MacKinnon: Independent Films to Studio Pictures
- 3:15 PM Aaron Kelstone: Theatre & Film: Potential for Deaf Performers: Past to Present

## SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017 5-7pm Reception & Films

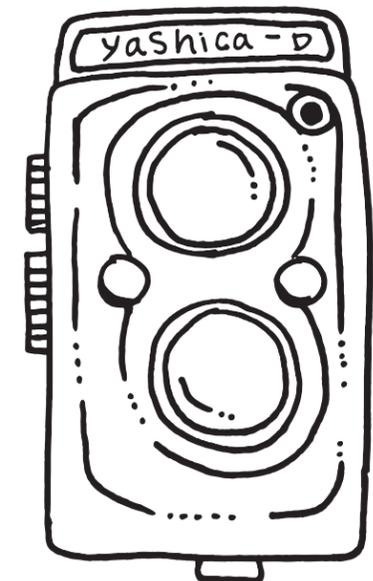
Dyer Arts Center, NTID  
52 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY

- 5:00 PM *Koda Twins*  
*The Big Decision*  
*Found*  
*I've Unplugged*  
*Metamorphosis: Reconnecting to Our Ecological Self*  
*Chasing Cotton Clouds*

## SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017 7-11pm Eleven Films & Presentation

Panara Theatre, NTID  
52 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY  
(Free Admission)

- 7:00 PM Introductions/Announcement of Award Winners
- 7:10 PM 4  
*Deaf Women Told Me*  
*Skating on Thin Ice*  
*Believe Me Now? Living With Usher's Syndrome*  
*Silent Life*
- 8:45 pm *Don't Shoot The Messenger*  
*To My Mute Muse*  
*Passengers*  
*Double Discrimination*  
*Dre's Powerful Story*
- 10:00 PM Storm Smith's Presentation on Social Justice
- 10:15 PM *Møkkakaffe : Episode #4*
- 10:35 PM Q & A with Jules Dameron



# Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Rochester Recreation Club for the Deaf, 12-5pm



## WHO CARES

**Director:** Camilla Arnold, United Kingdom, 2013, 28 min., documentary

In this film, we see three English elderly Deaf people who use British Sign Language as their method of communication, in their homes, at a social club or visiting their partner who is in residential care. We hear from them about issues connected with aging, isolation, loneliness and worrying about future care provision.



## FOUR DEAF YORKSHIREMEN

**Director:** Charlie Swinbourne, United Kingdom, 2007, 10 min., comedy

How hard was it to grow up Deaf? In this short film, four grumpy Deaf men compete to see who had the worst childhood, with a ten-pound prize for the 'winner'! Inspired by the Monty Python classic Four Yorkshiremen sketch, this film became a YouTube hit, making the actors famous across the world. Four Deaf Yorkshiremen was written and directed by the award-winning director of Coming Out, Charlie Swinbourne.



## STILL HERE

**Director:** Louis Neethling, United Kingdom, 2012, 27 min., drama / comedy

Friends and fellow Deaf club performers Les, Reg, Cyril and Ruby have been together for over 30 years. When Ruby falls ill, their lives are thrown into turmoil; she has been the one holding them together. As relationships are put to the test, the realization that they are no longer young adds to the stress. Les's son Paul is brought in to replace Ruby, but this may not be enough to save the group. This black comedy examines and celebrates friendship, ageing and change in the Deaf club community.



## IF I DON'T LOSE, I'LL LOSE

**Director:** Jean St. Clair, United Kingdom, 2014, 14 min., comedy

Mabel Morgan is an award-winning Deaf actress whose agent demands that she lose weight or face losing her next acting role to her rival, Bella Lazari, who uses only basic sign language. Myriad temptations threaten to throw her off course. Will she succeed?



## LOST COMMUNITY

**Director:** David Ellington, United Kingdom, 2014, 7 min., documentary

This moving documentary explores how members of Bristol's Centre for Deaf People feel about the closure of the club building. Featuring BSL interviews with Lorna Allsop, William Coyle and Betty Smith, this film reveals many of their memories of using the Deaf club from a young age, and they talk about why the club is so important to the local Deaf community. Filmed, edited and directed by David Ellington.



## A CAKE OF SOAP

**Director:** Emerson Romero, New York City, New York, 1938, 9 min., drama

In one of the first films to use sign language, made for Deaf audiences, a businessman and his companion take a walk in the park, then sit on a bench where they observe an old man eating his lunch. Later they meet a young man who shares his troubles, but the businessman suspects him of telling false stories. Adapted from the story Dusk by Saki and filmed by Ernest Marshall.



## WORLD WAR II: UNHEARD MEMORIES

**Director:** Angela Spielsinger, United Kingdom, 2014, 27 min., documentary

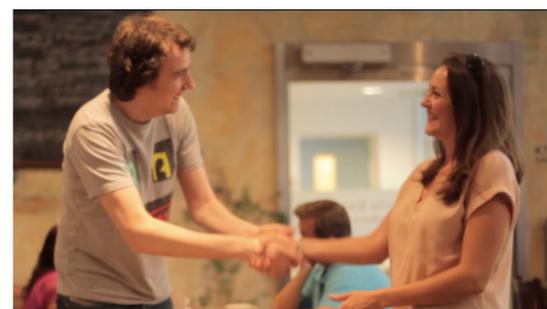
In the series World War II: Unheard Memories, Deaf people tell their previously untold stories of living in wartime Britain, in their own language, British Sign Language. In this episode, they tell how they felt when war was declared what it was like to live through the Blitz. The program was directed by Angela Spielsinger and produced by Camilla Arnold for Remark Media.



## THIN LINES

**Director:** Shaan Couture, USA, 2016, 36 min., romance

Leah's life seems meaningless, and she searches for fulfillment. Her life takes a surprising turn one night, when she crosses paths with Noah, a young Deaf man. Creative and cheerful, Noah's imagination and confidence engage Leah's curiosity. Sharing their respective passions – Noah's drawing and Leah's music – they move beyond their differences and enter each other's worlds and explore multiple paths to communication as they grow inseparable.



## THE KISS

**Director:** Charlie Swinbourne, United Kingdom, 2014, 7 min., comedy drama

A hearing couple on a first date encounter a Deaf couple in a cafe and things get both awkward and strange. Charlie Swinbourne both wrote and directed his award-winning comic short film.

# Thursday, March 23, 2017

Rochester School for the Deaf, 7-10pm



## TREE FAIRY

**Director:** Louis Neethling, United Kingdom, 2013, 25 min., comedy & drama  
Libby, a Deaf girl who feels left out at Christmas, is delighted when a magical fairy appears and tells her to make a wish. Will her wish be granted? Watch and find out! The Tree Fairy won Best Film, Best Director and Best Actress at Deaffest 2015.



## ARE YOU FOR REAL? LADY MEETS JACK FROST

**Director:** Randy Dunham, USA, 2015, 5 min., animation  
In a fantastic winter forest, a lady who has met Jack Frost has become unsure whether her experience is real or a dream. Her friends don't believe her. She then meets Jack again, and then...



## WELCOME TO THE DEAF WORLD

**Director:** William Horsefield, United Kingdom, 2014, 4 min., drama  
Tom, who has picked on Charlie for being Deaf, finds his own world changed overnight.



## SUPERSONIC

**Director:** Samuel Dore, United Kingdom, 2014, 30 min., drama  
Issac, who started going off the rails when his father left, years ago, has taken a local mechanic as a replacement father figure. Then his real father returns to reveal a startling secret.



## CHASING COTTON CLOUDS

**Director:** Samuel Dore, United Kingdom, 2011, 23 min., drama & fantasy  
A Deaf boy, grieving for his father, imagines and then builds a fantasy world to help him cope with his alienation. As he struggles at school and at home, can he find his way back from his creation of cardboard and glue to the real world? Featuring stunning animation that contrasts with a gritty inner-city setting, this film won Best Film at Deaffest 2011.

## Jr. DRFF Competition

The films listed here in alphabetical order will be shown in a different order.

### **Batman vs. Catwoman**, 2.12 min.

School: Rochester School for the Deaf  
Students: Isaac Perez, Chelsea Best and Susan Klein  
Teacher: Geno DiVincenzo

### **Bell's Ghost**, 4.5 min.

School: Rochester School for the Deaf  
Students: Emma Kane, Spencer Marchese-Ragona, Harrison Oliver, and Mariana Menzynski  
Teachers: Margaret Jennings and Michael Pachuiolo

### **The Choice**, 5 min.

School: Rochester School for the Deaf  
Students: McKenna Girod, Ailani Johnson, and Marlee Taylor  
Teachers: Margaret Jennings and Michael Pachuiolo

### **Deaf Bing**, 4.12 min.

School: Rochester School for the Deaf  
Students: Jack Williams, Mikalo Malone, Luke Marcus and Cody Campbell  
Teachers: Margaret Jennings and Michael Pachuiolo

### **The Deaf Mining**, 5 min.

School: Rochester School for the Deaf  
Students: Cayne Aggas, Tabitha Marcus, and Michael Cangialosi  
Teachers: Margaret Jennings and Michael Pachuiolo

### **Don't Be Alone**, 1:03 min.

School: California School for the Deaf, Fremont  
Student: Filmed and edited by Zahara Chauan.  
Actor: Samantha Medina-Vasquez.  
Teacher: Brian Morris

### **I Will Be Back**, 5 min.

School: Rochester School for the Deaf  
Student: Hunter Luther  
Teachers: Paul Kelly and Vicki Nordquist

### **Misinformed**, 5 min.

School: Rocky Mountain School for the Deaf  
Students: Daniel Cruz, Andi Keller, Amya Martinez, Kaydence Martinez, Marie Padilla, and Cassie Pepe  
Teacher: Barbara Wingfield

### **MVP**, 50 sec.

School: California School for the Deaf, Fremont  
Students: Wenke Young and Lemuel LeMaster  
Teacher: Brian Morris

### **My Trip to Hawaii**, 2.07 min

School: Rochester School for the Deaf  
Student: Thomas Coates  
Teachers: Paul Kelly and Vicki Nordquist

### **No Boys Allowed**, 3.00 min.

School: California School for the Deaf, Fremont  
Students: Zahra Chauhan, Ben Hart, Nancy Lopez Rivera, Samantha Medina-Vasquez, Liliana Ortiz, Nancy Lopez Rivera, Dalia Rizeq-Khateeb, and Jaron LeMaster, and Alexis Bravo Calvillo  
Teacher: Brian Morris

### **Spy vs. Spy, Deaf Edition**, 2.07 min.

School: Rochester School for the Deaf  
Students: Joshua Howell-Leyer, Avion Henderson, Mahamat Yacoub and Hunter Luther  
Teacher: Geno DiVincenzo

### **Videophone**, 1.01 min.

School: California School for the Deaf, Fremont  
Students: Wenke Young and Lemuel LeMaster  
Teacher: Brian Morris

### **The Virus**, 3.37 min.

School: California School for the Deaf, Fremont  
Students: Bodhi Amann, Miguel Sombbrero, Devan Vierra, Chang-May Tan, Daniel Fuentes, Landen Gonzales, and Eitan Kulchinsky  
Teacher: Clare Cassidy

# Friday, March 24, 2017

University of Rochester, Hubbell Auditorium, Hutchison Building, 1-5pm



## SHAKESPEARE: FOUND IN TRANSLATION

**Director:** Cathy Heffernan, United Kingdom, 2014 28 min., documentary  
Can Deaf theatre company, Deafinitely Theatre, translate William Shakespeare's play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* into sign language? This documentary covers the rehearsal period leading up to their performance at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London in June 2014, and includes interviews with the key people involved, including the company's Artistic Director Paula Garfield and members of the cast. This film was directed by Cathy Heffernan and produced by Louis Neethling for Mutt and Jeff Pictures.



## HONEYMOON

**Director:** Ronit Meranda, United Kingdom, 2016, 10 min., romance  
Lucy and Johanna are on their honeymoon. Johanna is partially Deaf and Lucy is profoundly Deaf. They arrive at a B&B where they are greeted by a sullen landlady. They are both annoyed with her demeanor, albeit on different levels. The nature of signing allows them to be carefree about quarrelling in public. A seemingly insignificant disagreement silently turns into a hurtful argument, as the noise of the weir dominates the background.



## OUR BASKETBALL DREAM

**Director:** Cheuk Ho Cheung, Hong Kong, 2016, 21 min., drama  
Lam Tung Ching desperately wants to join the Asia Deaf Basketball Competition but struggles to because of his knee injury. Then one day he meets Yi, who is new.



## LOOK AT ME WHEN I TALK TO YOU

**Director:** Patricia Fernandez, Spain, 2016, 13 min., comedy  
Four roommates show us how they co-exist; through them we can discover some details about Deaf culture.



## CUCKOO'S TEETH

**Director:** Patricia Fernandez, Spain, 2016, 17 min., action  
Two brothers, neither too bright, mess up an errand to deliver money to a gangster. The gangster makes it clear he wants his money- or else! The brothers come up with a plan to replace the missing money. But their plan makes things much, much worse.



## COPPER

**Director:** Jack O'Donnell, New Zealand, 2014, 11 min., drama  
Matthew discovers a copper statue in the park. His mother won't let him near it. His father hasn't learnt sign language. The family struggles to communicate. This curious deaf boy's life changes when he meets a living statue.



## CHASING COTTON CLOUDS

**Director:** Samuel Dore, United Kingdom, 2011, 23 min., fantasy/drama  
A Deaf boy, grieving for his father, imagines and then builds a fantasy world to help him cope with his alientation. As he struggles at school and at home, can he find his way back from his creation of cardboard and glue to the real world? Featuring stunning animation that contrasts with a gritty inner-city setting, this film won Best Film at Deaffest 2011.

# Friday, March 24, 2017

University of Rochester, Hubbell Auditorium, Hutchison Building, 1-5pm



## NONSENSE

**Director:** Max Clendaniel, United Kingdom, 2016, 10 min., comedy & sci-fi

Born without the senses of sight, sound, smell, taste and touch, Richard has always lived his life in fear. But when he buys an experimental kit that will allow him human senses for the first time, the only thing he'll have to worry about is his selfish roommate.



## FOUR DEAF YORKSHIREMEN GO TO BLACKPOOL

**Director:** Charlie Swinbourne, United Kingdom, 2013, 29 min., comedy

Four grumpy old Deaf men travel to Blackpool for an annual Deaf event. But when they meet a group of young Deaf men, things start to go wrong. Can the old and young men find a way to get on? This film was written and directed by Charlie Swinbourne, and produced by Louis Neethling for Mutt and Jeff Pictures.

# Friday, March 24, 2017

Little Theatre, 6-9:15pm



## POWER IN OUR HANDS

**Director:** Lisanne Holly, United Kingdom, 2015, 1 hour & 15 min., historical documentary

This film is part of the British Deaf Association's (BDA) Heritage project, featuring rare archival footage and modern interviews: From the social scenes of the 1930s to the 2000 march to recognize BSL, this documentary provides a glimpse into Deaf culture, which is mostly hidden from the hearing world. The documentary was produced by Flashing Lights Media.



## EXHIBITION OF LOYALTY

**Director:** Tony Fowler, USA, 2016, 6 min., action, adventure, animation

The Exhibitor is stressed by the need to solve the problems in his nightmare. He faces challenges to return to reality. His symbolic character is a reflection of his emotional state of mind. At the end, he reinvents himself as a whole new person by restructuring his way of thinking and being loyal to himself and others.



## BELLANCA

**Director:** Victor Nores, Spain, 2016, 17 min., family drama

Dad is DeafBlind and he helps me with my homework. He reads me fairy tales, plays hide and seek with me, takes me to school, and is a good cook. Close your eyes and imagine that you will never get to open them again. Now imagine that as time passes, you lose the ability to hear sounds. How would your life change? Bellanca is the story of a very special girl who helps her father cope with Usher's Syndrome, a disease that affects both hearing and vision.

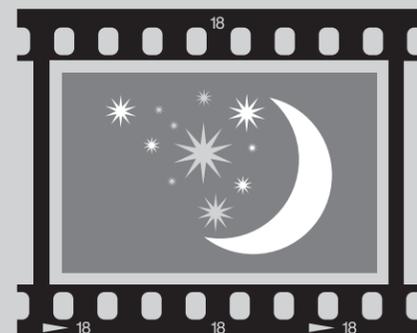
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# Friday, March 24, 2017

Little Theatre, 6-9:15pm



## CHRIS FONSECA, THE STREET DANCER

**Director:** Bim Ajadi, United Kingdom, 2014, 10 min., documentary

This short film follows the struggles of a rising, talented Deaf street dancer, Chris Fonseca. A quiet young man with sheer grit and determination, he tells the inspirational story of following his dreams. This documentary was shot and directed by Bim Ajadi, who was commissioned by the BBC 'See Hear' program as part of Black History Month in 2014.



## TICK TOCK

**Director:** Ian Sanborn, USA, 2017, 5 min., ASL music

The tick tock comes from the work of the clock. A Deaf person was taught how to pronounce tick tock by a speech therapist, forced to be a hearing person as the clock ticks. But the Deaf person's heart truly thrives in visual ways and he grabs the clock to transform everything that is about sound into the wonders of sign language and visual rhythm. This Deaf person then owns the tick tock that no speech therapist can take away.



## MØKKAKAFFE: Episodes 1 & 2

**Director:** Jules Dameron, Norway, 2014, 20 min. each, drama and comedy. Created by screenwriter Erik Call and directed by Jules Dameron Møkkakaffe tells the story of two families — one Deaf and one Hearing — who collide in the wake of a mysterious car accident that leaves two of their loved ones comatose. Døves Media produced the 7-episode primetime miniseries for NRK, Norway's prestigious public television network. Møkkakaffe aired weekly on NRK1 beginning in November 2013 and streamed internationally with English subtitles for a month starting in December. (Episode #3 will be shown at Jules Dameron's Workshop at RADSCC on Saturday, at Wallace Center, RIT and Episode #4 will be shown at Panara Theatre, NTID on Saturday evening.)

# Saturday, March 25, 2017

Dyer Arts Center, NTID, 5-7pm



## KODA TWINS

**Director:** Branik Keltz, USA, 2016, 14 min., documentary

This film documents the acquisition of language by twin toddlers who are children of Deaf adults (CODAs). It was assumed that their first language would be Spoken English because of their hearing status. Jazmina and Izabella instead acquired American Sign Language (ASL) as their first language, while Spoken English is their second language. The film shows how their expressive and receptive skills have changed over the course of their early years.



## THE BIG DECISION

**Director:** John Finn (Neath Films), United Kingdom, 2014, 13 min., documentary

The Big Decision is a personal documentary that follows director John Finn and his family as they decide whether to give their daughter a cochlear implant.



## I'VE UNPLUGGED

**Director:** Stephanie Brasey, Switzerland, 2015, 27 min., documentary

Thirty years ago, cochlear implants were revolutionary in the treatment of deafness. Now that it has become clear that implants do not work for all Deaf people, some have decided to simply stop using them. They have unplugged! In this film we meet four Deaf people who made the choice to use sign language and claim their Deaf identity.

# Saturday, March 25, 2017

Dyer Arts Center, NTID, 5-7pm



## FOUND

**Director:** Charlie Swinbourne, United Kingdom, 2015, 28 min., documentary

Three Deaf people tell us about the discovery of the Deaf world. Their stories include school, learning sign language, and their relationships with their families and friends. This film was produced and directed by Charlie Swinbourne for Juggle Productions.



## METAMORPHOSIS: RECONNECTING TO OUR ECOLOGICAL SELF

**Director:** Hannah Wheatcroft, USA, 2016, 3 min., experimental

This short film captures the visual sounds that we experience in our everyday lives, challenging the concept of sound. This exploration also takes you through the visual sensations of my relationship with the natural world. Our society has grown apart and away from the natural world. We fear our own mother earth and we run away with distractions pretending we can take control of our fears. Creating this film gives me the opportunity to return to my ecological self, recognizing myself as a part of the natural world.



## CHASING COTTON CLOUDS

**Director:** Samuel Dore, United Kingdom, 2011, 23 min., fantasy/drama

A Deaf boy, grieving for his father, imagines and then builds a fantasy world to help him cope with his alienation. As he struggles at school and at home, can he find his way back from his creation of cardboard and glue to the real world? Featuring stunning animation that contrasts with a gritty inner-city setting, this film won Best Film at Deaffest 2011.

# Saturday, March 25, 2017

Panara Theatre, NTID, 7-11pm



## 4

**Director:** Bim Ajadi, United Kingdom, 2015, 6 min., suspense

In the confines of his disheveled studio apartment, an agoraphobic young man finds himself challenged to a game of connect 4. However, it soon becomes apparent that this is no ordinary version of the parlor game that we are watching. What was designed for recreation has now become an obsessive addiction. For him, losing is no longer an option. But are the odds stacked against him and the stakes too high? "Every move counts, but for some people things don't always fall into place."



## DEAF WOMEN TOLD ME

**Director:** Marie-Andrée Boivin, Canada, 2015, 56 min., documentary

It's usually hearing people who produce research, books, movies about Deaf people. If given the opportunity, what would Deaf people say about their lives, feelings and experiences? I am a Deaf woman, yet Deaf history has not been told to me. I met a number of Deaf women and asked them to tell me their life stories. This generation of Deaf women from Quebec all know each other. They share a common history and a common language. They have told me their stories and through my film I'm sharing their stories with you.



## SKATING ON THIN ICE

**Director:** Tony Fowler, USA, 2016, 5 min., action, adventure, animation

PennyFarMan journeys to Brittlesaw Lake to find magic to restore his full range of hearing, but consequences follow as he learns to accept himself as he is.

# Saturday, March 25, 2017

Panara Theatre, NTID, 7-11pm



iving up the hill, understand, my best friend wasn't\_\_\_\_\_

## BELIEVE ME NOW? LIVING WITH USHER'S SYNDROME

**Director:** Matthew Ward, USA, 2015, 1 min., documentary

This film was created to answer the question, "What is it like to live with Usher's Syndrome?"



in the darkness of empty solitude.

## SILENT LIFE

**Director:** Theodore Dorsette III, USA, 2014, 20 min., drama

A young man named Teddy struggles to find a balance between two worlds -- hearing and Deaf. He is an aspiring student who braves the hearing world to shatter barriers and find his journey as a man. Along the way, he meets a hearing girl named Isabel. She holds his heart, only to shatter it and betray him. Along the way he gets advice and learns things from hearing and Deaf people alike. The ending shows his final choice of who to be and how he wants to live.



## DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER

**Director:** Craig Fogel, USA, 2016, 9 min., comedy

Jacob, a klutzy sign language interpreter, fumbles through life hopelessly lost in translation. Although he's fluent in two languages, both his personal and professional lives are riddled with ridiculous misunderstandings. He constantly finds himself in awkward situations he can't make sense of with Deaf and hearing New Yorkers. Maleni Chaitoo and Craig Fogel, executive producers, play a Deaf woman of color and a hearing interpreter. This episode of the web-based series has been directed by Deaf women (Jules Dameron and Alexandria Wailes).



## TO MY MUTE MUSE

**Director:** Eric Epstein, USA, 2017, 37 seconds, poetry

This short ASL poem is about a Deaf poet interacting with Alice Cogswell.



## PASSENGERS

**Director:** Dickie Hearts, USA, 2015, 5 min., comedy

Passengers is a romantic comedy about a charming, young driver who gets pleasantly surprised by his last fare of the day. It was written and directed by Deaf In Film Actor/Activist Dickie Hearts, with a DWIF/DIF team.



## DOUBLE DISCRIMINATION

**Director:** Rinkoo Barpaga, United Kingdom, 2014, 27 min., documentary

In Double Discrimination, Rinkoo Barpaga investigates Deaf people's experiences of racism, featuring leading figures in the Deaf community. This is Barpaga's first documentary, and it was made as part of the BSL Zone's (British Sign Language) filmmaking scheme, Zoom Focus 2014. This film was produced by Neath Films.

# Saturday, March 25, 2017

Panara Theatre, NTID, 7-11pm



## DRE'S POWERFUL STORY

**Director:** Jules Dameron, USA, 2016, 11 min., documentary

Dre's Powerful Story is about a Deaf woman's traumatic experience. After attending a party, she didn't feel well. Later, she realized what had happened. Today, she is raising beautiful twin girls.



## MØKKAKAFFE: Episode #4

**Director:** Jules Dameron, Norway, 2014, 20 min., drama & comedy

Created by screenwriter Erik Call and directed by Jules Dameron, Møkkakaffe tells the story of two families — one Deaf and one Hearing — who collide in the wake of a mysterious car accident that leaves two of their loved ones comatose. Døves Media produced the 7-episode primetime miniseries for NRK, Norway's prestigious public television network. Møkkakaffe aired weekly on NRK1 beginning in November 2013 and streamed internationally with English subtitles for a month starting in December. (Episodes #1 and #2 will be shown on Friday evening at Little Theatre and Episode #3 will be shown at Jules Dameron's Workshop at RADSCC on Saturday afternoon, at the Wallace Center, RIT.)

# Workshops

Saturday, March 25, 9am - 4:15pm - RADSCC, Wallace Library, RIT

## inVisible rEvolution: Through Deaf Lens

**9:10am**

**Presenter:** Chantal Deguire

Inspired by the recent research on "Deaf Gain" that originated from both the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) and Gallaudet University (GU), this workshop questions the true differences between traditional filmmaking and the Deaf Lens. The lecture will bring heavy references from films made in the Deaf community including the documentary, currently in production, "inVisible rEvolution" that is sponsored by both the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) and Canada Arts Council (CAC). The focus of the workshop is to empower the community to think outside the box and to not fear breaking standards when it comes to cinematography techniques.

## Filmmaking with a Hole in Your Pocket

**10:15am**

**Presenter:** Lance Pickett

The greatest test of a filmmaker is telling a compelling story with almost nothing but his passion. This lecture/workshop will tear down the common financial excuse "I just don't have enough to make a film."

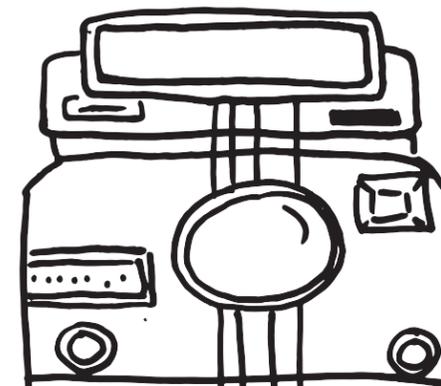
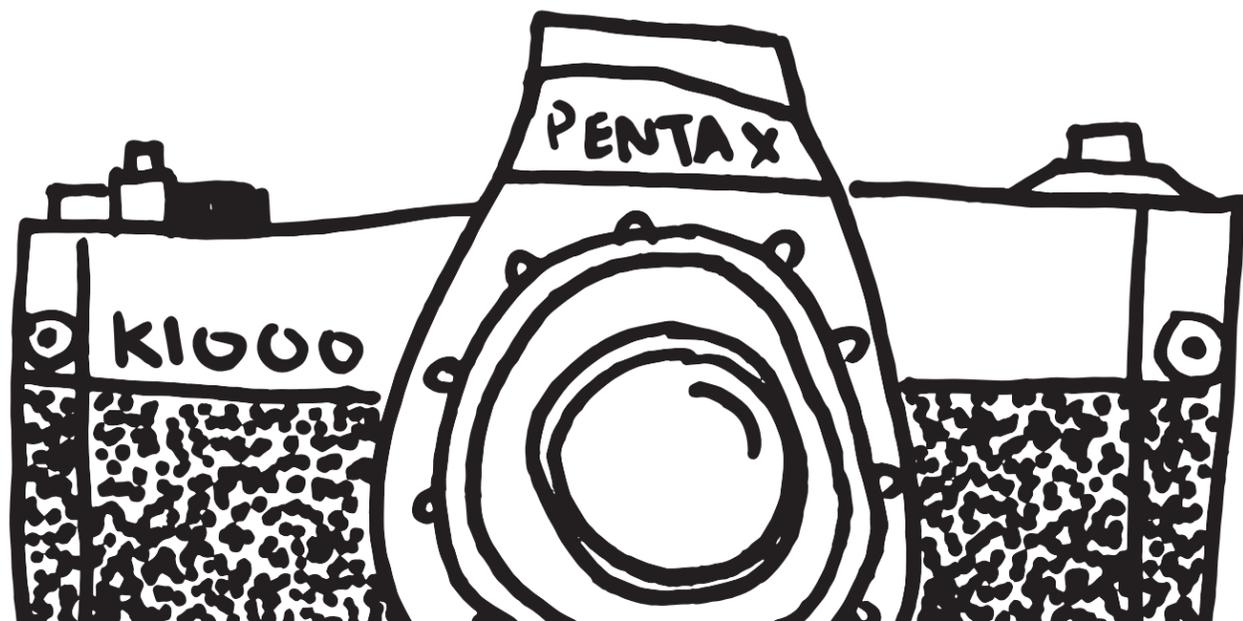
We will discuss real-world examples of filmmakers, both Deaf and Hearing, who have told great stories on a shoestring budget. We'll explore the minimum requirements for your next film, available equipment, how to fund it, and how to negotiate with crew and talent. Then, we discuss distribution options and how to deal with failures and successes. The goal of this workshop is to diminish all your fears and doubts about making your next film.

## Deaf Characters in Mainstream Films: Why are they there?

**11:25am**

**Presenter:** Miriam Nathan Lerner

This workshop presents clips from various Hollywood and foreign films that use Deaf characters for reasons other than educating the public about what it means to be Deaf. The various clips will demonstrate how either the idea of "Deaf" or the visual aspects of sign language are exploited to underscore or provide counterpoint to hearing characters in the film. Several captioned film clips will be screened and discussed. It's so much fun!



# Workshops

Saturday, March 25, 9am - 4:15pm - RADSCC, Wallace Library, RIT

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## The History of #DeafTalent & Using It as a Tool 1:05pm

**Presenter:** Jules Dameron

The true nature of the phenomenon known as #DeafTalent and why it is so important will be addressed in this workshop. Where did it come from and why is it crucial for people to see the value of #DeafTalent? Jules Dameron will outline the history of #DeafTalent and how it came to be. Hint: It didn't start in 2016--it began way before that. During the workshop, she also explains #DeafTalent as a movement, why it is crucial for Deaf/Hard of Hearing roles to be given to Deaf/Hard of Hearing actors, and how the Deaf community has embraced #DeafTalent. In addition, information will be provided concerning how you can use #DeafTalent as an actor or filmmaker for future job opportunities and how to find casting calls for Deaf/Hard of Hearing roles.

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## Independent Films to Studio Pictures 2:10pm

**Presenter:** Catherine Joell MacKinnon

The goal of this workshop is to promote a creative and critical thinking approach to getting our foot in the door whether working on independent films or studio pictures. It will address dealing with the film world hierarchy in an ever-evolving, fast-paced environment. Catherine will share her varied experiences in both Canada and the United States as a "director's apprentice", producer, production coordinator, ASL master/coach, continuity and actor. She will describe the challenges of working with the two different worlds of an executive producer and producer; navigating deaf and hearing productions; indie production investment and budgeting; music video productions, and how to work closely on a daily basis in a studio picture production with 165 people. She will address unionized and non-union working environments and the challenges of working on the set of a hearing production. As part of the workshop, questions will be presented to stimulate group discussion related to taking a deeper look at #DeafTalent, the role of social media, and the potential decline of Deaf Film festivals.

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## Theatre and Film: Potential for Deaf Performers from Past to Present 3:15pm

**Presenter:** Aaron Kelstone

Film and theatre often are seen as being different from one another, mutually exclusive, and serving different audiences. Yet, historically Deaf performers have worked between both mediums as a means of finding consistent opportunities to perform. Present day technologies offer new approaches for performances that may allow a more direct and interactive process for Deaf performers. In the past, content/stories created in one medium (film or theater) required separate funding, planning, and time to transition to the other medium. Current video recording technology, reduced costs, and more effective editing processes, coupled with the availability of new opportunities for presenting content offer interactive approaches that may benefit both film and theatre.

# Presenter Biographies



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## Jules Dameron

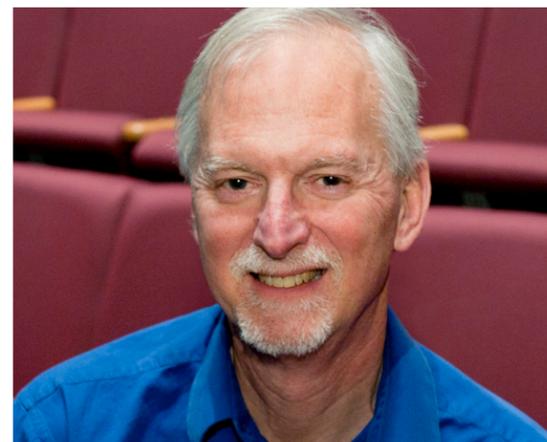
Jules Dameron is a professional film director who happens to be Deaf. Jules directed the seven episode Norwegian TV series, Møkkakaffe (Bad Coffee) which was shown nationwide in Norway on the NRK. Her directing laundry list includes: several episodes of the webseries Don't Shoot the Messenger; the provocative series Reverse Polarity featuring Spring Awakening stars, Amelia Hensley and Joshua Castille; and a horror comedy Crazy Town for which Jules won a Best Director award at the Mockfest in Los Angeles. Jules directed many song covers in American Sign Language using chiefly deaf talent. Jules has worked with Oscar-Winner Marlee Matlin (Children of a Lesser God), Sean Young (Blade Runner), Sean Berdy (Switched at Birth), among others. Everyone knows this about Jules: She can't stop working.



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## Chantal Deguire

Originally from Montréal, Canada, Chantal Deguire is a visual filmmaker who places importance on film experimentation, science and technology. She is the first and only Canadian Deaf filmmaker to have produced a sci fi feature film all in ASL. Chantal is a videomaker for 5S5 Visual Productions.



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## Aaron Kelstone

Aaron Kelstone is a Principal Lecturer at RIT/NTID in the Department of Cultural Creative Studies (DCCS) where teaching and interacting with students has enriched him as an artist, teacher, and individual for 16 years. Aaron has been involved in performing arts as an actor, director, playwright and artistic director with Cleveland Signstage Theatre. He has also been active in social services as the executive director of Valley Center of the Deaf in Phoenix, Arizona. Aaron lives in Rochester, NY with his wife Kim, two boys (Liam and Quinn) and an assortment of cats and fishes.

# Presenter Biographies



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## Miriam Nathan Lerner

Miriam Nathan Lerner has been a professional sign language interpreter since 1983. She is currently a proud member of the Liberal Arts Core Team in the Department of Access Services at NTID/RIT. She is married to Kenny Lerner of Flying Words Project, and together they have two sons. They live in Geneseo, NY, always with 2 dogs (although Miriam always lobbies to get a third....).



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## Catherine Joell MacKinnon

Catherine Joell MacKinnon is a director, producer, actress, ASL Master, Deaf Theatre Community Consultant and arts advocate who was named ACTRA's Woman of the Year in 2016. Catherine is a cofounder and Festival Director of the Toronto International Deaf Film and Arts Festival. Nominated as Best Canadian Student Director at the 2003 World Film Festival in Montreal, Catherine's short film, I'm Not From Here was screened internationally. In addition, Catherine co-produced the award-winning biopic The Hammer. Catherine performed in Vagina Monologues with Rachel McAdams. She can be seen in Kenny Vs Spenny, Season 5 and was featured in Voices of Chornobyl, a Deaf West Theater/Anataeus Theater production. Catherine's recent gig is as an ASL master/coach and continuity on Fargo, an Emmy and Golden Globe winning TV mini series shown on FX and FXX Canada.



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## Louis Neethling

Louis Neethling started his career as a children's presenter in the South African Broadcasting Corporation. After studying single and multi-camera directing, Louis eventually progressed into the role of director/executive producer of an independent South African production company that included a drama series called "Young and Speechless." He traveled to the UK to study at the National Film and Television School (NFTS) and later worked at the BBC as a director/assistant producer. Louis' production company, Mutt & Jeff Pictures, was established in 2007 and produces films and television in sign language. Louis' company has made award winning dramas and documentaries as well as one of the first sign language sitcoms in the world, Small World. In 2015, Louis directed Sweden's first-ever Deaf drama series.



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## Lance Pickett

Lance Pickett has been making short films since receiving his first camera when he was 15 years old. He studied every aspect of filmmaking during his High School, University, and professional years. He founded R.E.M. Films in 2005 from which he launched several award-winning short films such as The Blue Box, Soda That!, and Deaf vs Mafia. He has also produced hundreds of interviews, events, talks, commercials, and experimental films for various organizations such as Street Leverage. Lance has worked for Sorenson VRS for 13 years and is currently serving as the Vice President of Corporate Marketing. The Pickett family, which includes Lance's wife and three kids, is located in the Silicon Slopes area of Utah.



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## Storm Smith

Storm Smith is a "storm of all trades" whose role changes as whimsically as the weather. She is a filmmaker, visual storyteller, teacher, advocate and dynamic motivational speaker. Storm serves as Creative Video Producer for President Roberta J. Cordano of Gallaudet University. For her work in this position, she received the 2017 Outstanding Young Alumnus Award. Storm graduated with a BA degree in Psychology from Gallaudet University, and received a Master's Degree in Media Entrepreneurship from American University in 2016. Her notable works have included a commercial featured during Switched at Birth and the viral Gallaudet Inauguration video. Storm continues to be a vibrant role model for all people including Deaf people of color, Deaf Youth, and women. She exemplifies living a courageous creative life.

# Acknowledgments

## Deaf Rochester Film Festival 2017 wishes to thank the following:

Our amazing and the best ever DRFF committee members who contributed many hours to make this year's DRFF possible. In alphabetical order: Jeanne Behm, Workshops; Karen Christie, Editor/Archives; Cat Cassidy, Social Media/Filmmaker; Guillaume Chastel, University of Rochester Liaison; Susan Demers-McLetchie, Receptions; Tabitha Jacques, Venues and NTID Liaison; Margaret Jennings, Secretary and RSD Liaison; Sarah Margolis-Greenbaum, Awards; DJ Monahan, Volunteer coordinator; Joan Naturale, Films/Archives; Rick Postl, Public Relations; Lisa Sommer, Hospitality; Patti Spiecker, Treasurer; Jenna Stewardson, Social Media assistant; Carah Taylor, RSD Liaison; and Isaiah Tyler, Film/tech editor.

All the filmmakers who submitted their works to this festival.

Our presenters, in alphabetical order: Chantal Deguire, Jules Dameron, Aaron Kelstone, Miriam Nathan Lerner, Catherine Joell MacKinnon, Louis Neethling, Lance Pickett, and Storm Smith. Each of you has made amazing contributions to Deaf Cinema and to the Deaf Community and beyond. We cannot thank you enough for the generosity of spirit you showed in joining our festival.

Kurt Stoskopf, Department Chair, NTID Visual Communication Studies, for making possible Jules Dameron's visit to NTID/RIT, and for introducing us to our amazing program book designer Meeya Tjiang.

Volunteers, both students and working professionals who agreed to pitch in and lend a hand wherever you were needed. Our volunteer live streaming hosts who went live on Facebook. No task was too big or too small! We thank each and every one of you!

The professional interpreters and student interpreters who donated their services and dedicated their time to prepare and provide ASL/English or DeafBlind interpretation for this event. Interpreters Jenn Disch, David Krohn, Geno DiVincenzo, Carla Bonaldi, Patricia Clark, Betsy Hicks McDonald, Gary Blatto-Vallee, Miriam Lerner, Campbell McDermid, Kevin Williams, Christine McQuaid, Marlene Elliott, Cath Kiwitt who had confirmed at the time this went to the printers. Thank you for making this event accessible to all.

Our festival partners, the Rochester Recreational Club for the Deaf, the Rochester School for the Deaf, the University of Rochester's ASL Program, RIT ASL, Deaf Studies Community Center (RADSCC) and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf for who joined forces with the Deaf Rochester Film Festival by providing in-kind support, space, ideas and volunteers.

Interpretek, the University of Rochester's ASL Program, Sorenson and Sprint for their generous financial support.

Local businesses, including Linda's Pizzeria, Wilshire Catering and Saigon Pho, that contributed goods to our Wednesday reception.

Our hospitality hosts for welcoming filmmakers in their homes: Barbara and Joe Stanislow, Lisa and Mark Sommer, Susan and Matt Searls, Heather and Phil Miller, Deirdre Schlehofer, Rick Postl and Karen Christie. Martha Scribner for the handmade cards and gifts.

Phil Evringham for helping with the wood platforms for the awards and Paul Holmes for his handyman skills with the assembly of the awards.

Stephani Garrison, for the beautifully designed website and Meeya Tjiang for the dazzling program book.

NTID Tiger Media for providing media support.

We deeply appreciate the contributions each of you made to the success of this film festival!

