

# DEAF ROC FILM FEST



October 11 - 18, 2020

Program Book

[deafrocfilmfest.com](http://deafrocfilmfest.com)

# What's Inside?

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Greetings .....	2
Special Thanks and Acknowledgements.....	4
Deaf Rochester Film Festival Members and Judges .....	6
Film Festival at a Glance .....	8
Lineup for October 11 .....	10
Lineup for October 12 .....	12
Lineup for October 13 .....	14
Lineup for October 14 .....	16
Student Showcase and Jr. DRFF Showcase .....	24
Lineup for October 16 .....	26
Lineup for October 17 .....	27
Exhibitions, Panelists and Workshops .....	32
Deaf Rochester Film Festival Mission Statement .....	40

**Thank you for joining us!**

We hope you enjoy the festival!



Cover design & illustrations by Malvana Ramborger

Program book design by Phelan Conheady



# WELCOME!

Greetings!

Welcome to the sixth Deaf Rochester Film Festival! Such strange times we are in, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our original festival, scheduled for April 14 – 18, 2020, had to be postponed to October 11 – 18, 2020, going virtual. We pushed to make this happen online because we know how important it is to spotlight talented Deaf and hard of hearing filmmakers and artists around the world. This virtual festival also gives people around the world an opportunity to watch and celebrate with us in spirit.

We recognize the importance of supporting and elevating Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) filmmakers and artists. We believe that everybody deserves access to sign language, and we strive to preserve the beauty of sign language. We have decided to make this festival free, giving our signing community a path of hope and light during this challenging time.

We could not have made this festival successful without the NTID Dyer Arts Center, partnering with us to co-host Motion: Art Exhibition. The exhibition was open at the gallery for a short time before it had to close in March 2020. With us, they transferred the exhibition online and co-hosted panel events for filmmakers and artists whose works were featured in the exhibition. We acknowledge RIT American Sign Language and Deaf Studies Community Center (RADSCC) as one of our supporters, hosting ASL Lecture Series presented by Jeremy Lee Stone, sharing his professional experience on navigating the entertainment industry. With RADSCC's support, we continue to host online workshops by amazing experts who share knowledge and skills with the signing community for them to flourish in a safe space.

Special thanks to our festival committee as they have been determined to push and persist to make this virtual festival happen despite this pandemic that greatly affects us all. We could not have gone this far without them. We put in this special celebration with a beautiful T-shirt design by Malvana Ramborger to remind our community to stay united together. We are proud to carry the torch of Deaf Rochester Film Festival established in 2005, forward to 2020.

Thank you for connecting with us from all over the world.

**Youmee Lee and Doug Baker**

*Deaf Rochester Film Festival 2020 Co-Chairs*

## A Message from the NTID President

Greetings, DRFF attendees!

Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf is pleased to be a part of this year's Deaf Rochester Film Festival. This exciting event provides an opportunity to experience the diverse creativity in the film medium of our Deaf community.

While our in-person activities are restricted due to the current COVID-19 epidemic, DRFF's organizers have developed innovative ways to help you experience all the features of the festival's films, panels and exhibits.

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

Yours in Tiger Spirit,

**Gerard J. Buckley**

*President, NTID Vice President and Dean, RIT*

## A Message from the Dyer Arts Center

The Dyer Arts Center is thrilled to be part of the Deaf Rochester Film Festival. We have had the pleasure of collaborating with DRFF in developing and experimenting with the first-ever physical video art exhibition. When the pandemic shut down the Dyer Arts Center, our staff shifted everything online so that the world could continue to enjoy the brilliance of the filmmaker's creations. The Dyer Arts Center is also proud to collaborate on some of the panels, making sure that the content being offered is rich in dialogue.

Art and creativity will always be such an important part of people's lives, no matter how much has changed in the world. Making sure art is accessible should always be a goal for everyone. Kudos to the DRFF committee for bringing this free festival to your homes. Enjoy the films, the virtual exhibition, and the amazing programming offered. We are honored to be part of DRFF.

**Tabitha Jacques**

*Director of the RIT/NTID Dyer Arts Center*

## A Message from Genesee Valley Council on the Arts

Hello Viewers of the Deaf Rochester Film Festival,

My name is Katelyn Costello. I am the grants coordinator for Genesee Valley Council on the Arts, and am proud to be a sponsor of the Deaf Rochester Film Festival. We are pleased to help produce a festival that helps bring the deaf community and your creativity to the forefront.

Thank you to the DRFF organizers, volunteers, and filmmakers for their tireless work to make this event a success and your flexibility in creating and distributing the event this year. This year's event is one I am sure many won't forget. I encourage you to full advantage of the wide range of films and lecture events, and engage on social media!

**Katelyn Costello**

*Grants Coordinator, Genesee Valley Council on the Arts*

# Thank you to our Sponsors and Partners



Mark and Barbara Hargrave  
Hard of Hearing Clarify Fund



GENESEE  
VALLEY  
ARTS  
GRANTS



**New York Tourism Department's I Love NY featured Deaf Rochester Film Festival in the Accessibility section for the ADA 30th Anniversary:**

[www.iloveny.com/blog/post/new-york-attractions-that-offer-programs-for-visitors-who-are-deaf-or-hard-of-hearing/](http://www.iloveny.com/blog/post/new-york-attractions-that-offer-programs-for-visitors-who-are-deaf-or-hard-of-hearing/)

This festival is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by Genesee Valley Council on the Arts.

# Special Thanks and Acknowledgements

The festival committee: Hayden Orr, Arlene Sankey, Beth Noworatzky, Sean Furman, Jeanne Behm, Guillaume Chastel, Amelia Hamilton, Darian Slattery, Joan Naturale, Blake Nitko, Dylan Panarra, and Surya Sahetapy  
Malvana Ramborger for designing DRFF 2020 branding materials and T-shirts to celebrate the virtual festival  
Phelan Conheady for designing the program book  
NTID Dyer Arts Center: Tabitha Jacobs, Elyse St. Amand, and Kenzie Robbins for co-hosting  
Motion: Art Exhibition and panel events with us  
Stacy Lawrence and Brenda Schertz for passing this torch to us and guiding us  
NTID President, Dr. Gerard Buckley  
NTID Visual Communications Studies  
Stacy Bick  
RIT American Sign Language & Deaf Studies Community Center (RADSCC)  
RIT College of Art and Design  
RIT School of Film and Animation  
NTID Student Life Team  
NTID Marketing Department  
NTID Department of Access Services  
Morpheyes and Center on Access Technology:  
Chris Frisina, Rajay Raman, and Renee Smith  
Patti Durr  
Judges: Karen Christie, Colin Allen, Justin Perez, JoJo Savea, and Carla Siggers  
Presenters: Jeremy Lee Stone, Andres Otalora and Fred Beam  
Panelists: Zack Stone, Jakiria Williams, Adrean Mangiardi, Miko Arayata, Amelia Hamilton Toby Fitch, Brittany Castle, Brigitte Macias, Nicolas Combes, Ifig de Keranflench  
Moderators: Gabriel Silva and Amy Grindrod  
Interpreters: Angela Hauser, Kristi Love Cooper, Maggie Nye, Margaret Chastel, Lisa Reynolds, and Amanda Dole  
Melissa Keomoungkhoun  
ChaRon Sattler-LeBlanc  
Brittany Comegna and Zack Ennis  
Patrick Graybill  
...and MANY more!



## Special recognition to local gems who supported us before COVID-19 canceled our April events:

The Little Theatre, an independent theater established since the late 1920s, has been devoted to every Deaf Rochester Film Festival since 2005, and coordinated with us for our April festival efforts.  
[thelittle.org](http://thelittle.org)

Writers & Books  
[wab.org](http://wab.org)

The Strong National Museum of Play  
[museumofplay.org](http://museumofplay.org)



# Meet the Team!



**Youmee Lee**  
Co-Chair



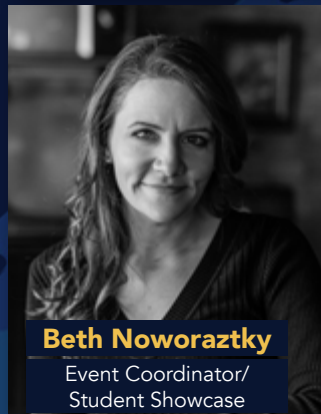
**Doug Baker**  
Co-Chair



**Hayden Orr**  
Festival Assistant



**Arlene Sankey**  
Treasurer



**Beth Noworaztky**  
Event Coordinator/  
Student Showcase



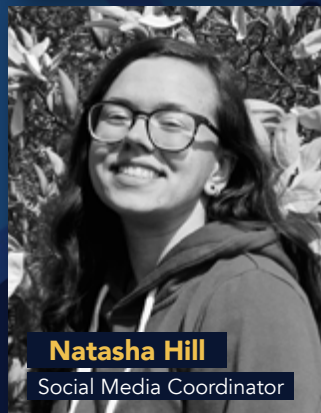
**Brenda Schertz**  
Advisor/Sponsorships



**Jeanne Behm**  
Workshop Coordinator



**Sean Furman**  
Film Coordinator



**Natasha Hill**  
Social Media Coordinator



**Guillaume Chastel**  
Interpreting Coordinator



**Amelia Hamilton**  
Photographer



**Malvana Ramborger**  
Graphic Designer



**Joan Naturale**  
Archivist



**Darian Slattery**  
Editor



**Blake Nitko**  
Social Media Advisor



**Dylan Panarra**  
Public Relations

# Please welcome our judges!



**Colin Allen**

Hailing from Australia, Colin is a Visiting Lecturer at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester Institute of Technology. As part of his work at the university, he is creating course work on the human rights of deaf and hard of hearing people for a new BS degree program in Community Development and Inclusive Leadership. Colin is also a contributor to the Center for International Educational Outreach.

In the early days of his life, Colin discovered his passion when he became an amateur actor with the Theatre of the Deaf in his home city, Sydney, when he was only 13 years old. This led him to co-found the professional theatre company, Australian Theatre of the Deaf in 1979. He then became a professional actor from 1979 to 1985 (and 2017), performing in over 50 productions, working throughout the USA. Colin is immediate past President of the World Federation of the Deaf (2011 to 2019), following him having previously served as board member (2003 to 2011). Colin is also Immediate Past Chair of the International Disability Alliance.



**Justin Perez**

Justin Perez was born and raised in Houston, Texas. He was a student at Texas School for the Deaf.

He has always been fascinated by American Sign Language (ASL) performance art and storytelling styles. Throughout his teenage years, he had incredibly deep bonds with several of his close friends who also enjoy sharing a variety of ASL stories, and that was where he defined numerous storytelling techniques along with sign language expressions. The more he shared his stories with the public; the more people have asked him to continue sharing his stories.

That was the fuel to his creativity and innovative persona in pushing new ASL performance boundaries and art. He quickly realized this type of work is something he is passionate about, particularly the field of ASL. Justin started receiving offers and opportunities all over the world, including being a Visual Vernacular (VV) teacher at Texas School for the Deaf, ASL tutor at National Technical Institute of the Deaf, ASL model and expert with TRUE+WAY ASL curriculum, and many more.



**Karen Christie**

Karen Christie (name-sign "KC") was a professor of Deaf Cultural Studies and English at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

Since retiring, she has created a number of educational films and websites as well as being involved with theatrical productions (People of the Third Eye and Out of the Box). Her most recent work is the book, ABC Portraits of Deaf Ancestors, with Nancy Rourke.

KC was co-coordinator of the second DRFF (2007) and recalls the first discussion of a Deaf Film Festival in Rochester at a gathering of Deaf folks in Genesee Valley Park.



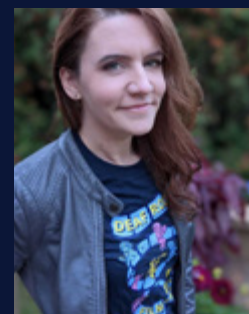
**JoJo Savea**

JoJo Savea currently resides in Utah, and she works as an Online Specialist for Sorenson Communications. Life is one giant adventure for JoJo. She loves learning, experiencing new things, and meeting new people. Her main hobbies are photography, acting, rugby, traveling and camping with her two dogs. Some of her videography experiences include filming for a sports company in Australia, creating contents for her university, along with putting together personal travel videos from her travels.



**Carla Siggers**

Carla Siggers is a part-time Sorenson trainer who graduated from Wisconsin Technical College with an Associate Degree in Electronic Imaging and Printing. Her interests are photography, computer science, and biking.



## Have you seen our awesome t-shirts?

DESIGNED BY:  
Malvana Ramborger  
Instagram: @malvana\_allawyn





# DEAF ROCHESTER FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

This festival is free and open to the public, Schedule follows Eastern Standard Time (EST).  
Festival Guide and registration information: [deafrocfilmfest.com](http://deafrocfilmfest.com)

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 11TH

### Day 1 Film Lineup

10 AM - 11:59 PM

### Opening Ceremony

7 PM

### Motion: Art Exhibition

@ Dyer Arts

All Week

## MONDAY OCTOBER 12TH

### Day 2 Film Lineup

10 AM - 11:59 PM

### Motion: Art Panel I:

French Filmmakers

2 PM - 3 PM

### Motion: Art Panel II

7 PM - 9 PM

## TUESDAY OCTOBER 13TH

### Day 3 Film Lineup

10 AM - 11:59 PM

### Workshop: Black Deaf in

Cinema (Fred Beam)

7 PM - 8 PM

## WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14TH

### Day 4 Film Lineup:

Student Showcase with  
Introductions  
&

Jr. RDFF Showcase with  
Introductions

10AM - 11:59PM

## THURSDAY OCTOBER 15TH

### Day 5 Film Lineup

10 AM - 11:59 PM

Workshop: How to Start  
Your Filmmaking Journey  
(Andres Otalora)

3 PM - 4 PM

## FRIDAY OCTOBER 16TH

### Day 6 Film Lineup

10 AM - 11:59 PM

ASL Lecture Series:  
Shaping my Identity with  
Jeremy Lee Stone

12:20 PM - 1:20 PM

## SATURDAY OCTOBER 17TH

### Day 7 Film Lineup

10 AM - 11:59 PM

### Films: Documentaries

10 AM - 11:59 PM

Special Documentary:  
Signing Black in America

10 AM - 11:59 PM

Special Feature Film:  
The Silent Natural

7 PM - 11:59 PM

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 18TH

### Day 8 Film Lineup:

ENCORES

(reruns)

10 AM - 11:59 PM

Closing Ceremony & Awards

7 PM





## Furious Hands

Director: Guiliano Robert, Brazil (2017), 5 min

The sign language alphabet is the starting point of this short film that chronicles the difficulties that a deaf and drug addict faces in society. The film is a metaphor for overcoming the frontiers of communication.



## FAITH

Director: Sahera Khan, UK (2019), 7 min

Taliha and Marlyn are very good friends, Marlyn came out as a lesbian a couple of years ago. Taliha is uncomfortable with this although she wants to speak to Marlyn about LGBT+ issues.

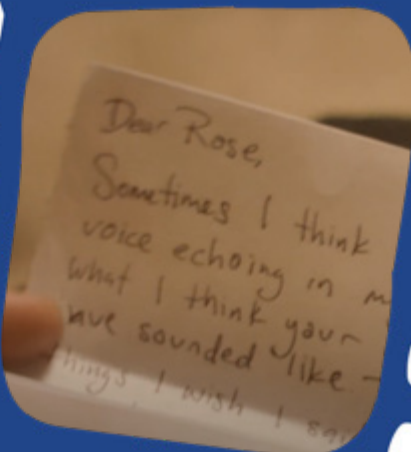
\*The actresses are both Deaf British Sign Language users\*



## I Want to Change the World

Director: Sebastian Cunliffe, UK (2019), 30 min

Following Daniel Jillings, Britain's youngest Deaf Campaigner as he takes his campaign for a BSL GCSE to the steps of No.10 Downing Street.



## Rose & Raven

Director: Nicolas Alayo, US (2019), 20 min

Rose & Raven is about a young girl who befriends her deaf classmate and learns how to be confident in herself as she pursues her dreams. Through their experiences with each other, they learn how to communicate, not only through their speech barrier but on an honest and personal level



## The Bin

Director: Jocelyn Tamayao, The Philippines (2019), 15 min

A little boy, Mico, who is deaf practices speech whom his father, Eddie, teaches him. Twelve years after, Eddie discovers Mico chatting with his Deaf friend using sign language. He gets mad and dislikes the sign language. One day, his father insists his son to have cochlear implant where he reads from an online article, but he (Mico) refuses. Mico's struggle is to seek freedom as deaf and for his right to express and communicate using sign language. Later on, Eddie accepts his son to use sign language after his realizations from the sharing of a hearing father and his Deaf daughter whom he (Eddie) encounters.



## The Word Factory

Director: Alexander Laferriere, US (2018), 18 min

Distance cannot separate two far-flung factory workers, words cannot describe their love.



## REAL

Director: Maria Forsythe, US (2020), 5 min

A tiny film webseries exploring Deafness, love, and the lengths we go to find it. These tiny film follows Lauren as she navigates relationships and connection in a world of complex communication.



## The Deaf vs The Dead

Director: Dickie Hearts, US (2017), 8 min

When the zombie apocalypse breaks out in Los Angeles, an out Deaf man must find a way to survive and protect his loved ones, even if it means teaming up with some unlikely people.





## Let the Chips Fall

Director: Anthony Cheung, HK (2020), 23 min

Nga Yan keeps a secret that nobody knows, not even her boyfriend Tsz Long. When she starts working in the society for a while, she does not encounter smooth sailing. She learns how to open herself. But how does she finally explain to him?



## Mr Michel

Director: Julien Bourges, France (2018), 17 min

Taken from a true story and set in France, the film is the story of a temporary substitute nurse's in-home experience with a retired patient and her discovery that he is the victim of a terrible misjustice.



## Sign At All Times

Director: Andrew Leibman, US (2019), 8 min

A young skateboarder overcomes his personal adversity to find pride in his identity.



## Hideaway

Director: Samuel Ash, UK (2019), 15 min

A short film about a Deaf student, William going to university, learning to overcome social anxiety and developing close relations with Dean and Leah.



## The Pastman

Director: Charlie Ainsworth, US (2018), 17 min

In the future, time travel is possible and it is overrun with time criminals. A government agent is assigned to travel back in time to serve as a consolation to these who are affected by time crime.



## This is Ed!!

Director: Bob Hiltermann, US (2018), 7 min

In the summer of 1973, Steve and Ed are best friends living in the same apartment complex, when Ed finds himself in need of Steve to help him out before an important date. A hilarious conversation ensues as a frustrated Ed tries repeatedly to make Steve understand that he desperately needs his assistance. Steve, using broken and outdated body hearing aids, is completely clueless to his buddy's predicament which only leads to frustration for Ed until he reaches the breaking point.



## Warm Hearts

Director: Donald Weyand Jr., US (2019), 10 min

Members of Flint Association of the Deaf talks about their memories and the Deaf club struggles.





## Routine

Director: John Savage, US (2019), 11 min

Two strange people observe each other at the same time and place everyday. Until one of them is willing to step up.



## The Gingerbread Witch

Director: Paul Miller, UK (2019), 10 min

Young twins, Anders (deaf) and Aurora (hearing) share a very special bond. They come from an old Scottish mystical village called Oban, which can be described as rural and impoverished, the village people are kind but have very little to spare, without any explanation children from the village have been disappearing for generations. One day, the twins happen to find themselves at the centre of the mystery, when they come across an enchanted artefact, but will this help with their adventure... Can they both solve the mystery? And will the strength of their special bond defy the odds?



## To Know Him

Director: Ted Evans, UK (2018), 28 min

When a tragic accident leaves Sarah grieving for her deaf partner Rob, she is forced to track down and engage with his estranged hearing father. To lay the man she loves to rest, Sarah must overcome a barrier far greater than language.



## What is Happiness?

Director: Claire Clark, UK (2019), 6 min

What Is Happiness is a British Sign Language poem on the question, 'What is happiness?' It shines a light on some of the elements of that impossible question and showcases the positive representation of BSL poetry as an art form.



## CODA

Director: Erika Davis-Marsh, US (2019), 20 min

A young dancer struggles with her bi-cultural identity when she meets a confident young Deaf drummer who stirs up old conflicted feelings about growing up hearing in a Deaf family.



## Inner Me

Director: Antonio Spanò, Italy (2016), 31 min

Butembo, North Kivu, D.R. Congo - While following Jemima, a little curious girl who wanders through dusty roads, crowded markets, slaughterhouses, furnaces and bat hunters we get acquainted with three women who describe the harsh realities of being born female and deaf in a society that discriminates against both women and people with disabilities.

The stories of Immaculée, Sylvie and Stuka are stories of everyday struggle against marginalization, abuse and oppression, but despite the insurmountable obstacles imposed on them by society, the protagonists show us how their strong and undefeated will allows them to take hold of their fate every single day and reveals the beautiful resilience of the human spirit.



# STUDENT SHOWCASE

As we celebrate the talents of Deaf cinema, we are proud to bring you the Student Showcase, the evening of students' films, by recognizing and spotlighting the work of college Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing students and recent graduates across the filmmaking crafts.

We applaud RIT/NTID in providing a space and creating an outlet for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students to express their creativity in the form of media and to discover their talents.

Recognizing the importance of Deaf representatives trying to build careers in the entertainment industry, we believe that their talents must be acclaimed and showcased early, not just to the Deaf community, but also worldwide. In doing so, we aim to mobilize the future Deaf filmmakers by providing them the opportunity to reveal their enriching work to all.

We welcome you to join us in viewing the creativity of the college students' films and celebrate the ever-growing pride and diversity of Deaf culture and Deaf experience in the student cinema.

-Beth Noworatzky, NTID Center on Employment Advisor

The Student Showcase starts with an introduction video by Stacy Bick from NTID Visual Communications Studies



VCS Promo  
Class Project, 1 min



Love You to Lose Me  
Director: Andrew J. Quinonez, Felicia McGinnis, US (2020), 3 min

This dance is based on telling a story about how we struggle between family and friendship or relationship.



The Duo  
Director: Jakiria Williams, US (2020), 2 min

This fun and quirky stop motion short film center upon the time I lost my hearing aid.



What is Art?  
Director: Jakiria Williams, US (2020), 2 min

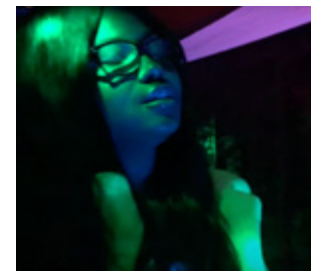
An experimental documentary centering around the question: What Is Art?



Superstar  
Director: Samuel Langshteyn, US (2019), 6 min  
A short documentary about a Deaf drag queen named Lady Meteorite (Bo Kaplan) striving in the drag world.



Sunflower  
Director: TJ Story, US (2020), 8 min  
This female was unconscious and trapped in the mind where the female has to make the hardest decision in her life.



Desperado Music Video  
Director: Jakiria Williams, US (2020), 3 min

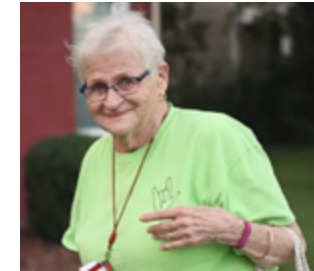
Decided to make a short music video (for a course project) for one of my favorite songs by Rihanna!



Clay Ball Animation  
Director: Moises Tobias, US (2020), 1 min  
Stop Motion Animation



Magic Box  
Director: Zack Stone, US (2020), 3 min  
Two robbers about to steal some valuables out of the safe, but it turns out to be unexpected surprise of confusion.



My Wise Gramma  
Director: Amelia Hamilton, US (2019), 6 min

A short documentary about my gramma and her life.



Unforgettable Love  
Director: Bao Nyugen, US (2018), 6 min  
A man wakes up one morning and has no recollection of what happened in his life recently.

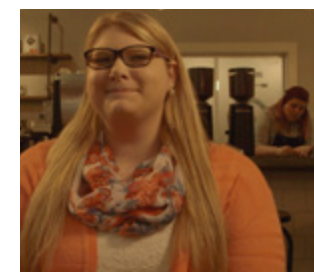


TRICK!  
Director: Andrew J. Quinonez, US (2019), 17 min  
A scare prank goes completely wrong. They need to fix everything that they made a terrible mistake.



Stop Motion Project  
Director: Moises Tobias, US (2020), 2 min

The summary provided to experiment to see stop motion succeeds with characters.



A Date at the Coffee Shop  
Director: Zack Stone, US (2020), 3 min  
Two people meet for the first time and the man realize that she's deaf, so he got angry at her but the employee steps in to save Katie.



# Jr. Deaf Rochester Film Festival

Junior Deaf Rochester Film Festival (Jr. DRFF) offers high school and middle school students the opportunity to showcase their creative work and films. We are proud to screen films from Rochester School for the Deaf, Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Oregon School for the Deaf, Camp Mark Seven's Deaf Film Camp, and more. The award winner will be announced at the closing ceremony on Sunday, October 18.

## Rochester School for the Deaf (RSD)



### The Deafocalypse Virus

Director: Margaret Jennings, US (2020), 5 min

This video is about a mad scientist who accidentally turns 6 students into zombies but two of them are survivors...Will they save the whole school before it becomes zombie school?!



### Face My Fear: Butterfly

Director: Joshua Howell-Leyer (student), US (2020), 5 min

This video is about a mad scientist who accidentally turns 6 students into zombies but two of them are survivors...Will they save the whole school before it becomes zombie school?!

## Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD)

Special Introduction by WPSD



### Mind Your Own Business

Director: Brian Slavinsky, US (2020), 6 min

This film, "Mind Your Own Business" is adapted from the short story, "The Homecoming" by Laurence Yep. It tells the story of an ancient woodcutter who could not support his family because he was always distracted from his work and not minding his own business. The story worked well with ASL and the Deaf experience.



### PSA - Seat Belts

US (2020), 1 min

This film is a 60 second public service announcement on the importance of wearing seat belts. It was produced by the senior class and featured an elementary student and a Deaf staff member encountering an accident on their drive.

## Oregon School for the Deaf (OSD)

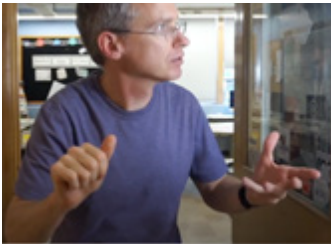
Special Introduction by OSD



### A-Z by OSD CBI Students!

US (2020), 3 min

This video done by one teacher and student. Also a group of student who are in our Community Base Instruction class. One student, Nayelli created A-Z happening on our Oregon School for the Deaf campus. Wonderful video and entertaining.

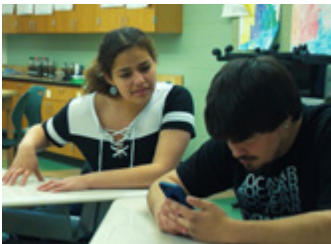


### Late for Class Part II

US (2020), 3 min

This video is light heart comedy of two student and teacher to be dealing with classroom being late. First part show a short one that they both disappeared. Second part they both ended up in a coffee place and not in our classroom! Story ending the teacher found out wrong place and wrong time.

## Rhode Island School for the Deaf (RISD)



### Phoned Out: Disconnecting from ASL

Director: Ellie Lister, US (2019), 5 min

Technology is helping and hurting sign language for us all.

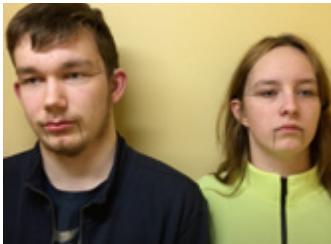


### Start with Hello!

Directors: Brian Peets & Yasmin Sicaju, US (2018), 4 min

How misperceived school interactions lead to troubled thoughts and how the impact of a simple action can save the day.

## Estonia



### The World in 2050

Directors: Jegor Andrejev, Triin Trumm, Merily Aun, Risto Tamme, Janella Stepanov, Stella Tsõganova, Tarco Tedre, Estonia (2020), 2 min

Our dream versus real life at school.



### BLAH BLAH

Directors: Jegor Andrejev, Triin Trumm, Simon Teiss, Stella Tsõganova, Janella Stepanov, Merily Aun, Tarco Tedre, Risto Tamme, Estonia (2019), 4 min



## Deaf Lens Workshop

### Writers & Books' Promo Video



#### The Power of Positivity

Directors: Cody Campbell, Jameson McDermontt, Julia Kane, Patrick McDermontt, Levi Ruper, Micah Ruper, Natalie Ruper, Zahria Ruper, US (2020), 1 min

Campers from the Deaf Lens workshop 2019 film each other as they use their favorite signs to describe the Signing community that brings both Deaf and hearing people together in Rochester, New York! Writers and Books has brought diverse communities together for more than three decades, and they have welcomed so many of us with happy open arms and doors!



#### Welcome to our Ethiopian Culture!

Directors: Levi Ruper, Micah Ruper, Natalie Ruper, Zahria Ruper, US (2020), 2 min

Four sisters and brothers from the Deaf Lens workshop 2019 create such a powerful film about their culture in Ethiopia, educating the world about their food, coffee, religions, and music! This close-knit family also welcomes everyone with kindness, love, and warmth - just like the wonderful team at Writers and Books!



#### Reflection

Directors: Julia Kane & Micah Ruper, US (2020), 1 min

Campers from the Deaf Lens workshop 2019 film Patrick Graybill, a legendary figure in the Rochester Deaf community, at Writers and Books, a very popular nonprofit organization in Rochester. Patrick shares his thoughts about President Kennedy's assassination and the Challenger disaster through his poem in ASL.



#### Cody's Stop-Motion Drawing

Director: Cody Campbell, US (2020), 1 min

Camper Cody Campbell, an aspiring talented artist, from the Deaf Lens workshop 2018 learns how to create a stop motion project from Ms. Youmee Lee, another talented artist. The drawing of Writers & Books' landmark building shows that the Writers and Books has a historic place in our Signing Community as well!



#### Name Signs

Directors: Cody Campbell, Jameson McDermontt, Julia Kane, Patrick McDermontt, Levi Ruper, Micah Ruper, Natalie Ruper, Zahria Ruper, Hayden Orr, Darian Slattery, Youmee Lee, Stacy Lawrence, US (2020), 1 min

Campers from the Deaf Lens workshop 2019 document each other as they learn the significance of their own name signs while their personalities shine on film! Name signs, a very important part of Deaf Culture, connect people through personal stories — just like how Writers and Books brings people together through words! Led by Stacy Lawrence

## ASL Can Film Camp



#### Gabija's Film

Director: Gabija Samakova, US (2020), 3 min

This video is about Gabija's Film.



#### Hiking Mystery

Director: Ellie Fudge

Teachers: Zilvas Paludnevicus & Hayden Orr, US (2020), 2 min

Campers from ASL CAN FILM camp 2019 learn that teamwork, communication, and safety make a winning combination when they film their hike amid the stunning nature of Wild Horse Island! As part of the learning experience, they learn how important it is to respect the natural elements that surround Camp Marshall!



#### The Polson Adventures

Directors: Sasha Traver, Angelina Gilcher, Elijah Jensen, Gabby Fudge, Asisa Fudge, Teachers: Tami Lee Santimyer & Justin Perez, US (2020), 6 min

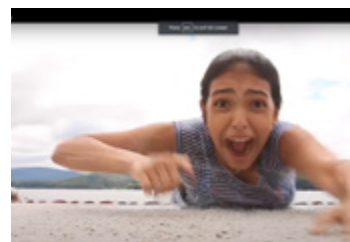
Campers from ASL CAN FILM camp 2019 learn the significance of communication when they create their adventures on film in Polson, Montana! As part of their film challenge, they include natural elements such as water and sun at Montana's Flathead Lake!



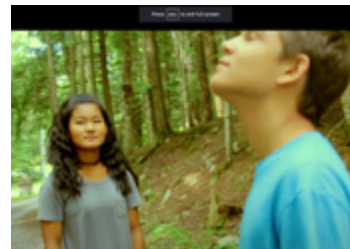
# Camp Mark Seven's Deaf Film Camp



**All for You**  
 US (2017), 3 min  
 Sometimes our takes on how to win a woman can be a backwards thing.



**Deep Water**  
 US (2016), 5 min  
 The mystery of disappearing campers are kept deep into the water.



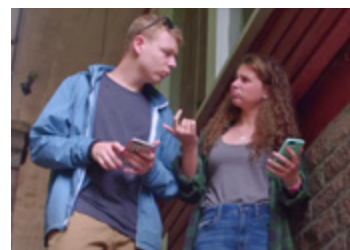
**Bella**  
 US (2017), 5 min  
 A boy finds a portal, by accident, and is led through series of doors and into different worlds



**Addiction**  
 US (2018), 3 min  
 The realization of addiction can sometimes never be seen.



**Into the Siren**  
 US (2018), 6 min  
 Can two different species fall into love with each other?



**Last Vitality**  
 US (2018), 4 min  
 Suppose your life span depended on how much you keep it charged?



**Deaf Film Camp: Behind the Scenes**  
 Director: Alexander Laferriere, US (2016), 9 min  
 The creative minds behind Deaf Film Camp 2017 at CM7 share their views on the power of film





## Deafening Darkness

Director: Mark Trifunovic, Canada (2017), 20 min

A brave Deaf woman searching for her missing friend encounters a Deaf alien struggling to come to terms with his traumatic past.



## Driver

Director: Antonio Cannata, Italy (2020), 21 min

Tom, a young road rider who is very fast and winning. He will be rewarded by the Boss and will take the place of Jonny's ex-driver, Tom, who was once unbeatable and fast/ Tom is currently in prison as someone had betrayed him. Will Tom stand up to Jonny when he comes out of jail?



## Miles in Love

Director: Martina Bell, US (2018), 13 min

Miles, a deaf man that goes through a one-of-a-kind night with his friends after a smoke went wrong, but he might just finds love between the crazy happenings.



## Scarlett

Directors: Tobias Lehmann, Mirko Scheit Germany (2020), 14 min

Chris and Mary are in an unhappy relationship and have a very unsatisfactory love life. In an effort to reignite their previous intimacy, depressed and miserable, Chris makes a special online order one evening. However with the arrival of the eagerly anticipated parcel, Chris' situation takes a change for the worse. This is the beginning of silken dance between reality and madness which takes the audience on a crazy journey into the inner life of a person on the edge of the abyss.



## Uncondemned

Director: Joseph D. Josselyn, US (2019), 10 min

You'll see Jesus encounter a woman who should have been sentenced for her sin. Taken from the Gospel of John and filmed entirely in American Sign Language, you'll see the love, grace, and forgiveness of Jesus.



## 2AM

Director: Samuel Ash, UK (2020), 4 min

Short thriller. Is everything real? Don't stay up until 2am.



## I see, You say...

Director: Ramas McRae, Australia (2018), 10 min

Sign Language Interpreter unexpected to deliver the service at police station. Did she manage it?



## Reverberations

Director: Samuel Dore, UK (2018), 27 min

In 2167, a fascist Government uses advances in gene therapy to wipe out Deafness and create a "perfect" society. A young Deaf time traveler is sent back to 2018 to find the inventor of the cure and change her mind before it's too late.





## Go to Hell and Turn Left

Director: Carlo Caldana, US  
(2019), 82 min

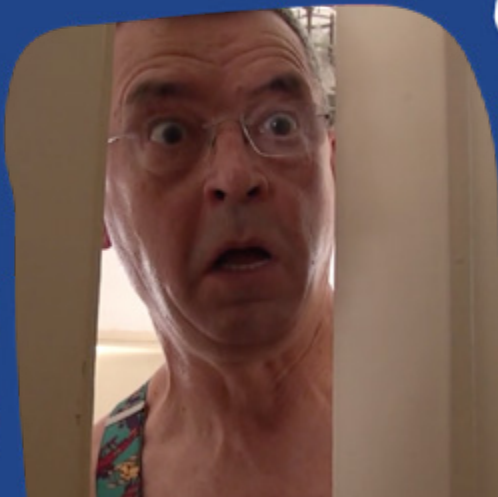
A deaf painter named Oif Schmilblitz struggles with alcohol and the death of his wife Emily. When he sneaks into a private reception to play spy for his agent, he spots a guest who bears a striking resemblance with the late Emily. As he tries to find out who she is, he is caught in a whirlwind of misunderstanding, mistaken identity, and marital intrigue - all to the tune of minimal dialogue and an endless stream of gags.



## Sale

Director: Boris Bassin, Israel  
(2016), 15 min

A short all-deaf-made-and-played comedy, describing the story of Matt, an average Joe, and a salesman named Gale. We all have that unexplained need for useless gadgets, and Gale just found the right person to sell those gadgets to. There is no "No" that can stop Gale, and he will do anything to make a sale. Matt tries to keep sanity and not falling into buying useless gadgets, but he cannot resist Gale's charms and attractive prices. The things starting to get out of hand really quick, and...well, you'll have to find out for yourself.



## DOCUMENTARY BLOCK



## A Language of Equality

Director: Marko Kumer, Slovenia  
(2019), 49 min

What if the only language you've ever known is threatened to be extinct? Three deaf protagonists belonging to three different generations are fighting to keep the sign language, the only language in which they profess love and friendship, hardship and grief, alive.



## Halifax Explosion

Director: Linda Campbell, Canada  
(2017), 39 min

Jim McDermott leads us through the tragic impact of the devastating 1917 Halifax Explosion, the importance of the Halifax School of the Deaf, and how everyone in the school survived the Explosion. Amazing stories of family, community, survival and heroism will be shared in American Sign Language and Maritimes Sign Language.







## Anders.se

Director: Mindy Drapsa, Filip Burman  
Sweden (2018), 40 min

A sitcom in sign language about Anders who is deaf and dreams of being successful as an IT entrepreneur. His pair horse, the programmer My, is strongly influenced by the deafpower movement. Therefore, Anders's idea that the company needs a hearing receptionist is met with strong objections from her. Despite this, hearing Jelena is hired. In the office is also Anders's best friend Felix, he is not employed but just hangs there and invents one parade after another.



## Deaf Reach: Hope for Pakistan

Director: John E. Quatroche II,  
UK (2019), 11 min

In Pakistan, an American expatriot and his Filipina wife have led the development of education opportunities for deaf children and young adults for over 20 years. They began with nothing more than a dream and now have educated more than 5,000 deaf students; established Deaf Reach schools in 8 different cities; and have current enrollment over 1,200. "Deaf Reach: Hope for Pakistan," a documentary short film, tells their story and highlights some of their students, parents, graduates, and staff. The film also spotlights recent achievements in international collaboration and higher education.



## Ernesto

Director: Edgar Murillo, Spain (2017), 13 min

Ernesto discovers a new disease and does not know how to face it.



## REGULAR FILM BLOCK



## Jade

Director: Julien Bourges, France (2019), 11 min

The story of a hearing mother looking for her runaway deaf daughter.



## Hope

Director: David Ellington, UK (2019), 27 min

HOPE is 17 years old, she's enjoying partying and is planning for the next stage of her studies with her best friend NAOMI. Life is good, apart from the odd painful twinge in her tummy which until the call from the consultant came she'd assumed was nothing serious. When she is diagnosed with a rare form of cancer and has to undergo chemotherapy, Hope struggles with side effects which not only result in her loss of hair but also a loss of self-confidence and causes her to push away those closest to her



## Return Flight

Director: Suzan G. Oram,  
Canada (2018), 7 min

A boy reaches out from beyond for his favourite toy. Film in American Sign Language and Maritime Sign Language with English subtitles.





## SPECIAL FEATURE FILM: The Silent Natural

Director: David Risotto, US (2019), 140 min.

To celebrate Deaf history, DRFF presents The Silent Natural for the Special Feature Film night. The film is based on a true story of William “Dummy” Hoy, one of the first Deaf Major League Baseball players, who not only overcame many obstacles to become one of the greatest players of his time, but also introduced umpire hand signs for STRIKE and BALL.



## SPECIAL FEATURE DOCUMENTARY: Signing Black in America

Directors: Danica Cullinan & Neil Hutcheson, Associate Producer: Joseph Hill, US (2020), 30 min.

Signing Black in America highlights the history and development of Black American Sign Language, a vibrant dialect that today conveys an identity and sense of belonging that mirrors spoken language varieties of the African American hearing community.

While African American Language is the most widely recognized ethnic variety of English in the world, the use of American Sign Language (ASL) by Black Americans has been largely ignored or dismissed as part of an assumed ASL system uniformly used by the deaf community in the United States. But ASL, like any language, may show robust diversity, including traits associated with by Black Americans.

*Signing Black in America* is the first documentary to highlight the development of Black American Sign Language. Based on extensive interviews with Black signers, linguistic experts, interpreters, natural conversations, and artistic performances by Black ASL users, it documents the development and description of this unique ethnic variety of ASL. Many of the same conditions that gave rise to the development of spoken African American language affected the development of Black ASL—residential, educational, and social segregation along with the internal development of an autonomous cultural community indexing black identity. At the same time, deaf African Americans had contact with the spoken African American language community, borrowing sign language analogs of unique spoken-language African American expressions.

Different uses of space, hand use, directional movement, and facial expression are exemplified by Black ASL users, including an expanded perimeter for hand movement, the differential placement of hands and their directional trajectory, the use of two-handed vs. one-handed signs, and facial expressions, leading to a variety of ASL that is an analog of the variety used in spoken African American Language. The Black Deaf Community is now embracing the notion of Black ASL as a symbol of solidarity and agency in constructing ethnolinguistic identity.





# Motion: Art Exhibition

All Week

The Deaf Rochester Film Festival (DRFF) is thrilled to host the first media art exhibition, Motion: Art, with the Dyer Arts Center, featuring short experimental films, motion graphics, animations, GIF, and different types of moving images. Prior to COVID-19 cancellation, the original exhibition at the Dyer Arts Center gallery showcased media art in monitors.



## Event Moderators:



### Gabriel "Gab" Silva

A New Yorker who grew up in The Bronx, who always loved performing and dancing as a child, but didn't showcase his talent until he was in his mid 20's. He mentions that he started translating songs in ASL showcasing them at numerous events such as ASL Cabarets, The Wallis Theater, ASL Slam and ColorFEST. You may also have seen him in his "All Of Me" "Lean on me" music videos. He was also the "Face of CSD" for Communication Service for the Deaf and has also held a role as an Assistant Director, producer, ASL master and most importantly, An Awesome Dad! He is currently living his days working for Lexington School for the Deaf and New York Deaf Theatre and Sign Language Center!

You can find him on Instagram @gabrieljosephsilva\_



### Amy Grindrod

Amy Grindrod is a social entrepreneur and full stack designer. Amy started her career with a love for drawing, design and coding which drew her to study both computer science and graphic design. Currently, she lives in San Francisco Bay Area, California and works as a Marketing Director at DCARA.



### Guillaume Chastel | LSF/ASL Translator

Guillaume Chastel was born and raised in Paris, France and graduated from Gallaudet University. He has been the Co-director and Senior Lecturer of the American Sign Language Program at the University of Rochester for 10 years. He has taught French Sign Language (LSF) and French deaf culture to the Rochester community. He coordinates and leads study abroad trips to France for deaf and hard of hearing students, introducing them to France's deaf communities, art, language, history, and culture. Guillaume has been involved with Maine Deaf Film Festival and Deaf Rochester Film Festival since 2009. He is excited to coordinate interpreters and bring deaf cinema from Europe to Deaf Rochester Film Festival 2020!

# Motion: Art Panel I: Meet the French Filmmakers

Monday October 12, 2 - 3 PM (EST)



### Nicolas Combes

Nicolas "Nikesco" Combes, is a Deaf artist living in Paris. He has been drawing since he was very young and he started his career in communication agencies and television before returning to his childhood passion. He has just published his first graphic novel entitled "Le bruit des gens" (The noise of people) where he tells anecdotes of his deaf life with a lot of humor. He is working on getting his work translated into English. As for the animation of characters, he created it in collaboration with a former co-worker, Brit Macias who currently is a media specialist and animator in Austin, Texas.

Website: nicolascombes.myportfolio.com

Instagram: @nikesco\_\_



### Brigitte Macias

Brit Macias is a multimedia designer and animator from Paris. She majored in fashion design and management and graduated at the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM), in Canada. After two years in the fashion industry in Paris, she decided to launch her career in Multimedia Design. She had been working in the creative agency and the magazine group company. She fell in love with animation and went back to École Multimedia in Paris to master animation. She was involved in the project of the publisher in LSF ( French Sign Language) with a mix of mobile applications, books, and animated videos. She currently lives in Austin, Texas with her husband and works as a media specialist at National Deaf Center.



### Gilart (Ifig) de Keranflench

Gilart (Ifig) de Keranflench was born in Paris, a romantic city. Ever since he was very young, Gilart has been passionate about films. He insisted that his parents accompany him to the cinema. Even without the subtitles, the visuals of the images were enough for him to fall under the charm of cinema, which has become his dream. Gilart decided to enroll in a school located in Paris, "EICAR," for three years. He had to pass a competition to get in, and he made it. After three years had passed, Gilart started looking for work. It was difficult for him to get a contract, so he decided to move to Poitiers in 2015. Then Gilart met an ENEOIS producer, who offered to create a company in the name of STUDIO ENEOIS. Gilart accepted a job with this studio. With his skills, Gilart decided to register my business (French: Siret number) to be able to work in different companies as a director and cameraman. His short film projects include: Faking a Living, Did Not Know, The Silence of the Deaf, LSF Dictionary, Heart of JMS - year 2018, WDF, I'm a Legend

To date, I have created an agency, "studio de marne," to distribute the skills of my colleagues in the cinema, as well as partner with various companies and associations.

Website: eneoisstudio.wixsite.com/studio-eneois

Instagram: @studio\_eneois





# Motion: Art Panel II

Monday, October 12, 7-9 (EST)



## Miko Arayata

Miko Arayata was born in the Philippines. As a high school student at Miriam College - Southeast Asian Institute of the Deaf in the Philippines, he was not sure how to use the camera from the cellphone and SLR camera until his friend taught him how to use them properly. Using kind of cameras intrigued him so he took numerous photos of various objects. And he posted the photos on social media to show friends how awesome he was. Miko won a full scholarship to the Rochester Institute of Technology through National Technical Institute for the Deaf (RIT/NTID) in Rochester, New York, where he continues to work towards his degree, Visual Media with a focus on photography. He graduated with an Associate's degree in Design and Imaging Technology with a specialization in graphic production. Instagram: @mikophotography



## Brittany Castle

I grew up in California with a Deaf twin sister. Graduated from Gallaudet University with a BA degree in Graphic Design & Photography. After graduation, I worked as a freelance Graphic Designer but my passion was to start her own business, 58 Creativity. Currently I live in NJ near Philly. I constantly seeks to improve collaborative opportunities in business and education for the Deaf community. I'm very passionate about supporting the Deaf community and I work hard to make this dream a reality.

Website: 58creativity.com  
Instagram: @58creativity



## Toby Fitch

Toby Fitch of Toby Fitch Studios is a Washington-based Deaf multimedia artist who specializes in design, photography, motion and other mediums. Toby is a creative tinkerer who is deeply interested in many different forms of artistic expressions, leading to some of his work to be displayed in several galleries in both Seattle, WA and Rochester, NY in the past few years.

You can follow his creative journey both at @artwithtoby and @tobyfitch on Instagram, or @TobyFitchStudios on Facebook.



## Amelia Hamilton

Amelia Hamilton is a visual storyteller and designer who received her degree from the School of Photographic Arts and Science in Visual Media at Rochester Institute of Technology in May 2020. Her deaf identity is a vital part of why she is passionate about building relationships and educating others through multimedia, photography, and design. Her authentic work expresses sparks of joy, growth, color, and human connections. She is known for her timeliness and willingness to go above and beyond. She has a natural ease with people and a talent to connect and bring subjects out of their shells. She is an adventurous idea-chaser which has led her to work on projects in Panama, India, Guatemala, and South Korea. She explores and thrives creatively by sharing stories through design, photo and video, and travel. Instagram: @ameliakhilton



## Adrean Mangiardi

Mangiardi is an award-winning filmmaker who has directed, edited, produced, coordinated and filmed for an array of content genres including music videos, feature-length documentaries, promotional marketing, experimental, and journalistic broadcasting. Best known for his collaborations with his client, Sean Forbes, a Deaf Musician/Visual Artist from Detroit, in creating several music videos including "I'm Deaf" and "Watch These Hands." From 2009 to 2017, his primary client, DPAN.tv, hired him as their Director of Video Production in creating accessible online live media content for individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. He directed a couple of D-PAN's ASL music videos including, "We Brought The Sunshine," "Fireflies," and co-directed along with Jules Dameron in "Different Colors" and "Let's Mambo." He also created lyrics videos for deaf ASL performers, such as Sean Forbes, Wawa Snipes, and Mandy Harvey, for their live shows. His biggest achievement to date was working with his client, Forbes by creating lyrics videos for his show at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra with over a thousand people attended and more through live stream programs. Currently, he runs his own video production company, Mangiardi Films LLC, and have produced spots for Microsoft and Google through Connect Direct under Communication Service for the Deaf. Website: mangiardifilms.com  
Instagram: @adreanmangiardi



## Zack Stone

My name is Zack Stone. I was born deaf and raised with my hearing twin in Arkansas. I was raised oral to speak English and mainstreamed in Arkansas public schools. I went to University of Central Arkansas (UCA) and graduated in 2018 with a BA in Film and minor in Art. I did an internship as a production assistant at Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN), under PBS, in the summer of 2018. I started to become motivated to learn American Sign Language (ASL) after taking 2 ASL classes at UCA. I wanted to continue learning ASL, so I chose to go to RIT. Now, I am a second year RIT MFA graduate student, studying screenwriting. I work part time for Morpheyes Studio at NTID. Morpheyes Studio is a professional creative studio where I collaborate with an amazing Deaf production team. My graduate school and my job give me joy in what I love doing. Being artistic makes my brain spark full of wonders. I'm always looking forward to developing more knowledge, experience, and connection. Website: zackstone948.wixsite.com/zackstoneportfolio



## Jakiria Williams

Born and raised in the West city of Chicago, Jakiria Mersade Williams is a 23-year-old alumna from the Rochester Institute of Technology (Spring 2020). After earning her Bachelors in Fine Arts—with a growing practice in Psychology—her aspirations falls under becoming a professional playwright that interweaves journalistic qualities and artistic influences. Currently, the foundational narrative of her work explores 'resurrecting from bondages of vulnerable and traumatic experiences.' To assert this concept, she researches historical contexts relating to the atmosphere of black churches; club scenes; and the role behind the bio-psycho-social theory. Tying this with visuals of glammers decors, together, she enjoys creating a transcendence vibe for all to immerse into.  
Instagram & Facebook: @JakiriaWilliams  
Website: jakiriawilliams.com



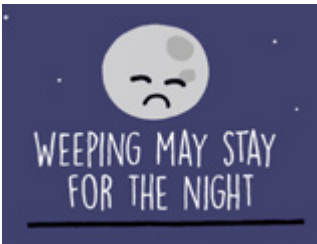
# Other Exhibition Artists



## Myles de Bastion

A dual citizen of the UK and the United States, Myles grew up in England obtaining a Bachelor's degree from University of Teesside (UK), focusing on computer science & visual art and was the chairman of the Musician's Society for two years. Myles often mentors Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing youth. He has taught workshops at Washington School for the Deaf (WA) Crestone School (OR) Austine School for the Deaf (VT) and at the world's first Deaf Music Camp (MI), where he developed the curriculum and was responsible for the music and sound program. In 2012 Myles moved to Portland OR and founded CymaSpace, a non-profit that facilitates arts & cultural events that are inclusive of the Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing, where Myles further developed his immersive technological and artistic works across multiple mediums. In 2015 Myles took his concepts into the commercial sector and founded Audiolux Devices, a technology company that now produces professional products featuring the synergy of light and sound. In 2018 Myles spearheaded the Northwest Deaf Arts Festival (OR) providing Artistic & Technical Direction. At the event he also performed and presented The ikigai Machine; a multimedia experience comprising of a visual narrative with interactive art installations juxtaposed with live performances. The work tells the story of an inventor born in a silent world that has no air, the inventor builds a machine to restores air and in turn, helps to world to discover sound for the first time. Myles is developing The Ikigai Machine into a full, feature-length, touring production with the aim of presenting and performing at disability hubs and art institutions throughout the nation. In tandem with his work at CymaSpace, Myles has received awards and support from Regional Arts & Culture Council, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Cultural Trust, Oregon Cultural Foundation and Randall Charitable Trust. Myles continues to live in Portland with his partner Kimberly and CODA daughters Zebra & Juniper.

<https://myles.debastion.com/>  
<https://www.cymaspace.org/>



## Sammi Schouten

Sammi Schouten (Shupe) is what you would considered a Jane-of-all trades. She love to pick up any skills she can get her hands on. During her senior year of her Graphic Design major at Rochester Institute of Technology, she discovered Motion Graphic which she believe is the next biggest thing. She graduated in 2014 and achieved her childhood dream of getting a job at a advertisement firm in New York City. Unfortunately, it was not what she was expected so she took a detour down in Austin, Texas and end up being the perfect place for her! She is currently working as a Creative Producer at ZVRS and Purple Communication and enjoy doing freelance projects for National Deaf Center, ASL Connect, Linguabee, and Deaf Bible Society.



# Workshop: Black Deaf Performing Arts in Media

Tuesday, October 13 at 7PM - 8PM

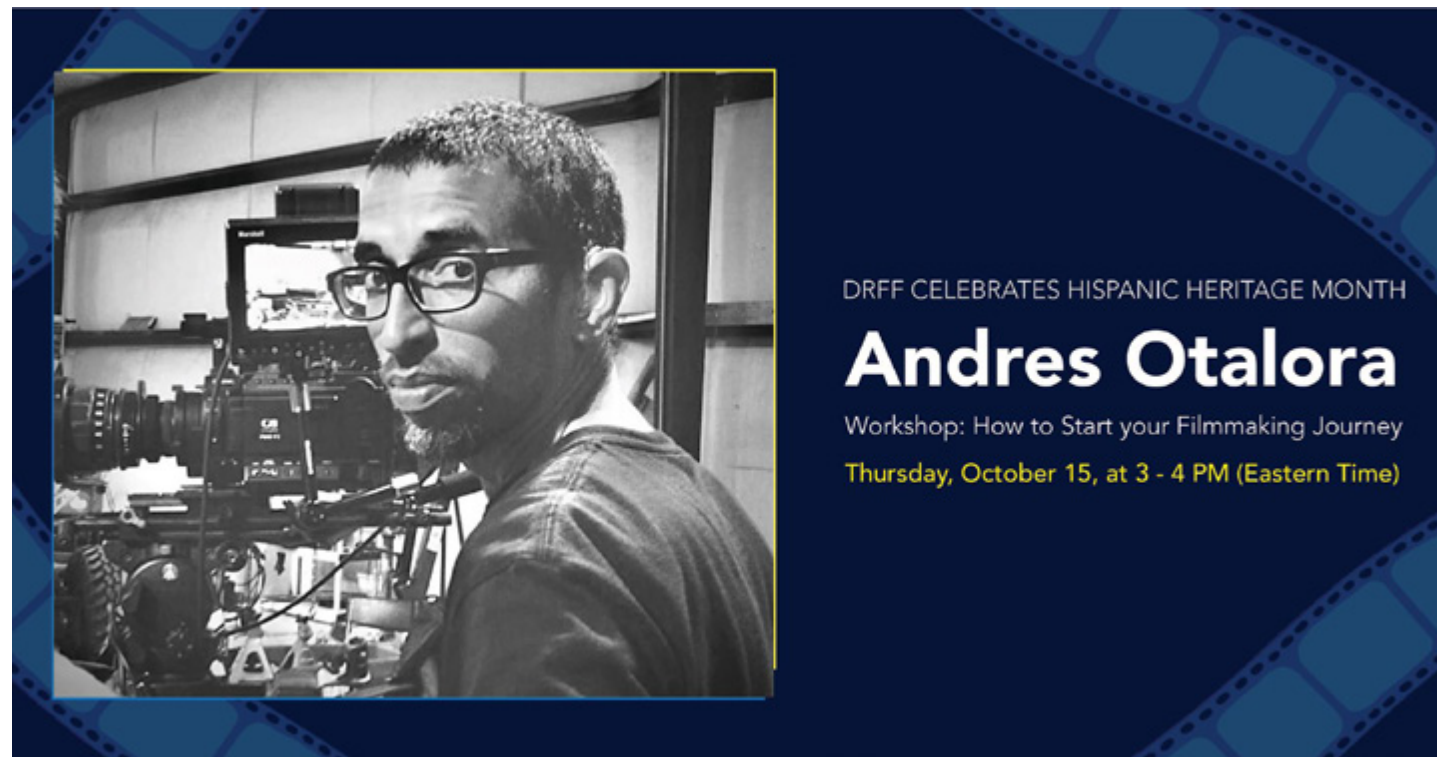
Fred Beam will provide a webinar on Black Deaf Performing Arts in Media. The webinar is free. Please register: <https://forms.gle/wffoqXS1qJFWRTAt9>

Contribution of "Black Deaf" Performing Arts in Media has offered some insights into the eyes of Deaf Community and African American Community as well as their history. This presentation will show what Black Deaf Performing Artists have contributed to our history and be recognized. Historically, we have been put in the backburner or overlooked in many mainstreamed books or media. It shows that Deaf people focus on the majority of Deaf people who are non minority while African American ignore the deaf people . Black Deaf Performing Artists look at themselves as not just deaf or black , but as a whole "Black Deaf". This presentation will include the history of black deaf performing arts in media , black deaf performing artists and their accomplishments in media . It is not just a portray of Deaf African American , but for all of us, because the issues of our identity, self-portrayal, culture and language are related to the experiences of an individual who has wondered about who they are and to every group who feels " invisible" in the eyes of our country. This presentation will also present the "First" in the field of Black Deaf Performing Arts in Media. The information that will be shared , was collected from the videos, films, newspapers, articles, books, internet, anecdotes and other kind of resources.

Fred Michael Beam is the outreach coordinator for RIT/NTID's traveling performance troupe Sunshine 2.0. He is an experienced performer with acting credits that include: Lion in "The Wonderful Wiz of Oz," Nicholas in "By the Music of the Spheres" at the Goodman Theater; Harry in "Harry the Dirty Dog" at the Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts; Witness in "Miracle Workers" and Stranger in "Mad Dancer" at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. Additional performances include "Fall Out Shelter," "The Dirt Maker," and "The Underachiever" at the Kennedy Center; the title character in "Othello" at Gallaudet University; and Steve in "A Streetcar Named Desire" at Sign Rise Cultural Arts in Washington, D.C. He also performs in his one-man shows, "Fred Michael Beam: Sign Me a Story" and "Black, Deaf Male: Who Am I?," which toured nationwide. He was a member of "I Didn't Hear That Color," the first black deaf play ever produced. His television and film credits include "If You Could Hear My Own Tune," "The West Wing," "Secret Dream," "Little Lonely Monster," "Deaf Mosaic" and "The New Captain Kangaroo," for which he won the 2000 Media Access Award. He is also an internationally acclaimed dancer, director, and choreographer.

He was also Executive Director of Invisible Hands, Inc., which promotes deaf awareness through performing arts and was one of the founding member of The Wild Zappers, an all deaf male dance company. He also established Theater Arts Leadership Training for Deaf People of Color at Gallaudet University.





## Workshop: How to Start your Filmmaking Journey

Thursday, October 15 at 3PM - 4PM

Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month: Andres Otalora, a Colombian-American filmmaker at National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes, will provide an online filmmaking workshop on Thursday, October 15, at 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Eastern). Please register: [bit.ly/3d9BR5t](https://bit.ly/3d9BR5t)

He will present about his experiences as a Colombian-American filmmaker, overcoming challenges, and his film professor, Jane Norman, who ignited his filmmaking career. He worked as a Director of Photography and Producer for ASL Films, Convo, and Communication Service for the Deaf. Now he directs videos for the National Deaf Center. He will teach how to get started with filmmaking, gain recognition for work, and handle criticism during the process of pre-production, production, and post-production.

Andrés Otalora, commonly known as Flash, is a native New Yorker with a Colombian heritage. Despite overcoming spinal meningitis, he became an artist and realized his dream of being a filmmaker. While taking graphic design at Gallaudet, he took a film and literature course that led to a class project which opened his eyes and inspired him to become a filmmaker. A birthday gift of his first Canon GL-2 from his father only encouraged him. From a humble beginning of shooting weddings and being in theater, he grew into a director of photography, assistant director, director, editor, and assistant producer for films like "The Versa Effect," "Hard Man," "Slot," and "Without You" which is in the top three for an ASL Films competition. Tapping into his artistic roots, he interprets each cinematic screenshot as a blank canvas being painted. His love and education of filmmaking is only growing as he continues to make it his life's art.

## ASL Lecture Series: Shaping My Identity

Friday, October 16 at 12:20 PM - 1:20 PM

Presentation via Zoom. Register at: <https://bit.ly/2SKWX0h>

A native of New York City, Jeremy Stone worked with ASL Slam, Deaf Jam and continues to perform. He is the founder of ASLNYC, located in Brooklyn, bringing together deaf, hearing, and hard-of-hearing students interested in expression through ASL and learning the language as a true visual form of communication.

Jeremy will share his experiences in the entertainment Industry, and will cover three main topics: creating a brand, negotiating self-worth, and networking.

In partnership with Deaf Rochester Film Festival. For more information contact Jeanne Behm at [jsbnss@rit.edu](mailto:jsbnss@rit.edu). Free and open to the public. Interpreters have been requested

**RIT** National Technical Institute for the Deaf  
ASL-Deaf Studies Community Center

ASL Lecture Series presents

## Shaping My Identity

**with Jeremy Lee Stone**  
**founder of ASL Elements**

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In partnership with  
DEAF ROCHESTER  
FILM FESTIVAL

For more information contact Jeanne Behm at [jsbnss@rit.edu](mailto:jsbnss@rit.edu) • Free and open to the public • Interpreters have been requested



# DRFF Mission Statement



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



to inspire future generations of Deaf and Hard of Hearing filmmakers

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