

# ReelAbilities

## FILM FESTIVAL

 Powered by Pozez JCC

**Celebrating Diversity and Community  
One Film at a Time**

### **ReelAbilities Film Festival: Greater Washington January 30, 2025 - March 6, 2025**

Fairfax, Virginia – We are thrilled to announce the launch of the ReelAbilities Film Festival: Greater Washington, the region’s only film festival dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories, and artistic expressions of people with disabilities. This groundbreaking event will take place from January 30, 2025 to March 6, 2025 at venues across DC, Maryland, and Virginia.


The festival is produced by Pozez Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. At the Pozez JCC, we are proud to celebrate and connect with our diverse community. People of all backgrounds, identities, abilities, and faiths are welcomed, respected and safe at the J. Guided by Jewish values, including repairing the world (Tikkun Olam) we embrace and honor diversity, strive for positive change and stand against discrimination and injustice in all forms.

The festival aims to shine a spotlight on the diverse narratives and talents of individuals with disabilities, fostering an inclusive community where their voices can be heard and celebrated. Attendees will experience a curated selection of films that explore themes of resilience, creativity, and empowerment, alongside panel discussions and workshops featuring filmmakers and advocates.

Presented By:

**Paul Marengo**

**Press Contact**

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 <https://reelabilities.org/greaterwash>

## Highlights of the Festival Include:

- **Film Screenings:** A diverse lineup of short films, documentaries, and feature films that highlight the rich experiences of people with disabilities.
- **Panel Discussions:** Engaging conversations with filmmakers, actors, and advocates about the importance of representation and storytelling in the film industry.
- **Workshops:** Interactive sessions designed to inspire and educate aspiring filmmakers on inclusive storytelling and accessible production practices.

“We believe that every story deserves to be told, and the ReelAbilities Film Festival: Greater Washington is a platform for voices that are often overlooked,” said Paul Marengo, Festival Director. “Through film, we can foster empathy, understanding, and connection within our community.”

The festival is open to everyone, and we encourage individuals from all backgrounds to join us in celebrating the incredible talent and perspectives of people with disabilities. For more information about the festival, including the full lineup of films and events, Check out our website at starting January 1, 2025. Join us in breaking barriers and amplifying voices at ReelAbilities Film Festival: Greater Washington. Together, we can create a more inclusive world through the power of film.

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**Pozez JCC** – Guided by Jewish values, the Pozez JCC will spark, foster, and build Jewish Connection, Community, and Peoplehood throughout Northern Virginia by creating outstanding opportunities for every individual to explore the boundless potential of Jewish life. Understanding that our community is widely scattered, we will meet people where they are both within and beyond the walls of the J.

**ReelAbilities International** – Founded in 2007 by the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York is the largest festival in the country dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories and artistic expressions of people with disabilities. The week long festival is renowned for its wide-ranging international film selection, riveting conversations, and performances, presented annually in dozens of venues across the New York metropolitan area. In 2010, ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York expanded into an international program, presenting its one-of-a-kind programming in cities throughout the United States, Canada, and Central America.