THANK YOU!
The Deaf Rochester Film Festival appreciates and thanks these sponsors for their generous support.

MOGULS

DIRECTORS

PRODUCERS

ASSISTANT PRODUCERS

CINEMATOGRAPHERS

TABLE OF CONTENTS -
FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE ..............................................
FESTIVAL VENUES ........................................................
LETTERS ............................................................................
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND FEATURE FILMS ..............
FILM DESCRIPTIONS ....................................................
JR DRFF ............................................................................
DRFF 2009'S MISSION ..................................................
RISING STAR AWARDS ..................................................
THANK YOU! ..................................................................

Disclaimer:
The views and opinions (implied or directly stated in the films shown at this festival are those of filmmakers and may not reflect the views and actions of the DRFF09 Board nor any of its sponsors.

DEAF ROCHESTER

The official logo was created by Ryan Clause.

FILM FESTIVAL
TABLE OF CONTENTS
FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE............................................... 2
FESTIVAL VENUES..................................................... 2
LETTERS............................................................................ 3
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND FILMS.......................... 6
FEATURE FILMS............................................................ 8
FILM DESCRIPTIONS.................................................... 11
JR DRFF.......................................................................... 25
DRFF 2009'S MISSION.................................................. 26
RISING STAR AWARDS................................................. 26
THANK YOU!................................................................... 27

Disclaimer:
The views and opinions (implied or directly stated) in the films shown at this festival are those of the filmmakers and may not reflect the views and opinions of the DRFF09 Board nor any of its sponsors.
## FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

**MARCH 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THURSDAY 26th</th>
<th>FRIDAY 27th</th>
<th>SATURDAY 28th</th>
<th>SUNDAY 29th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-7PM to 9:30PM -</td>
<td>10AM to 12PM -</td>
<td>9AM to 5PM -</td>
<td>9AM to 5PM -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester School for the Deaf</td>
<td>Writers &amp; Books Workshop</td>
<td>George Eastman House Film Culture Shorts I</td>
<td>Robert F. Panaro Theatre Film Culture Shorts II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Deaf Rochester Film Festival 2009</td>
<td>Film and Deaf Writers, Crossing the Textual Divide</td>
<td>6:30PM to 9:30PM -</td>
<td>6:30PM to 9:30PM -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(For more info go to pg. 25)</td>
<td>for more info go to pg. 6</td>
<td>Robert F. Panaro Theatre College Night Reel Shorts!</td>
<td>Robert F. Panaro Theatre College Night Reel Shorts!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-7:30PM -</td>
<td>-10PM -</td>
<td>-10PM -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Theatre</td>
<td>Voices From El-Sayed in Theatre One</td>
<td>Robert F. Panaro Theatre Reel Deaf Artists' Reception</td>
<td>Robert F. Panaro Theatre Reel Deaf Artists' Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-9AM to 5PM -</td>
<td>-10AM to 12PM -</td>
<td>-10AM to 12PM -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester Contemporary Art Center</td>
<td>Opening Night Reception</td>
<td>Workshop: Approaching Sound as a Deaf Filmmaker</td>
<td>Workshop: Approaching Sound as a Deaf Filmmaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-10PM -</td>
<td>-1:30PM -</td>
<td>-1:30PM -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Directors' Brunch</td>
<td>Student Development Center Book Signing by Braam Jordaen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## FESTIVAL VENUES

- **Rochester School for the Deaf**
  1545 St Paul Street
  Rochester, NY 14620

- **Artisan Works**
  565 Blossom Road
  Rochester, NY 14610

- **The Little Theatre**
  240 East Avenue
  Rochester, NY 14604

- **Rochester Contemporary Art Center**
  740 University Avenue
  Rochester, NY 14627

- **George Eastman House**
  900 East Avenue
  Rochester, NY 14604

- ** Writers & Books**
  240 East Avenue
  Rochester, NY 14604

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Dear Film Aficionado,**

Welkom! Nau mai! Dobrodosli! This celebration of cinematic brilliance that is the Rochester Deaf Film Festival is for you and your friends. First, I hope you will all join me in celebrating films and filmmakers from such far-flung countries as Syria, Portugal, India and New Zealand! I earnestly hope that you find opportunities to engage with them in addition to appreciating the films they will show.

Our theme this year is "Preserving the Past." We must first understand and cherish our history, for example, at our Filmmakers' Reception, where we will enjoy a sure trove of home movies from their extended family tree, including NTID's first and most beloved deaf faculty members, showcasing works from young taler artists who are already making their mark on the world of Deaf film.

In order to preserve our history, we have partnered with the Rochester School for the Deaf to continue our film series on deaf history and culture. For ten years, the Rochester Deaf Film Festival has provided a place where we can provide constructive feedback to filmmakers who are working together with other filmmakers to forge new alliances within the Deaf community.

In addition to our many film screenings, discussions, and receptions where we can provide constructive feedback to filmmakers, we are working on creating new alliances within the Deaf film community and are considering the limitations of today's environment to continue to thrive and impact future generations.

Finally, to my great fortune, I have a supportive Board! Thank you so much for your support and assistance. More importantly, you are making this Festival possible.

Stacy Lawrence
And the Deaf Rochester Film Festival '09
Letter from the Director of DRFF

Dear Film Aficionado,

Welkom! Nau mai! Dobrodosli! Swaagatam! Bemvindo! Bruchim habayim! Welcome to the true celebration of cinematic brilliance that is the Deaf Rochester Film Festival ’09!

First, I hope you will all join me in welcoming to Rochester a diverse group of distinguished filmmakers and films from such far-flung corners of the globe as South Africa, the Netherlands, Israel, Slovenia, Portugal, India and New Zealand! We applaud these filmmakers and their many achievements, and earnestly hope that you find opportunities to cultivate creative diversity and develop intercultural dialogue with them in addition to appreciating their cinematic talents!

I want to especially recognize the out-of-town filmmakers who made the time to come all the way here to celebrate their films with us this weekend: Braam Jordaan (South Africa), Anja Hiddinga and Tom Linszen (the Netherlands), Willy Lindwer and Oded Adomi Leshem (Israel), Julia Dameron and Hilari Scarl (California), and Ryan Commerson (Colorado). If you see them, please thank them for their contributions to this wonderful festival!

Our theme this year is “Preserving the History of Deaf Culture.” In order to pursue new directions, we must first understand and cherish our precious history. And this we will do throughout the weekend. For example, at our Filmmakers’ Reception at Artisan Works, Drs. Ted and Sam Supalla will screen a treasure trove of home movies from their experiences growing up in a Deaf family.

In order to preserve our history, we must also acknowledge and celebrate our roots. Two of our films were graced by the participation of our own Dr. Robert Panara, a renowned poet in his own right who was NTID’s first and most beloved deaf faculty member. Dr. Panara will participate in a post-film panel discussion at NTID’s Panara Theatre on Sunday. We all owe a deep debt of gratitude to Bob Panara’s artistic soul and his generous spirit; therefore, the Deaf Rochester Film Festival dedicates this Festival to him!

To ensure that our history will endure, we must also focus on the future. Toward that end, we are also joining forces with the Rochester School for the Deaf to host the first Junior Deaf Rochester Film Festival, showcasing works from young talented Deaf high school students across the country!

Our Deaf filmmakers have worked unbelievably hard to get where they are now, and yet they need more support in order to pursue and share their passions. May Deaf Rochester Film Festival ’09 be the place where we can provide constructive feedback, engaging dialogue, and plenty of encouragement as filmmakers come together with other writers, directors and producers to create new opportunities and forge new alliances within the Deaf film & entertainment industry.

In addition to our many film screenings, please be sure to attend our various workshops, Q&A panel discussions, and receptions where our esteemed filmmakers will share their diverse gifts and insights!

Of course, this Festival would not exist without our generous sponsors. Truly generous, I must add, considering the limitations of today’s economy. Our deepest thanks go to our sponsors for allowing us to continue to thrive and impact future generations of filmmakers.

Finally, to my great fortune, I have had the pleasure of working with the kindest, warmest and most supportive Board! Thank you so much for all of your hard work!

More importantly, you are making the Deaf Rochester Film Festival happen. Thank YOU for coming to our Festival!

Stacy Lawrence
And the Deaf Rochester Film Festival ’09 Board
February 6, 2009

Welcome to the City of Rochester and the Deaf Rochester Film Festival!

Waving hands! It is my pleasure to welcome the Rochester community and visitors from afar to this incredible experience—the Deaf Rochester Film Festival. Venues throughout the city March 26-29 will spotlight the exceptional works of Deaf filmmakers from our own talented Rochester Deaf community and from all over the world! In addition, we greet warmly the Deaf and hard of hearing students from all over the nation who are here to screen and celebrate their films with family and friends.

It is particularly exciting to host this event during Rochester’s 175th Anniversary year. Our theme “One Future—Together” emphasizes the importance that every person brings to the family table as we craft the city’s future together. Certainly, the Deaf community has played a significant and enriching role during our city’s history.

As you know, Rochester is gifted with one of the largest Deaf populations per capita of any city in the United States and has been lauded as the most Deaf-friendly city in the U.S. Rochester is home to such internationally recognized programs for the Deaf as the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (part of the Rochester Institute of Technology) and University of Rochester programs, as well as outstanding educational opportunities for younger students at the Rochester School for the Deaf.

Those of us from Rochester and travelers from far beyond, anticipate with excitement these multifaceted artistic statements. We look forward to a glimpse of another’s unique vision and to experience Deaf Art that is fresh, unexpected and alive right here in Rochester, New York!

We salute all the dedicated filmmakers, educators, volunteers and sponsors who are making this event come to life, and especially Stacy Lawrence, Director of the Rochester Deaf Film Festival and members of the board.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Duffy
Mayor
March 2009

To the Participants of the Deaf Rochester Film Festival,

I am so pleased that Rochester Institute of Technology and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf are a featured venue in the Deaf Rochester Film Festival '09. I know you share my excitement in seeing the finished works of so many talented Deaf and hard-of-hearing artists from around the world shown right here in Rochester.

For more than 40 years, NTID has been a prime destination for college education for students with hearing loss. NTID also has served as an integral cultural center for many deaf individuals. It continues to be a place where students not only learn in classrooms, but they learn more about themselves. They learn cultural history. They perform or watch productions in sign language on stage. They enjoy art on display by deaf artists in NTID’s Joseph F. and Helen C. Dyer Arts Center.

I’m sure you will be awestruck at the quality and diversity of the films shown at this year’s festival. I trust you will experience a greater appreciation of the hard work that goes into producing each film.

As the festival organizers will tell you, we hope everyone will come away with a better understanding of Deaf culture.

Vicki and I look forward to seeing you at the festival on March 26-29, 2009. Enjoy!

Best regards,

T. Alan Hurwitz
President, NTID
Vice President and Dean, RIT
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND FILMS

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

- 7PM-
Rochester School for the Deaf
- 7PM-
Junior Deaf Rochester Film Festival 2009
Short films by deaf high school students and shorts from New Zealand, South Africa and other countries. For more information about Junior Deaf Rochester Film Festival, go to page 25.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

- 10AM to 12PM-
Writers & Books Workshop: "Film and Deaf Writers. Crossing the Textual Divide."
Presented by Aaron Kelstone
This workshop explores ways that deaf writers and filmmakers can find common ground for interaction that result in successful deaf films. A brief introduction to the historical relationship between film and deaf-themed theater productions is explored. Additionally, a brief introduction to the extensive work of deaf writers in theater is reviewed. We will seek to identify the essential early steps needed to make progress in this area of film production.

- 3PM to 6:30PM-
Reel Deaf Filmmakers Reception
An invitation only gala where community members gather to learn first-hand about the projects of deaf filmmakers.

- 9PM-
Little Theatre Sneak Preview: Director’s Showcase
Voices from El-Sayed

- 10PM-
Rochester Contemporary Art Center
Welcome Reception
Discussion with filmmakers from around the world.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

- 9AM: (Doors open at 8:15AM)
Dryden Theatre @ George Eastman House
Film Culture Shorts I & Anna’s Silent Struggle
Minutes
56 Anna’s Silent Struggle
6 Goodbye Buzzy
13 The Guest
10-minute break
11 The Deaf Man
7 Peter
39 Media, Power & Ideology: Re-Presenting D-E-A-F
Presentation: Ryan Commercon
1-hour Lunch Break (on your own)
1 The Rubbish Monster
28 Jag Tanker – Altsa Finns Jag! (I Think Therefore I Am?)
40 Noise In My Head (Part 1)
6 Our Song
0:30 Twisted Futures
10-minute break
107 See What I’m Saying
Panel Discussion: Reel Possibilities! Deaf & Hearing Filmmakers

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

- 9AM & 1PM-
Curtis Theatre @ George Eastman House
Visual Poetry Slam

- 9AM-
Dryden Theatre @ George Eastman House
College Night: Reel Shorts!
Minutes
5 The Tortoise and the Hare
24 The Making of Agamemnon
5 The Hitchhiker
28 Don’t
9 Carter
10 Deaf Skateboarders
7 The Stranger That Signs
10-minute break
25 A Brutal Awakening
6 Flipped
25 The Silver Bargain
11 Pay Attention
20 Noise In My Head (Part 2)
4 Comic Con Convention
25 Talking Heads & Signing Hands
4 Single Ladies
Reception

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

- 10AM to 5PM-
CSD Student Development Center Room 310 @ RIT
Workshop: “Approaching Sound as a Deaf Filmmaker”
Presented by Jules Dameron
Sound is something that anyone can do—even deaf! Sound is an additional aspect of filmmaking that can be part of your film. Do you want sound in your film? Afraid to use it because you don’t know how? Come to this workshop to learn how to understand sound, and how to use it as a part of your film projects.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

- 9AM & 1PM-
Dryden Theatre @ George Eastman House
Reel Universal Stories!

- 9AM & 1PM-
Dryden Theatre @ George Eastman House
College Night: Reel Shorts!
Minutes
40 Sign Discourse
50 10 Years of Portuguese Sign Language
30 Here Everybody Spoke Sign Language
SATURDAY, MARCH 28

- 6:30PM -
Robert F. Panaro Theatre @ RIT/NTID
College Night: Reel Shorts!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND FILMS
(Schedule may be subject to change)

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

- 6:30PM -
Robert F. Panaro Theatre @ RIT/NTID
College Night: Reel Shorts!

Minutes Titles
5 The Tortoise and the Hare
24 The Making of Agamemnon
5 The Hitchhiker
28 Don't
9 Carter
10 Deal Skateboarders
7 The Stranger That Signs
10-minute break
25 A Brutal Awakening
23 Flipped
25 The Silver Bargain
11 Pay Attention
20 Noise In My Head Part 21
14 Comic Con Convention
25 Talking Heads / Signing Hands
4 Single Ladies
Reception

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

- 9AM -
CSO Student Development Center Room 1300 @ RIT/NTID
Reel Children's Program

Minutes Titles
1 The Rubbish Monster
1 Near Fatal Attraction
3 Amelion Signs
3 The Handful Airport
3 A Lip
3 Savings
5 The Tortoise and the Hare
16 The Red Riding Deathfold
10 - minute break
Presentation: Braam Jordaan
10 The Makings of "The Rubbish Monster"
Jordaan's Storyboard
Activities:
0 45 The Bird Feather
7 Character Counts
2 Soho The Lion
1 hour Lunch Break
Book Signing by Braam Jordaan

www.DeafRochesterFilmFestival.org
In the middle of the picturesque Negev desert lays the Bedouin village of El Sayed, believed to be home to one of the largest percentages of deaf people in the world. Through generations, a unique sign language has evolved, making it the most popular language in this rare society that accepts deafness as natural as life itself. The village’s tranquility is interrupted by a father’s decision to change his deaf son’s fate and give him a cochlear implant, allowing him to hear sounds. Many wonder what these changes will do to the deaf population there, and its cultural history. The debate is between sound and silence, technology vs. tradition.
ANNA'S SILENT STRUGGLE
DOCUMENTARY Tom Linzen and Willy Lindwer 2008, 56 min. Netherlands / D H S

Anna van Dam is one of the few deaf Jews who survived the Nazi camp at Auschwitz. She used lip reading and her intuition to survive: She did not hear the screams, shootings and cries commonly heard in the Nazi camps. She was born in 1926 in Antwerp to Dutch-Jewish parents and deported from the Belgium Nazi transit camp in Mechelen to Auschwitz when she was 17. Her story is a unique and inspirational tale of survival, with scenes shot in The Netherlands, Belgium and Poland.

SEE WHAT I'M SAYING: THE DEAF ENTERTAINERS DOCUMENTARY
DOCUMENTARY Hilar Searl 2009, 107 min. USA / H S

The journeys of four deaf entertainers are chronicled in a single year as their stories intertwine and culminate in some of the largest events of their lives. Bob, a drummer in the world's only deaf rock band, Beethoven's Nightmare, produces the largest show in the band's 30-year history; CJ, a comic famous around the world but unknown to hearing people, fights to cross over to mainstream audiences by producing the first International Sign Language Theatre Festival in Los Angeles; Robert, a brilliant actor who teaches at Julliard, struggles to survive when he becomes homeless; and TL, a hard-of-hearing singer is caught between two worlds when she produces her first CD, "Not Enough."
FEATURE FILMS

Sunday, March 29, 2009 / Robert F. Panaro Theatre @ RIT/NTID

THE HEART OF THE HYDROGEN JUKEBOX
DOCUMENTARY Miriam Lerner. 2008. 120 min. USA / H S

This documentary is comprised primarily of archival and recent video footage of various performances and interviews of Deaf poets who were experimenting with poetic devices in ASL from approximately 1984 - 1992. The beginning of the film gives an overview of the history of poetry as an oral form and its transformation to the written page as a literary exercise. Interviews with deaf poets illustrate the reluctance many Deaf individuals felt to engage in what they felt was a means of expression belonging solely to the Hearing world. Robert Panaro, Bernard Bragg, Ella Mae Lentz and Clayton Valli talk about their experiences with writing and performing poetry. Allen Ginsberg’s historic visit to RIT/NTID and meeting with Robert Panaro served as a catalyst and inspiration to Deaf poets Patrick Graybill, Peter Cook, and Debbie Rennie. Although this documentary will appeal to artists and the general public, Deaf or Hearing, the objective is to create a record of this exciting and historic time period, which those of us in Rochester at the time were fortunate to have witnessed and in which we were participants. This time period was unprecedented and not yet replicated. Ultimately, this film is a gift to the Deaf community, a compilation of outstanding and thought-provoking works performed by seasoned poets as well as those just starting out at the time. When the Deaf Community realized that ASL was a true language, their art and hearts could at last be shared!

Sunday, March 29, 2009 / Robert F. Panaro Theatre @ RIT/NTID

DOCUMENTARY Don Casper and Crystal Pix. 2009. 60 min. USA / H S

The Deaf Rochester Film Festival is proud to offer the public’s first “sneak peek” of Signs of the Time, a documentary that examines whether the use of hand signals used by baseball umpires was developed by legendary deaf baseball player William “Dummy” Hoy. The documentary features period recreations shot at Genesee Country Village and Museum in nearby Mumford, as well as interviews of several baseball legends. Filmmaker Don Casper, of Irondequoit, formerly worked at NTID. It is fitting that the film is shown at NTID’s Robert F. Panaro Theatre. Panaro, 88, of Chili, was the first deaf faculty member at NTID and a remains chronic baseball fan and historian. He is featured in the film and may help lead a discussion about the film with Casper immediately after its viewing. “Everyone will truly enjoy and learn from this film, not just baseball fans, but anyone who likes a story about history, mystery and human achievement,” Casper says. Casper hopes the documentary will be aired on a television network.

10 • DEAF/HARD OF HEARING FILMMAKER • HEARING FILMMAKER • ASL Only • Subtitles
experiences with writing and performing. Robert Panaro served as a catalyst andennie. Although this documentary will
not yet replicated. Ultimately, this
thought-provoking works performed by
the Deaf Community realized that ASL
remaining chronic baseball fan and about the film with Casper immediately not just baseball fans, but anyone who
her says. Casper hopes the documentary

**THE LEGEND OF BASEBALL'S**

Lisa finds herself being charged with the murder of her husband. The problem: Lisa doesn't remember becoming a widow. A detective and an interpreter attempt to help Lisa restore her memory of her husband's death and the mystery Blue Box, which may contain the key to proving her innocence. The suspense of her journey of recollection may endanger her life.
A BRUTAL AWAKENING
DOCUMENTARY. Andrew Jones, 2008. 25 min. USA / D

Adrian, a young Deaf dancer shares her charming yet heartbreaking stories of growing up struggling against fitting into the box that was created for her. After transferring to a residential school, her differences become a daily battle. We share her diary-like experience as she leads us through her journey for acceptance. Will she discover a true sense of belonging? Will she continue to feel isolated in her own community? Your actions ultimately determine the ending to her story.

CARTER
DOCUMENTARY. Brian Suchite, Zilvinas Paludnevicius, and Joey Caverly, 2008. 9 min. USA / D

Frank loses big time during his poker game and owes people money. He struggles to pay off the debt, but runs out of time.

COMIC CON CONVENTION
DOCUMENTARY. Adam Johnson, 2008. 14 min. USA / D

The film follows students from Gallaudet University to the Baltimore Comic Con, and they get to meet a comic book superstar, Jim Lee.

THE DEAF MAN
EXPERIMENTAL SHORT. DJ Kurs and Jules Dao

DEAF SKATEBOARDERS
DOCUMENTARY. Zilvinas Paludnevicius, 2008

DISCOVERING: SHUKTARA
DOCUMENTARY. Christy Smith and David Ju,
Deaf dancer shares her charming stories of growing up struggling into the box that was created for transferring to a residential school; her become a daily battle. We share her experience as she leads us through her acceptance. Will she discover a true sense? Will she continue to feel isolated in her story? Your actions ultimately determine the story.

Deaf skateboarders at state parks are documented and two skateboarders tell how they started and what inspires them.

This is the remarkable story of 18 boys and girls in Kolkata, India, who were given a new chance at life after being abandoned by their families or escaping abusive homes. While many non-governmental organizations in India, often overlook homeless children who are deaf or have cerebral palsy, Shuktara embraces them.
FILM DESCRIPTIONS

**DON'T**

Drama
Kamau Buchanan
2008
USA

A few days prior to his wedding, a man makes a costly mistake that would affect the rest of his life, and tries to cover it up.

---

**FLIPPED**

Drama
Kamau Buchanan
2006
USA

A man deals with an unexpected change in his life.

---

**GLEE!**

Musical Drama
Jules Dameron
2008
USA

With a mother for a mortician, a little girl has never experienced a smile since birth. When she wishes upon a shooting star, happiness comes in the form of her worst phobia - a clown.

(Note: This film has no deaf characters or sign language - created by a deaf director, deaf writer, deaf DP, deaf producer, deaf choreographer and a deaf editor.

(Note: Sound production has not been finalized, so excuse the quality of the sound. Enjoy the movie.)
Before his wedding, a man makes a last wish that would affect the rest of his life, and sets up with an unexpected change in his life.

For a mortician, a little girl has never smiled since birth. When she wishes for a star, happiness comes in the form of a clown.

A community where all speak sign language, where deaf and hearing lives side by side - an impossible dream? No, this community did exist for more than 300 years!

Valerie Clarke, the larger-than-life owner of a bed and breakfast, makes her first booking in more than 20 years. She is about to be awoken from her incredibly depressing life but all hell is about to break loose because Valerie is no longer the young woman she once was.

A heartwarming silent movie with no sign language or captions.

A community where all speak sign language, where deaf and hearing lives side by side - an impossible dream? No, this community did exist for more than 300 years!
FILM DESCRIPTIONS

Saturday, March 28, 2009 / Robert F. Panara Theatre @ RIT/NTID

THE HITCHHIKER
EXPERIMENTAL SHORT. Ben Bohan and Bridget Klein, 2007. 5 min. USA / D A

Preservation of community stories and experiments with American Sign Language and film techniques.

Saturday, March 28, 2009 / Curtis Theatre @ George Eastman House

HORATIO
EXPERIMENTAL POETRY. Louis Neethling, 2007. 9 min. UK / B S

A mysterious man drops in at a hole in the wall bookshop. He seems to be a menacing vagabond - but as the saying goes, "Never judge a book by its cover."

Saturday, March 28, 2009 / Dryden Theatre @ George Eastman House

JAG TANKER - ALTSÅ FINNS JAG! (I THINK - THEREFORE I AM!)
HISTORICAL DOCUMENTARY. Gunilla Wagstrom Lundqvist, 2006. 28 min. Sweden / D S A

This documentary highlights the history leading up to the Milan Conference of 1880 - infamous in Deaf history. The film presents historical research on the two competing methods of educating the Deaf: Oralism vs. Sign Language.

(Note: Sweden Sign Language)
In the community stories and experiments, sign language and film techniques are used. A man drops in at a hole in the wall. He seems to be a menacing vagabond - saying goes, "Never judge a book by its cover." 

The conference of 1880 - infamous in Deaf history - highlights the division between oralism and sign language. A documentary presents historical research on the two methods of educating the Deaf: oralism vs. sign language.

**FILM DESCRIPTIONS**

**THE MAKING OF AGAMEMNON**
- **Documentary**: Jose Saldana, 2008, 58 min, USA / ASL

Accompany Ethan Sinnott at the Gallaudet University Department of Theatre Arts as he directs the performance of Agamemnon. The behind-the-scenes views show how he deals with preproduction and production issues with the deaf cast.

**MEDIA, POWER & IDEOLOGY: RE-PRESENTING D-E-A-F**
- **Historical Documentary**: Ryan Commerson, 2008, 38 min, USA / ASL

Are Deaf people respected as human beings? How many depend on Supplemental Security Income? How many are fluent in American Sign Language and English? Deafness is a multimillion-dollar industry, yet how much of this money goes to deaf people? Deaf people are viewed as second-class citizens in this country. This may start to be changed by showing this problem in film.

**MY SILENCE**
- **Nature**: Robert Ranta and Boris Horvat, 2008, 5 min, Slovenia / Subtitles

This movie tells the story of a deaf author, his gradual hearing loss, and his eternal nostalgic longing for the lost beauty of music. It also shows the public's response to his hearing loss and their view of his new life.

---

[www.DeafRochesterFilmFestival.org](http://www.DeafRochesterFilmFestival.org)
NOISE IN MY HEAD
DOCUMENTARY. Anja Hiddinga 2006. 80 min Netherlands / H S
Four 20-minute documentaries made by deaf children about their own lives. With English subtitles.

ONALEE’S JOURNEY
DRA-DOCUMENTARY. Ruthie Jordan 2008. 29 min USA / D A
Follow Onalee Cooper as she becomes educated and empowered throughout her journey of being a Native American. Her cultural identity continues to impact her as a deaf woman.

OUR SONG
MUSIC. Jules Dameron 2007. 6 min USA / D A
A female cellist plays a song on a park bench about a deaf man she met once and fell in love with him.

PAY ATTENTION
COMEDY. Jonathan Lewis 2008. 11 min USA / D A

PETER
DRAMA. Pollyanna Ferguson 2007. 7 min New Zealand

RESEARCHING THE SIGNS OF T
EXPERIMENTAL SHORT. Pollyanna Ferguson 2007. 7 min

FILM DESCRIPTIONS

PAY ATTENTION
COMEDY, Jonathan Lewis, 2008, 11 min, USA / D A

An A+ student enters the classroom late as the teacher lectures to her students. Other than her tardiness, the student, who is readily eager to learn, expresses her disgust. Issues of oppression are addressed.

PETER
DRAMA, Pollyanna Ferguson, 2007, 7 min, New Zealand / D A

A hearing child growing up with deaf parents shows different communication preferences throughout generations.
(Note: New Zealand Sign language)

RESEARCHING THE SIGNS OF THE TIME
EXPERIMENTAL SHORT, Pollyanna Ferguson, 2007, 7 min, New Zealand / D S

The professor wanted to teach young girls how the time machine worked, because she was very curious about signs from different times.
**THE RUBBISH MONSTER**

**ANIMATION** Braam Jordaan, 2006, 1 min, South Africa

Set in a littered squatter camp, a man carelessly casts his empty cigarette box away. When the box hits the ground, it transforms the litter into a rubbish monster humanoid which attacks the locals.

---

**SEED HEADS**

**POETRY** Tracey Salloway, 2008, 7 min, USA

The art project explores confusion in a natural environment of dandelions. The question begs whether they are loved or haunted by fluffy seeds.

---

**SIGN DISCOURSE**

**DRAMA** Haggit Gor - Ziv and Tirtza Even, 2009

---

**THE SILVER BARGAIN**

**DRAMA** Michael T. Cyr, 2007, 25 min, Canada
ed squatter camp, a man carelessly casts a cigarette box away. When the box hits the ground, the litter forms a rubbish monster which attacks the locals.

Act explores confusion in a natural setting of dandelions. The question begs: are loved or haunted by fluffy seeds.

**FILM DESCRIPTIONS**

**Sunday March 29, 2009 / Dryer Arts Center @ RIT/NTID**

**SIGN DISCOURSE**

*DRAMA Haggai Gor - Zee and Tetz ro Even, 2007, 40 min, Israel / B S*

A documentary video exploring the experiences of people living with a hearing disability, and the construction of social identity through gestural language by a group excluded from the mainstream discourse. Sign Discourse consists of 40 minutes of talking heads only. However, the talking heads do not talk; they sign, and the sounds they emit as they sign have no intentional signifying power and no correlation to the coded gestures producing the talk. Sound, the arbitrary artifact of sign language, thus creates for the hearing audience -- and the hearing are those targeted by the piece -- the proximity to the experience of being deaf. We are made to hear our hearing, while we listen or rather watch the Deaf recount, in their language -- a language socially positioned below spoken language -- the story of growing up, going to school, working and raising kids in a society which excludes them from its own language, and hence, from conversation, from a productive social dialogue.

**Saturday March 28, 2009 / Robert F. Panara Theatre @ RIT/NTID**

**THE SILVER BARGAIN**

*DRAMA Michael T. Cyr, 2007, 25 min, Canada / B S*

Ben Silver has had enough with standing by and waiting for change. Violence is his only remaining defense to the dehumanization of his community, and Vince is his first, and certainly not last, victim. Will Vince be able to bargain himself out of his own manipulation?
FILM DESCRIPTIONS

Saturday, March 28, 2009 / Robert F. Panaro Theatre @ RIT/NTID

SINGLE LADIES
MUSIC Queen Jade, 2009, 4 min, USA / D S

A unique ASL music video based on the song made popular by Beyoncé, featuring Jubil Khan.

SUNDAY, March 29, 2009 / Robert F. Panaro Theatre @ RIT/NTID

SOCIAL GIRLS
DOCUMENTARY Frank Coppola, 2008, 26 min, USA / H S

Three women in their 20s are shown through their graduation from a unique Social Work program at Rochester Institute of Technology. The Social Work Program integrates hearing, hard of hearing and deaf students in an inclusive program. The filmmaker explores the life experiences of the three protagonists prior to the program being closed after 37 years.

Saturday, March 28, 2009 / Robert F. Panaro Theatre @ RIT/NTID

THE STRANGER THAT SIGNS
SUSPENSE Jonathan Lewis, 2008, 7 min, USA / D

Deaf women are the targets of a serial killer's spree for a month. Fortunately, one of them barely survives, seeks cover, and finally decides to go to the police. An interpreter is appointed for her.

Saturday, March 28, 2009 / Robert F. Panaro Theatre @ RIT/NTID

TALKING HEADS / SIGNING HEAD
DOCUMENTARY Lizzie Sorkin, 2007, 25 min, USA

FILM DESCRIPTIONS
A music video based on the song made by Beyoncé, featuring Jubil Khan.

In their 20s are shown through their experiences of the three protagonists in an inclusive program. The filmmaker is appointed for her.

1 are the targets of a serial killer's spree. Fortunately, one of them barely survives, and finally decides to go to the police.

This was created as a senior thesis project for the School of Film and Animation at RIT in 2007. This documentary simply shows different views from different deaf and hearing staff/faculty/students of RIT. This is only meant to be used as a conversation starter, by prompting discussion points and promoting group dialogues.

This documentary shows that while there were no academic programs for the Deaf, the oralists still wanted to learn sign language. Sign language, which is considered natural by many Deaf people, was prohibited, but yet it was used secretly by the Deaf Community. The Community appealed to the government several times before they could prove the that Lingua Gestual Portuguesa (LGP) was extremely important.

The classic tale told in American Sign Language by Raychelle Harris.
TWISTED FATES
ANIMATION Braam Jordaan, 2007, 0:30 min. South Africa

This 30-second thought-provoking animated spot was produced for the Cape Town Child Welfare Society, highlighting the plight of HIV-positive babies. Braam Jordaan was judged the best newcomer out of 110 entries and also won the prize for the best television public service announcement at the annual Vuka! public service announcement awards, in Johannesburg.

WORRY: A JEWISH DEAF-BLIND SURVIVOR SHARES HER STORY
DOCUMENTARY Patti Durr, 2008, 0:30 min. USA

A look at the Holocaust from a Deaf perspective. Doris Fedrid, a Jewish Polish Deaf survivor who later became blind after the war, retells her experiences during the Holocaust. In her very unique signing style, Doris recounts her experiences in the ghetto, in a slave labor camp, her escape and hiding in a chicken coop as well as moving to the U.S. where she met another Deaf survivor, married and raised a family.
nd thought-provoking animated spot

d for the Cape Town Child Welfare

ightening the plight of HIV-positive babies.

an was judged the best newcomer

ries and also won the prize for the

ublic service announcement at the

ublic service announcement awards, in

ES HER STORY

Holocaust from a Deaf perspective.

ewish Polish Deaf survivor who later

 the war, retells her experiences

ocaust. In her very unique signing style,

er experiences in the ghetto, in a

mp, her escape and hiding in a chicken

 as moving to the U.S. where she met

 survivor, married and raised a family.

JUNIOR DEAF ROCHESTER FILM FESTIVAL

Rochester School for the Deaf

Building Futures ...since 1876

Junior Deaf Rochester Film Festival 2009

Short films by Deaf high school students and shorts from New
Zealand, South Africa and other countries.

A selection of films (approx. times)

Minutes Titles

1 The Rubberish Monster

4 The Tortoise & the Hare

1 Untitled

1 Savings

2 Red High Tops

2 Stoked

21 Deprived

10 minute break

9 Bully

25 Second chance

8 Secluded

8 The Chase

18 The Red Riding Deafhood

6 Peter

0:40 Bird Feather

1 Sioho the Lion

www.DeafRochesterFilmFestival.org
ORFF 2009 MISSION

To promote and showcase films by Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing filmmakers.

To showcase films about the Deaf experience.

To encourage analysis and interpretation of Deaf cinema and Deaf visual aesthetics.

To develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Deaf gaze in the 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/Hard-of-Hearing filmmakers and others involved in the field.

To inspire future generations of Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing filmmakers.

RISING STAR AWARD

To help honor and shine the spotlight on young deaf filmmakers, the Deaf Rochester Film Festival is honoring two talented individuals with our first Rising Star Awards. We know you will be as impressed with their work as we were, and look forward to many more films from them. They are an inspiration to aspiring filmmakers everywhere, especially deaf filmmakers. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

Kamau Buchanan, 29, is a graduate student at Rochester Institute of Technology, majoring in film production. Born in Philadelphia and raised in New Jersey, Kamau became deaf when he was 8 months old. He’s made five short films, including Don’t and Flipped which will be shown at this year’s Deaf Rochester Film Festival.

Jules Dameron, 28, was born deaf in Boone, N.C and raised in Minneapolis. She now calls North Hollywood, CA home. She’s a graduate of Gallaudet University and the University of Southern California, where she earned an M.F.A. in Production. She has been involved in more than 50 films and had made more than 25 short films herself. She’s also worked as an Assistant Director for three feature films, and works as a freelance filmmaker. Her films The Deaf Man (with DJ Kurs), and Our Song will be shown at this year’s festival.

THANK YOU!

Waving hands to... Thank you for your support!

All dedicated volunteers and
DRFF 2009 board members

Adrianna Smart
Al and Peggy Hlibok
Allen Buell, George Eastman House
Andrea Miller, Jewish Film Festival
Anja Hiddinga, Netherlands
Dr. Anthony Bannon, George Eastman House
Barbara DiGiovanni
Bernard Hurwitz
Braam Jordaan, South Africa
Brenda Schertz, Maine Deaf Film Festival
Catherine Mackinnon, Toronto Intl Deaf Film Festival
Chris Bradley, RSD
Davin Sears
Debbie Byrne
Deirdre Schleshofer
Department of Interpreting Service
Erin Espostito, Student Life Team
Ethan Hurwitz
Eve Wiggins
Frank Coppola, Sorenson Communicate
Gunilla Wagstrom Lundqvist
Dr. Harold Mowl, RSD Superintendent
Hedva Gold Schmidt, Go2Films Distributors
Interpreters
J. Matt Sears
Jamie Munro
Jane Norman, Gallaudet University
Jen Adams, RSD
Jill Morgan, NID
Jim Orr, Department of Performing Arts
Jonathan Mills, Educational Technology
Jody Carey, Wegmans
Jules Dameron
Kamau Buchanan
Karen Christie
Kate Schmidt, Department of Liberal Studies
Kate Fernaays
Kelly Foster, The Little Theatre
Ken Hoffmann, Arts & Imaging Studies
Kenneth Kelbaugh, Before Your Quiet Eye
19 filmmakers.

no and Deaf Visual

of the Deaf gaze in the

Deaf culture.

tearing filmmakers and

filmmakers.

The Deaf Rochester Film Festival is honoring you will be as impressed with their work you are an inspiration to aspiring filmmakers up the good work!

Rochester Institute of Technology, major­

Jised in New Jersey, Kamau became deaf t films, including Don’t and Flipped which

Festival.

and raised in Minneapolis. She now

rate of Gallaudet University and the

an M.F.A. in Production. She has been

ore than 25 short films herself. She’s also a films, and works as a freelance film-

nd Our Song will be shown at this year’s

THANK YOU!

Waving hands to. Thank you for your support!

All dedicated volunteers and

DRFF 2009 board members

Adrianna Smart
Ai and Peggy Hibok
Allen Buell, George Eastman House
Andrea Miller, Jewish Film Festival
Anja Haldinga, Netherlands
Dr. Anthony Bannon, George Eastman House
Barbara DiGiovanni
Bernard Hurwitz
Broam Jordan, South Africa
Brenda Schertz, Maine Deaf Film Festival
Catherine Mackinnon, Toronto Int’l Deaf Film Festival
Chris Bradley, RSD
Davv Sears
Debbie Byrne
Desire Schlehofer
Department of Interpreting Service
Erik Esposito, Student Life Team
Ethan Hurwitz
Eve Wiggins
Frank Coppola, Sorenson Communications
Gunilla Wogastorl Lundqvist
Dr. Harold Mowl, RSD Superintendent & Mary Mowl
Hedva Gold Schmidt, Go2Films Distribution & Marketing
Interpreters
J. Matt Sears
Jane Munro
Jane Norman, Gallaudet University
Jan Adams, RSD
Jill Morgan, NTID
Jim Orr, Department of Performing Arts
Jonathan Mills, Educational Technology Resources Room
Judy Carey, Wegmans
Jules Dameron
Kamau Buchanen
Karen Christie
Kate Schmidt, Department of Liberal Studies
Kate Fennays
Kelly Foster, The Little Theatre
Ken Hoffmann, Arts & Imaging Studies, NTID
Kenneth Kelbaugh, Before Your Quiet Eyes
Lisa DeWindt Sommer, RSD
Little Theatre
Lorie Barnum, City of Rochester
Marsha Wietzel
Matt Dans, LGWMatters
Meredith Low
Michael McKee
Natalie Hazara, Go2Films Distribution & Marketing
National Technical Institute for the Deaf
NTID Student Academic Service
Oded Adami-Leshem, Israel
Patti Durr
Poppy Lawrence
Mayor Robert J Duffy
Rochester Contemporary Art Center
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rochester School for the Deaf
Roisie Taravella, High Falls Film Festival
Ruthie Jordan
Ryan Commerson
Sarah Schiffler
School of Film and Animation
Scot Atkins
Stacy Beck
T. Alan Hurwitz, President of NTID & Vicki Hurwitz
Technology Support Services
Tom Uszen, Netherlands
Tracey Salaway, Gallaudet University
Victoria Benz, ArtisanWorks
Wallace Memorial Library
Wayne Betts Jr., Mosesufe
Wendy Low, Writers & Books
Werner Zorn
Willy Conley, Gallaudet University
Willy Lindwe, Israel

www.DeafRochesterFilmFestival.org
At RIT, you’ll get a prestigious university education with unparalleled support for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

You’ll also get:

- Career-oriented, professional programs
- A dynamic, high-tech learning environment
- Real-world work experience
- Successful career placement

Think Career.
Think Achievement.
Think RIT.

“Mom, IBM offered me the job!”

For more information, call 585-475-6700 (voice/TTY), or email NTIDAdmissions@rit.edu.

R·I·T Rochester Institute of Technology National Technical Institute for the Deaf www.rit.edu/NTID/drff10