Every year, the Pacific Rim Mini Diversity Film Festival feature length films, which positively impact humanity, right the wrongs in society, and often framing provocative questions for audiences to ponder. We are grateful to the talented filmmakers who allowed us to present these films during a busy global festival season.

Film Schedule & Synopsis

**CDS Productions**

**Monday, 8:30 am – 9:45 am**

**Families with Autism: Let Them Stand Tall**
A video celebration of the experiences of four families whose children have autism spectrum disorders. The video showcases teachers, providers, and services that are making a difference in the lives of these families and their children.

Directed by: Sara Bank
(55 min) USA

**A Pedagogy of Aloha, A Dialogue with Dr. Manulani Alulii Meyer**
(20 min) USA

**Capturing Grace**

**Monday, 9:45 am – 11:00 am** (64 min) USA, 2014

A story about two realms. One is occupied by some of the most acclaimed modern dancers in the world. The other is inhabited by a group of people with Parkinson’s disease. This film is about what happens when those worlds intersect.

“Dave Iverson is a masterful storyteller...Capturing Grace is a poignant reflection on the strength and resilience of the human spirit.

— Michael J. Fox

Directed By: David Iverson
www.capturinggracefilm.com

**Zemene**

**Monday, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm** (70 min) Ethiopia. 2014

A feature documentary about a young Ethiopian girl, Zemenework (Zemene), who from an early age was afflicted by a rare form of Kyphosis, a curving of the spine causing hunchback and spinal cord compression. Living in a remote village with this disease, Zemene faced potentially life-threatening illnesses. Set in the beautiful countryside of Ethiopia, the film shows how a brave but malnourished Zemene travels to the city of Gondar. It’s there that she crosses paths with Dr. Rick Hodes, an internist specializing in spinal conditions, whose life’s work compels him to help people in need. Winner of numerous awards, this film is a testament to our humanity and how we can change another persons life.

Directed by: Melissa Donovan
www.zemenefilm.com
**TransFatty Lives**
**Monday, 12:45 pm – 2:00 pm** (85 min) USA, 2015
Audience Award winner 2015 Tribeca Film Festival

At 30, Patrick Sean O’Brien was TransFatty, a New York City DJ, internet personality, and filmmaker. He spent his days as a beer-drinking creative force, making art films about perverts, vulnerable souls, and Howard Johnson’s restaurants. Then his legs started shaking.

Defying sentimentality, TRANSFATTY LIVES takes you on an emotional rollercoaster from Patrick’s wild, fun-loving days into the dark heart of ALS (a.k.a. Lou Gehrig’s disease). Given 2 to 5 years to live, Patrick first loses his ability to walk, then move his arms, then to swallow, and even to breathe. With the support of his bewildered friends and family Patrick braves the unthinkable and turns his camera onto himself. As the director and star of his own documentary, Patrick films every step of his debilitating journey from first diagnosis through his current paralysis. Forcefully lacking self-pity, he captures the emotion, humor, and absurdity of real life as he makes art, gets political, falls in love, fathers a son, and fights extreme depression and paranoia.

***Audience Disclaimer: emotional film***

Directed by: Patrick Sean O’Brien

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**Fixed**
**Monday, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm** (60 min) USA, 2014

Award-winning documentary, Fixed: The Science/Fiction of Human Enhancement, explores the social impact of human augmentation. Haunting and humorous, poignant and political, Fixed rethinks “disability” and “normalcy” by exploring technologies that promise to change our bodies and minds forever.

Directed by: Regan Brasher
www.fixedthemovie.com

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**No Ordinary Hero: The SuperDeafy Movie**
**Monday, 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm** (80 min) USA, Captioned, 2014

Starring John Maucere with Academy Award winner Marlee Matlin is here! This family drama is about a deaf actor who plays a superhero on television who looks beyond his cape to influence a deaf boy to redefine what “being normal” means. During his journey he also finds inspiration to transform himself.

Directed By: Troy Kotsur
www.noordinaryheromovie.com