

# The UCLA Autism Media Lab presents the Red Carpet Premiere of "Included in the Picture: A Series of Documentary Shorts Co-Created by UCLA Students, their Faculty, and Autistic Self-Advocate Community Teachers"

## Date and Time

Thursday, May 30, 2019. Reception at 6:00pm. Doors open at 6:45pm. Premiere begins at 7:00pm.

## Location

UCLA Schoenberg Hall

## About the UCLA Autism Media Lab

The Autism Media Lab explores inclusion for people with autism who are non-speaking, minimally-speaking or unreliably-speaking through a unique fusion of disability studies and documentary film. This cutting-edge two-quarter course allows students to learn directly from non- and minimally-speaking individuals with autism called Community Teachers. This unique learning environment ensures that discovery comes from immersion in both scholarship and the lived experiences of individuals facing barriers to inclusion.

The lab formed six film crews comprised of undergraduate students partnered with the Community Teachers. The crews are guided by faculty from both the UCLA Disability Studies (Judy Mark) and Film Departments (Sjoerd Oostrik) as well as a graduate student teaching assistant from the World Arts and Culture/Dance Department (Jingqui Guan). The film crews collaboratively created six short documentary films, each exploring inclusion in various community settings with a goal of identifying pathways to inclusion.

The films created through the Autism Media Lab will be available to the greater community online and for community screenings. We hope that the documentaries will be used as conversation starters on the subject of inclusion.

## Program

- Welcome
  - Gene Block, Chancellor, UCLA
- UCLA Disability Studies
  - Victoria Marks, Professor of World Arts and Cultures/Dance and Chair of Disability Studies
- Introduction to Autism Media Lab
  - Judy Mark, Instructor, Disability Studies
  - Sjoerd Oostrik, Instructor, Film
- Films
  - Above the Depths
  - Clocking In
  - A Deeper Connection
  - Let Me Explain
  - what Billy couldn't say
  - Saint Yared Angels

- Inside the Frame
- Q & A
  - Students, Community Teachers, and Faculty

## Special Thanks

- Ability Central Philanthropy, Silke Evans, and Lisa Galloway, for their generous financial support.
- Lucy Blackmar, Brooke Wilkinson, Pia Palomo, Chelsea Hackett, Ivy Ebuon, and Leah Marcos Corrado of the UCLA Undergraduate Education Initiatives, for their incredible support, guidance, and assistance.
- Our classroom guest speakers who laid the foundation of knowledge on autism, including Tami Barmache, Dr. Alicia Bazzano, Pastor Sam Clemons, Dr. Linda Demer, Detective Charles Dempsey, Austin Dove, Allen Erenbaum, Emma Erenmark, Matt Fuller, Elaine Hall, Darlene Hanson, Ido Kedar, Tracy Kedar, Mari-Anne Kehler, Maria Angulo Lewis, Rabbi Jackie Redner, Kim Sinclair, Meg Smith, Mulugeta Tudele, Becky Tschirgi, and Erica Zeitlin.
- CLICC Lab, Studio 22 (Vince Mitchell), and the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television for the equipment, training, and support.
- David Ryer of Moonlight Design and Jingqiu Guan for the movie poster and program design.
- Sjoerd, Judy, and Jingqiu especially wish to thank their families for their amazing support during the long hours spent to create the Autism Media Lab.

## Films

### Above the Depths (Inclusion in Education)

Anna Elazar, Community Teacher

Lara Atayde

Megan Hodges

Ayumi Kuriki

Alyssa Morgan

### Clocking In (Inclusion in Employment)

Sue Rubin, Community Teacher

Zahra Bandehyazdani

Katie Davis

Sara Skerritt

### A Deeper Connection (Inclusion in Friendship)

Gaby Valner, Community Teacher

Yesenia Lopez

Stephanie Martinez

Kristal Orta Martinez

Maya Shaitrit

### Let Me Explain (Inclusion in Public Safety)

Neal Katz, Community Teacher

Jiamin Li

Amanda Nelson  
Nacha Promsatian  
Alexandra Shambayate

#### what Billy couldn't say (Inclusion in Health Care)

Liam Kehler, Community Teacher  
Jamie Azar  
Pam Gwen  
Marie Rhoads  
Amy Vandyken

#### Saint Yared Angels (Inclusion in Religious Communities)

Dillan Barmache, Community Teacher  
Julia Harnoy  
Hannah Nizinski  
Austin Rietsch  
Stephanie Sanchez

#### Inside the Frame (Making of the Autism Media Lab)

Jingqiu Guan and Sjoerd Oostrik

#### Special Thanks from the Filmmakers

The student filmmakers, community teachers, and faculty are extraordinarily grateful for the following individuals and organizations who opened their doors and hearts in order to move the greater community toward inclusion:

#### Above the Depths

Daniel Rosien, Christopher Rosien, Karen Rosien, Reed Rosien, Molly Rearick, Kristian Constantino, Dillan Barmache, Tami Barmache, Jim Rodehaver, Erica Zeitlin, Edlyn Pena and California Lutheran University, and Bitia Kazemini

#### Clocking In

Dominic Luster, Johnny Orozco, Drake Baxter, Ed Lynch and Anna Garalde from Mychal's Learning Place, Kim Graham and staff from Kinecta Federal Credit Union, Becky Tschirgi, Rita Rubin, and Bob Rubin

#### A Deeper Connection

Marci Valner and the whole Valner Family, Beth Mendez, and Kristian Constantino

#### Let Me Explain

Detective Charles Dempsey, Officer Jennifer Smith, Officer Carlos Martinez, and the Los Angeles Police Department Mental Evaluation Unit, Kim Sinclair and the Autism Society of Los Angeles, Austin Dove, Elaine Hall, Miguel Gallegos, and Ryan Berman

what Billy couldn't say

Lucy Lopez, Christine Lopez, James Lopez, Dr. Derek Ott, Dr. Eric Sung, Dr. Alicia Bazzano, Dr. Linda Demer, Mari-Anne Kehler, Christina Lara, Katy Iris, and Ayumi Kuriki

Saint Yared Angels

The clergy and members of Virgin Mary Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahado Church, including High Priest Kesis Melaku Terefe, Dagnachew Teshome, Board Chair, Mulugeta Tadele, Emmanuel Mulugeta, Aida Amare, Ethan Thomas, Kedist Negash, Kesis Yonas, Yodit Alebel, Kaleb Abiy, Gennet Wondimu & Mathias Mikre Migrates Eshete, Milkis Tiku, Afework Tenagashaw, Dagmawe Afework, and Christine Afework, as well as Tami Barmache, and Jim Rodehaver

Inside the Frame

Gaby Valner and the Valner family, Beth Mendez, Kristian Constantino, Neal Katz, Elaine Hall, Ryan Berman, Miguel Gallegos, Anna Elazar, Erica Zeitlin, Dillan Barmache, Tami Barmache, Jim Rodehaver, Debbie Spengler, Sue Rubin, Becky Tschirgi, Jamie Azar, Pam Gwen, Hannah Nizinski, Austin Rietsch, Ayumi Kuriki, Nacha Promsatian, Yesenia Lopez, Judy Mark, Marike Splint, Karam Salem, Leah Corrado, Brooke Wilkinson, Lucy Blackmar, Chelsea Hackett, Jon Herbertsson, Devra Berkowitz, Jonathan Snipes, Will O'Loughlen, as well as the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, the UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance, and the United Nations.

## YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

The UCLA Disability Studies Minor is a groundbreaking field that challenges and changes society's attitudes toward disability. Led by some of UCLA's most distinguished faculty, Disability Studies examines the meaning, nature, and consequences of disability from a variety of perspectives, including arts and humanities, health sciences, social sciences, public policy, technology, and education. At UCLA, the conversation around disability has shifted: from exclusion to inclusion, from limitations to possibilities.

Disability—whether physical, mental or intellectual—is part of the fabric of universal human experience, and yet it is often regarded as a deficit to be fixed, cured or hidden, with disabled individuals cast as unfortunate victims. UCLA's robust Disability Studies program is challenging this view, changing attitudes and redefining 'normal.'

By exploring disability as a social issue, rather than a medically defined condition, we prepare students to use the experience of disability as a lens to re-envision models of access, inclusion, participation, communication, and equality.

The result is graduates with deep insights into the human condition, keen analytical and observation skills, empathy, and capacity for self-reflection—part of a new generation that understands and embraces disability.

You can join us in our work to provide undergraduate students an enriching experience.

- Provide funding to scholarships in Disability Studies
- Support development costs for new Disability Studies courses
- Provide financial support for Disability Studies faculty and program leadership

To support UCLA Disability Studies please contact us at [mloftollahi@support.ucla.edu](mailto:mloftollahi@support.ucla.edu) and (310) 206-8786.