

DESA Disability Film Festival (DDFF)

Short films have been selected on the basis of their content that work to raise awareness of disability issues and to promote the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society.

Mundo Alas (89 minutes)

An inspiring musical road trip through Argentina with folksinger León Gieco and a band of musicians and dancers, *Mundo Alas* (World of Wings) is an award-winning documentary that highlights talent and dreams, not disability. Musicians, singers, dancers and painters, all of them important artists with different disabilities, express and communicate their perspective of the world in a show that blends music, dancing and painting. The movie presents a show which features folk music, rock and tango, along with León Gieco's greatest hits.

Signmark (13.50 minutes)

Signmark was born deaf. Nevertheless, he pursued his childhood dream and became the first deaf person in the world to sign a record deal with a major recording company. Signmark can feel hip-hop music's clear-cut beat in his body and through that adapts to the rhythm as he performs his lyrics with Sign Language. Music is Signmark's channel of delivering the message of equality and empowerment to promote equal human rights – his way in New York – with the full support of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Young Voices (LCD) (20 minutes)

The four short videos: *Listening* (Liberia), *Respect* (Sudan), *Steps* (India) and *Together* (Kenya) present the rallying cries of young people with disabilities. Young people from 19 countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas, together form Young Voices, Leonard Cheshire Disability's global project that campaigns for full and equal human rights for all persons with disabilities. Young Voices call upon their Governments to sign, ratify and implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

My Dream (9 minutes)

My Dream is an extraordinary presentation by China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe. Recognized as UNESCO Artist for Peace in 2007, the Troupe composed of and led by artists with hearing and visual impairments, and physical disabilities. In the film, the artists speak their minds and express their warm sentiments with graceful and colourful dances, beautiful melodies and charmingly awkward dance steps that give expression to their pursuit of life with elegant postures and spirited movements.

Vancouver 2010 IPC Winter Paralympic Games (4 minutes)

The 2010 Winter Paralympics, officially known as the X Paralympic Winter Games, were held in Vancouver and Whistler, British Columbia, Canada from 12 to 21 March 2010. The theme of the games was "One Inspires Many". The Opening Ceremony featured over 5,000 local performers, including 15-year old amputee snowboarder Zach Beaumont who was the final torch bearer and lit the Games Cauldron. This short film presents the highlights of the 2010 Paralympic Games.

Motion Disabled (14 minutes)

Using motion capture, a technique commonly associated with feature films and computer games, along with 3D animation, internationally renowned artist Simon Mckeown captures the movements of 13 people with disabilities performing activities from kickboxing to riding a bicycle. This mesmerizing installation explores the uniqueness of each person's physicality and challenges conventional ideas of motion. *Motion Disabled* has been launched internationally today, 3 December 2010, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Watch online at: www.facebook.com/vsa123 or <http://www.youtube.com/vsainternational>.

Stepping into the Unknown (21:58 minutes)

Stepping into the Unknown tells the stories of four people with disabilities who gather for a life-affirming event at Oribi George in South Africa. The film covers the links between being disabled and HIV positive and participants' experiences in accessing HIV services, rehabilitation and information on HIV. This life-changing event links closely to how these people stepped into the unknown when they faced their fears about their disabilities and being exposed to HIV.