



PRESS RELEASE

February 10, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Elden Rhoads, Public Relations Director  
Anna Grineva, Public Relations Staff  
Daria Vinogradova, Public Relations Staff

Phone: (202) 333-6615

Fax: (202) 686-8867

Email: [press@dciff.org](mailto:press@dciff.org)

**WASHINGTON D.C. INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES  
DISABILITIES FILMS SELECTED FOR 2009 FESTIVAL  
Festival to Celebrate Independent Film Culture**

**Washington, DC (February 10, 2009)** — The eleventh annual Washington DC Independent Film Festival (DCIFF) will run from March 4-15, 2009. This year's festival is about "making a difference," and features films that highlight the value of reaching out to help others and participating in life. Over 100 films will be showcased in twenty-three themed sessions at the Phoenix Theater in Union Station located at 50 Massachusetts Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002, phone: (202) 842-4455.

Films made by and about people who face extraordinary challenges because of physical or emotional disabilities are an important part of independent film culture. For anyone interested in the issues, lifestyles, and the role of people with disabilities in society, these films will demonstrate how social diversity makes a difference. Please visit the DCIFF website (<http://www.dciiff.org/festivalthemes.shtml>) for a complete list of themed sessions.

***NOTE: The schedule is subject to change. Please check the DCIFF website (<http://www.dciiff.org>) for the latest information, dates and times.***

3222 N Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20007  
**Phone:** (202) 333-6615 **Fax:** (202) 686-8867 **Email:** [press@dciff.org](mailto:press@dciff.org)  
**Web site:** [www.dciiff.org](http://www.dciiff.org)

## Schedule of Disabilities Films on Saturday, March 7

### 4:45 pm - Black Experience

**[BYRD: The Life and Tragic Death of James Byrd Jr.](#) by Eligah Jason  
Saturday, March 7 at 4:45pm**

*Black Experience / Documentary / 75 min / U S A / World Premiere / 2008*  
In 1998, in Jasper, Texas, James Byrd, Jr. was walking home. Three white men picked him up and then dragged him with a truck to his death.

## Schedule of Disabilities Films on Tuesday, March 10

### 7:00pm - Power Within, People with Disabilities

**[Birdy](#) by Agnieszka Woznicka  
Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00pm**

*Power Within - People with Disabilities / Animation / 7 min / U S A / North American Premiere / 2008*

Award winning animation that follows the story of Birdy, a wingless outsider who dreams of flying. It is a story of desire, determination and the terrible thresholds one can cross to realize dreams.

**[Henry O!](#) by Ziad Hamzeh  
Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00pm**

*Power Within - People with Disabilities / Documentary / 71 min / U S A / World Premiere / 2008*

*Henry O!* is a journey of humble beginnings and overwhelming obstacles, of faith in the human spirit and endless love of life and family, of sky-high dreams and aspirations achieved, all amidst the cheering crowds and major league heroes of America's favorite pastime - baseball.

**[Here's Herbie](#) by Mary Wickliffe  
Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00pm**

*Power Within - People with Disabilities / Short / 11 min / U S A / World Premiere / 2008*

A despondent teenager who wishes he had a life is inspired by a guy who's full of it on a New York subway.



**[The Making of Agamemnon](#) by Jose Saldana**

**Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00pm**

*Power Within - People with Disabilities / Documentary / 20 min / U S A / 2008*

Explores the condition of deafness by documenting theatre director Ethan Sinnott as he directs the drama *Agamemnon* using an all deaf cast and crew. Sinnott's play is a metaphor for the deaf world that the documentary's director Saldana and all those he is filming live in everyday.

*The Washington DC Independent Film Festival (DCIFF) is an award-winning annual event that showcases over 100 films representing diverse perspectives and cutting edge filmmaking. Held for twelve days in March, the DCIFF is a non-profit organization of volunteers serving the Capital area since 1999.*

- # # # -