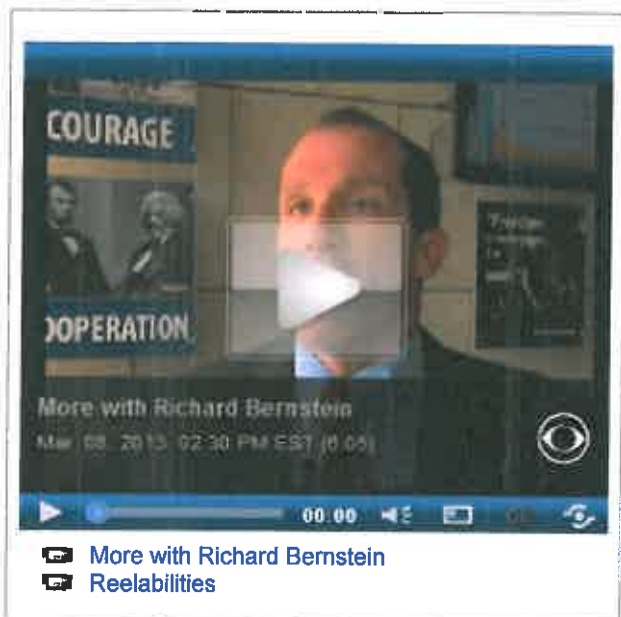


Local Film Festival Celebrates People With Disabilities



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Cincinnati is hosting an international film festival. The movies are from around the world and feature people with disabilities. Local 12's Rich Jaffe has a look at what makes the Reel-Abilities Film Festival so special.

This celebration of spirit and ability kicks off tomorrow evening with an opening night gala at the Freedom Center. Various showings of the films will be taking place across the area next week. The theme of the festival is "Different Like You" and you couldn't possibly see these films or get to know the people, without feeling inspired.

Every day at Visionaries and Voices in Northside, people some might consider challenged create amazing works of art. Their creativity comes in all shapes, sizes and colors. Nate Johnson says he's a music mastermind .. every day adding to elaborate books he creates to celebrate his favorite artists. "Any music you know I probably already know it cause I'm a music mastermind. I should be the most wanted for knowing the best music."

Visually impaired and colorblind, Tammy Smith will soon be teaching art in a local school. She would ask others... "Not to judge us because some people judge us and think that we can't do things and we can we just do it differently."

The endless things people like this can do are being celebrated in Cincinnati this week in films from around the world. Besides the films there will be panel discussions and a chance to meet many of the stars as well as film directors.

"People with severe challenges in life tend to be the happiest the most joyful people to be around because they live life at its essence. They live life at its core." Born blind, Richard Bernstein is a spokesman for the event, also a civil rights attorney, and an iron man competitor. He also runs marathons.

To say the least, he's excited about this film festival. "I think when you see the people who are being featured, the people at this film festival, then you're going to understand these are some of the most blessed people that you'll ever come across because they live a life of meaning, purpose and passion and ultimately when we get to the end of our days it's life experiences that define who we are and the life we choose to live."

Visionaries and Voices is one of the hosts for the festival along with living arrangements for the developmentally disabled.

All the proceeds from the events go to help local charities. For more info, [click here](#).

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