



HIRING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN FRONT OF AND BEHIND THE CAMERA

Whether you are hiring, promoting, or casting the following organizations, casting agents, film festivals, labor unions and guilds provide resources for actors with disabilities to get hired. This is a working document: new resources will be added to this directory as we are made aware of them. Please note these resources are provided for informational purposes only and do not denote an endorsement by the NADC. Please feel free to email the NADC at bstoffmacher@mednet.ucla.edu if you have an organization that you would like to add to this directory.

Resources for Hiring Performers with Disabilities

abilityE is a resource for performers with disABILITIES to build and maintain their profiles. People in the entertainment industry; casting directors, studio execs, production companies, agents and managers can search talent and post breakdowns. PWDs looking for work behind the camera can post their resumes on abilityE JOBS (Job Opportunities Behind the Scenes). Talent, both in front and behind the camera, can be from anywhere and any level of experience is welcome.

Website: abilityE.com

Born to Act Players is a theater company comprised of professional performers with and without disabilities. Many members of the company are working actors, both those with disabilities and those without. Some of their credits include "ER," "The Guardian," "CSI," "Family Law," "Any Day Now," and many more.

Email: BTAP@earthlink.net

Website: borntoactplayers.com

Breakdown Services releases over 43,000 projects per year throughout North America and maintains a database of over 85,000 actors. Breakdown Services and its family of companies (including Actors Access, CastingAbout, The Creative

Index, Talent Link and Showfax) has been an integral part of the working actors' life since 1971. They are committed to providing services that make the casting process seamless for Casting Directors, Talent Representatives and Actors. They are dedicated to educating and encouraging actors and filmmakers at every stage of their career by supporting events and symposiums across North America.

Phone: (310) 385-6920

Website: <https://www.actorsaccess.com>

Casting Networks LLC., formerly LA Casting, is a provider of casting and audition management software to the casting industry. Casting directors and agents worldwide use Casting Networks to source and manage talent across film, television, digital and commercials projects facilitating over a million auditions per year. Headquartered in Los Angeles with offices in New York, London and Sydney.

Website: <https://home.lacasting.com>

Coach E Productions, LLC. Elaine Hall's Coach E Productions provides on-set acting coaching, consulting and production advising. Elaine Hall was a top Hollywood acting coach when her life changed after her son was diagnosed with severe autism. When traditional therapies did not work for him, she rallied her creative friends and trained them to understand autism and how to use their talents to reach her son. Slowly he emerged out of his isolation. She developed these methods into *The Seven Keys to Unlock Autism* which are the underlying principles of The Miracle Project.

Email: coache@coacheproductions.com

Website: coacheproductions.com

Kazarian/Measures/Ruskin & Associates (KMR) is one of the country's leading bi-coastal talent agencies. The diversity department specializes in character actors and models with diverse disabilities for film, television, commercials, theatre, print and live appearances. KMR is a resource for finding just the right actor for that "hard to find" character when it comes to a disability.

Email: GWilliamson@kmrtalent.com

Website: kmrtalent.com

Performing Arts Studio West (PASW) represents culturally and disability diverse actors who have been featured in more than 2000 roles in film, television, theater, music videos, commercials, industrials and print ads. Founded in 1998, Performing Arts Studio West (PASW) provides hands-on individualized training, career management, and on-location support for performers with intellectual

disabilities working in film, television and commercials. PASW is a non-profit affiliated arts program funded by the State of California Department of Developmental Services through the Regional Centers of the Greater Los Angeles Area.

Email: info@pastudiowest.com

Website: pastudiowest.com

The Art of Autism is an international collaboration of talented individuals who have come together to display the creative abilities of people on the autism spectrum and others who are neurodivergent. They provide a forum to connect with those who wish to employ these abilities.

Website: the-art-of-autism.com

The Divas with Disabilities Project is bringing together women of color with disabilities throughout the world to reject and discredit stereotyped imagery historically portrayed by mass media. Its mission is to help shape the perception of what “disability” looks like by promoting women of color through various media platforms.

Email: donnawalton@leggtalk.com

Website: divaswithdisabilities.com

The Miracle Project provides individuals with autism and other disabilities tools to build communication, social skills, community and greater self-esteem through inclusive theater, film and expressive arts programs. This acclaimed arts program was documented in the HBO double Emmy Award-winning documentary, AUTISM: THE MUSICAL. The Miracle Project has an advanced professional training program for those interested in pursuing a career in the entertainment field.

Email: elaine@themiracleproject.org

Website: themiracleproject.org

Trained Actors with Real Disabilities for Film & TV Facebook is building a database of trained and highly skilled actors who have real physical disabilities to promote for all-inclusive diversity in Entertainment.

Email: staskelv@gmail.com

Website: facebook.com/TrainedActorsWhoAreDifferent

Hiring People with Disabilities Behind the Scenes

AFA HUB is a media and technology organization that provides vocational training in animation, video game design, film, visual effects, coding and 360 VR. AFA also has programs to assist students in finding employment after they finish their training.

Email: actorsforautism@aol.com

Website: afahub.com

Exceptional Minds (EM) is a nonprofit vocational school and working studio preparing young adults on the autism spectrum for careers in digital animation and visual effects.

Email: susan@exceptionalmindsstudio.org

Website: exceptionalmindsstudio.org

From the Heart Productions: From the Heart Productions is dedicated to helping independent filmmakers with unique films that contribute to society get their films funded.

Email: info@fromtheheartproductions.com

Website: fromtheheartproductions.com

Inclusion Films started in 2007 by veteran filmmaker, Joey Travolta, teaches filmmaking to children and adults with developmental disabilities. In addition to workshops in California, they travel the country doing short film camps for children and teens with autism.

Email: Rachel@InclusionFilms.com

Website: inclusionfilms.com

Guilds and Unions

Actors' Equity Association (Los Angeles Region) founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 50,000 Actors and Stage Managers. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions.

Phone: (323) 978-8080

Website: <http://www.actorsequity.org/>

American Guild of Variety Artists (AGVA) is an AFL-CIO-affiliated labor union founded in 1939 to represent performing artists and stage managers for live performances in the variety field. The variety area of performance includes singers & dancers in touring shows and in theatrical revues (non-book shows...book revues may be under Actors' Equity jurisdiction), theme park performers, skaters, circus performers, comedians & stand-up comics, cabaret & club artists, lecturers/poets/monologists/spokespersons, and variety performers working at private parties & special events. AGVA, in accordance with industry standards and Federal labor regulations, negotiates, sets and enforces salary minimums, as well as conditions of employment such as, rehearsal & performance hours, overtime provisions, safe & sanitary work conditions, travel stipulations, vacation & sick pay, publicity & promotion, audition procedures, and general work rules.

West Coast Office:

Phone: (818) 508-9984

Email: agvawest@earthlink.net

Website: <http://www.agvausa.com/>

SAG-AFTRA brings together two great American labor unions: Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. Both were formed in the turmoil of the 1930s, with rich histories of fighting for and securing the strongest protections for media artists. Members united to form the successor union in order to preserve those hard-won rights and to continue the struggle to extend and expand those protections into the 21st century and beyond. SAG-AFTRA is committed to organizing all work done under their jurisdictions; negotiating the best wages, working conditions, and health and pension benefits; preserving and expanding members' work opportunities; vigorously enforcing our contracts; and protecting members against unauthorized use of their work.

Phone: (855) 724-2387

Website: <http://www.sagaftra.org/>

Audio Description Services

Audio Description, also known as Descriptive Audio or Video Description, narrates the relevant visual information contained in a video and is an accommodation for blind and low-vision viewers. These descriptions fit into natural pauses in the video's audio track to provide context, to clarify speakers, and to articulate visual elements that are critical to gain a comprehensive understanding of the video.

Deluxe Media Services' in-house audio description department has described more than 130 feature films. Certified by the American Council for the Blind, they have a database of more than 200 professional voice talents. They can provide audio description in foreign languages.

Phone: (818)565-3600

Internet: bydeluxemedia.com

Descriptive Video Works specializes in descriptive video for broadcast programming and feature films. They have completed audio description for more than 20,000 television shows and feature films. Their audio description for U.S. networks and film studios give 22 million American viewers access to a wide variety of broadcast programming.

Phone: (866) 818-3897

Email: descriptivevideoworks.com

WGBH's Media Access Group has pioneered and delivered captioned and described media for more than 30 years to people in their homes, classrooms at work and in the community. WGBH serves 35 million people who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or have low vision. For feature films, DVS® Theatrical® allows moviegoers who are blind to hear descriptions of the film's key visual elements without distracting other patrons.

Phone: (617) 300-3600

Email: access@wgbh.org

Website: access.wgbh.org

Woman of Her Word provides the specialized voiceover style required for audio description. Michele Spitz has produced and narrated AD for 50 films, as well as voiced AD for museum tours, educational videos and audio newsletters that provide access to information for the low vision and blind communities. Michele is a disability advocate, public speaker and philanthropist supporting arts and accessibility.

Email: michele@womanofherword.com

Website: womanofherword.com

Closed Captioning Services

Closed Captioning Services and subtitling are both processes of displaying the audio portion of a television program or video as text on the screen or other visual

display, providing a critical link to news, entertainment and information for individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

The National Captioning Institute is a nonprofit corporation created in 1979 whose primary purposes are to deliver effective captioning services and encourage, develop and fund the continuing development of captioning, subtitling and other media access services for the benefit of people who require additional access to auditory and visual information. In 1979, NCI developed the decoder box, and a decade later, NCI partnered with ITT Corporation to invent the first caption-decoding microchip for television sets.

Phone: (818) 238-0068

Email: jagudelo@ncicap.org

Website: ncicap.org

WGBH's Media Access Group provides captioning for television shows, feature films and online videos. Its MoPix® service is a patented Rear Window® Captioning System that enables theater patrons who are deaf and hard of hearing to watch closed-captioned movies along with the general audience during any regular showing of a captioned film.

Phone: (617) 300-3600

Email: access@wgbh.org

Website: access.wgbh.org

Sign Language Interpreters

The world of entertainment is a small one. Projects are produced for audiences worldwide and communication is essential for success. Interpreting in the theatre, television or film industry requires knowledge of Sign Language and knowledge of the industry. When hiring an interpreter through a service, be sure to let them know it is for an entertainment industry event.

RISE Interpreting is a family-owned small business based in Riverside, California. RISE launched in the summer 2007 by the brother and sister team of Phil Carmona and Adonis Parker. Each is nationally certified and combined have more than 20 years of professional interpreting experience. Their mission is to make effective communication fully accessible between Deaf and Hearing individuals through quality interpreting and community education. They serve the following southern California areas: Riverside County, San Bernardino County, LA County, and Orange County.

Phone: (951) 565-4422

Email: riseinterpreting.com

Website: <http://riseinterpreting.com>

The Sign Language Company provides behind-the-camera interpreters to facilitate communication among the actor, director and other cast members on the set, in pre- and post-production meetings, cast reads and rehearsals, both in the studio and on location. Their network consists of nationally certified interpreters. In addition, they provide professional consulting services to countless settings including employment, conferences, and meetings.

Phone: (818) 728-4241

Email: contact@signlanguageco.com

Website: signlanguageco.com

Film Festivals

Easterseals Disability Film Challenge gives filmmakers with and without disabilities the opportunity to collaborate to tell unique stories that showcase disability in its many forms. The film challenge is a weekend-long filmmaking contest, open to all, that provides a platform for new voices in the entertainment industry. Each year, aspiring storytellers are prompted to creatively write, produce and complete a short film. Challenge winners receive invaluable access to entertainment professionals, opening the door to an industry notoriously difficult to enter.

Website: disabilityfilmchallenge.com

International Film Festival on Disability provides audiences a way to see film in a different way. The programming and competition are open to every country and every language. The short films submitted to the competition have to last 6 minutes (credits not included) or less whichever the category. Only films created by professional teams can participate in the International Film Festival on Disability. Amateur films will not be accepted. Unreleased films that have never been broadcasted, even on the internet, and that are enrolled in a festival for the first time will be prioritized.

Website: <http://www.festival-international-du-film-sur-le-handicap.fr/en/index.html#>

ReelAbilities Film Festival is the largest festival in the U.S. dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories and artistic expressions of people with different disabilities. The festival presents award winning films by

and about people with disabilities in multiple locations throughout each hosting city. Post-screening discussions and other engaging programs bring together the community to explore, discuss, embrace and celebrate the diversity of our shared human experience.

Website: reelabilities.org

Media Access Awards honors members of the entertainment and broadcast industries for their efforts in promoting awareness of the disability experience, accessibility for people with disabilities and the accurate depiction of characters with disabilities.

Website: mediaaccessawards.com

Sprout Film Festival's mission is to inspire audiences, promote inclusion and support transformative filmmaking as an integral part of social change. This unique event, which focuses exclusively on films that celebrate the diverse lives and creativity of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), strives to challenge assumptions and breakdown stereotypes. By introducing powerful, thought-provoking films from around the world to new and ever-more inclusive audiences, we hope to promote greater acceptance, celebrate difference and light the spark to help make the invisible, visible. The Sprout Film Festival was founded in 2003 and is programmed and supported by Sprout, a New York City based non-profit organization dedicated to bringing innovative programming to individuals with I/DD.

Phone: (212) 222-9575

Website: <http://gosprout.org/film-festival/>

Superfest Disability Film Festival showcases films that explore and celebrate disability as a creative and generative force in film and culture. They screen films for more than 500 people each year and host filmmakers from around the globe. Works must be: a) on the subject of disability, feature a prominent disabled character, OR be directed, written and/or produced by a person with a disability and b) must have been produced within the last 10 calendar years. Everyone involved in the Superfest judging process has a disability. Superfest's jury is made up of a diverse group of filmographers, disability rights advocates, scholars, community organizers and award-winning creatives. The members of our jury watch the submissions and collaborate to choose Superfest's diverse lineup and awards based on Superfest's standards of artistry, portrayal of disability and ingenuity. Submit your film today to take part in this dynamic international event.

Website: <http://www.superfestfilm.com/submissions/>

Disability Advocacy Resources

[*ABILITY Magazine*](#) is an award-winning publication listed in the “Top 50 Online Magazines in the World” — bringing 30 years of celebrity interviews showcasing health, disability, and human potential.

[abilityJOBS.com](#) is an online job board for job seekers with disABILITIES. Since 1995, it has connected hundreds of thousands of PWDs with businesses, governments and non-profits.

City of Los Angeles Department on Disability, The Department on Disability, on behalf of the City of Los Angeles, is committed to ensuring full access to employment, programs, facilities and services; through strategic management and partnership education, advocacy, training, research and improved service delivery; for the benefit of persons with disabilities, providers of essential resources and policymakers.

Email: Geoffrey.Straniere@lacity.org

Website: disability.lacity.org

GLAAD tackles tough issues to shape the narrative and provoke dialogue that leads to cultural change. GLAAD is the only organization to track the number of characters with disabilities on scripted television.

Email: mtownsend@glaad.org

Website: glaad.org

National Arts & Disability Center promotes the full inclusion of audiences and artists with disabilities in all facets of the arts community. The NADC offers a small grants program to both artists and arts organizations. The purpose of the Arts and Accessibility Program is to increase the professional development of artists with disabilities and representation of artists and audience members with disabilities into arts programming. This is done through small, but critical grants to artists with disabilities and arts organizations. Grants for artists with disabilities are intended to support the advancement of their creative work and careers. Artist grants are for specific projects that contribute directly to their professional goals and development.

Email: bstoffmacher@mednet.ucla.edu

Website: <https://www.semel.ucla.edu/nadc>

RespectAbility is working to change the narrative in Hollywood to ensure accurate and positive cultural media portrayals of people with disabilities. RespectAbility partners with leaders in the entertainment industry on the full inclusion of people with disabilities both in front of and behind the camera and is inviting additional partners to help move the needle on three core issues: 1) inclusion and diversity in Hollywood; 2) more positive and accurate portrayals of people with disabilities; and 3) the employment of people with disabilities.

Email: LaurenA@RespectAbility.org

Website: respectability.org

Ruderman Family Foundation believes that inclusion and understanding of all people is essential to a fair and flourishing community. Guided by their Jewish values, they advocate for and advance the inclusion of people with disabilities throughout our society. They release rapid responses (**press releases**) commenting on current events, speaking up against discrimination of the disability community, commission and/or write **Ruderman White Papers** that seek to elevate crucial, but oftentimes overlooked topics of disability inclusion and bring them into the national conversation, and seek to educate and inform journalists on best practices regarding disability coverage (in process).

Website: rudermanfoundation.org