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SUPERFEST CLASSICS
Int'l. Disability Film Festival
Berkeley Public Library (Fri., June 5) and Gaia Arts Center (Sat., June 6)

13 Superfest Super Bests: Classic Disability Films to be Showcased in Berkeley

Many people remember when they first saw the films "Disability Culture Rap" or "The Power of 504" and realized with great pride, yes, there are such things as disability culture and disability civil rights milestones. You never saw them? Well, here's your chance to visit or revisit some classic films featuring disability history, artists, humor and leaders.

A two day program of **Superfest Classics**, selected films that won awards at prior **Superfest** competitions and have made an impact, will be presented June 5 and 6, by **Culture!Disability!Talent!(CDT)**, the arts advocacy organization responsible for the international disability film festival known as **Superfest**.

"We have put together two classic programs," said Liane Yasumoto, **Superfest** director, "one for kids, introducing them to disability issues with lighthearted but honest takes on school, sports, role models, poetry slams and the arts; and a second for adults, with emphases on history, art, humor and disability culture around the world. These are true classics, films we are asked about year after year."

"Kiss My Wheels" is one of the five **Superfest Kids Classics** to be screened on Friday, June 5, at the Berkeley Public Library. This gripping film documents a junior wheelchair basketball team who soaks you in their sweat, tears, fears, wins, and losses, ultimately exposing their gritty grasp on what's important in life. Additional **Kids Classics** include fresh and empowering, "Beyond Disability: the Fefe Stories," produced by a group of young females (FeFe) with various disabilities, exploring their lives in Chicago with gusto, humor and attitude; and "Pelswick: Draw," John Callahan's acclaimed cartoon featuring a fun-focused 13-year old who describes himself as "paralyzed from the armpits down."

Saturday's eight **Superfest Classics** to be screened at the Gaia Arts Center on June 6 include such classics as the brilliant Israeli film, "Liebe Perla," that takes an intimate look at the poignant relationship between two women with disabilities, one a disability researcher, the other a Holocaust survivor; the charming Russian film, "About Love," that includes a humorous, unsentimental series of interviews of Moscow schoolchildren with disabilities about their surprisingly rich love lives; and the U.S. film, "Annie Dearest," which potently parodies "The Miracle Worker," satirizing the often-brutal "teaching" relationship between deaf and blind Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan.

By popular demand, audience members will no longer have to give up their sunny Saturday afternoon to view **Superfest** films because for the first time, the Saturday slate of 8 films will
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be screened from 12-4 p.m. and repeated from 5-9 p.m. Yasumoto stated, "We want to give people the chance to either attend the evening screening and soak in the rays in the daytime, or attend the matinee and spend the night on the town."

Superfest is the world's longest running international disability film festival, promoting films meeting the highest standards of artistic merit, diversity and authentic portrayals of the disability experience. 2009 marks the 27th year since **CDT** began sponsoring the unique festival, and the 12th time **Superfest** will be held in Berkeley, California.

June 5, 12-4 p.m.- Superfest Kids Classics- films geared for teenagers

**Co-sponsored by the Berkeley Public Library
Berkeley Public Library, 3rd Fl. Community Rm.
2090 Kittredge Street
Berkeley CA 94704
Tickets: FREE**

June 6, 12-4 p.m. AND 5-9 p.m.- Superfest Adult (but still P.G.) Classics- screening the SAME slate of films in the afternoon and evening

**Gaia Arts Center
2120 Allston Way
Berkeley, CA 94704**

Tickets: \$5-\$20 sliding scale for afternoon OR evening. Tickets sold only at the door.

Both venues are wheelchair accessible. All films are captioned; both afternoon sessions (12-4 p.m.) will be audio-described. Braille and large print screening schedules are available. American Sign Language interpretation will be provided if requested by May 22. Please refrain from wearing perfume or other scented products.

For additional information, or to get a copy of the **Superfest Classics** screening schedule and full film descriptions, visit <http://www.culturedisabilitytalent.org/superfest>, or call the **CDT** voice mailbox at 510-845-5576.

Superfest Classics is sponsored by: Alameda County Arts Commission, Berkeley Public Library, California Arts Council, Gabriel Ledger, M.D., and the National Arts and Disability Center at the University of California Los Angeles. CDT is also currently funded by the City of Berkeley Civic Arts Program.

To schedule interviews, please contact Liane Yasumoto at 510-845-5576 or e-mail: info@culturedisabilitytalent.org.

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