

RETHINK DISABILITY

A Grace Eyre
film event and
campaign launch

The Komedia
2pm-4pm
Thursday 9 December 2021

Welcome to the first Grace Eyre film event where we are showcasing 3 short films which challenge us to re-think our perception of **Disability** and educate us in seeing the more important and relevant **Ability** first.

Working in conjunction with University of Sussex, independent filmmakers and the superb insight of Grace Eyre's clients, these films show different perspectives on the theme that are both thought-provoking and uplifting.

The concept was not to take away from the real challenges people with disabilities face, but to give them a platform to talk about them and by describing abilities and disabilities in different ways, be seen as individuals, not labels.

So please join us to commit to challenge and change perceptions on how we can all lose the Dis and see the Ability first.

Thank you for coming and representing.



ABILITY - EQUALITY - INDEPENDENCE

Grace Eyre is one of the oldest and most innovative charities in the South-East, passionately committed to supporting people with learning disabilities, autism and/or mental health needs to live enriched and fulfilled lives.

We offer a range of support providing specialist services and solutions in enhancing lives through enabling access to better housing, care, support, and employment opportunities and work with a collaborative approach where equity is at the core of all our values and our mission focus.

We aim to grow our services and activities that are a lifeline for so many and to build communities where people with learning disabilities feel respected, valued, and able to contribute.

We will be launching our **“Brick By Brick”** campaign in the new year which is a crowdfunding campaign for the re-development of our Montefiore site to include 7 flats where people can be supported to live independently with sustainability & security.

Please sign up to our newsletter for more information on how you can support us – Together we can make the differences needed to change the future:
<https://www.grace-eyre.org/#newsletter>

Programme of Events

2:20pm – Welcome and Introduction by Julie Rossiter, Grace Eyre Director of Income Generation

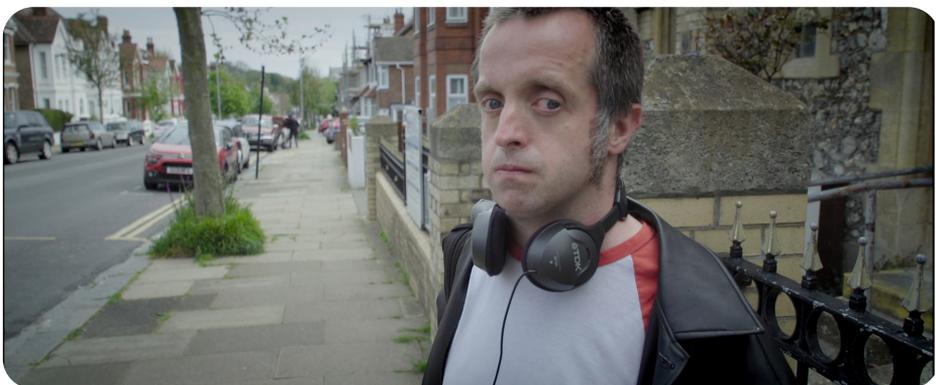
2:25pm – Sharing Our Voices project film, **ALEX**, introduced by Producer & Director, Emily Farmer & Justin Spray

2:45pm – An exploration of **BEING** in film – Introduction & Contextualisation by filmmaker, Jania Marquez-Lopez

3:00pm – **Re-Think Disability** campaign film – Introduction by Producer, Jenny Good

3:10pm – On-stage Q&A with filmmakers, actors, and collaborators

3:50pm – Summing Up by Nathaniel Lawford, Grace Eyre Director of Projects & Inclusion



'Alex' - A film made by the Sharing Our Voices project

It explores the history of people with learning disabilities and/or autism, and the life and work of Grace Eyre Woodhead. A group of people with learning disabilities and/or autism starred in this film, wrote the script, and composed music for the film which reflects on what has and hasn't changed for people with learning disabilities and/or autism. Many thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Lawson Trust for their support.

Cast:

Stuart Leaney (as Alex)	Fran Reynolds
Nathaniel Lawford	Evie Halligan
Ben Doehren	John Locke
Toby Watkins	Donna Potter
Lara Hicks	Katharine Wroe
Stuart Macallion	Finley Hodges

Composer: Dominic McMahan

Story by the cast with additional contributions from:

Jan Walmsley, Daniel Stocker, Jenny Good

Producers: Jacqueline Reeve, Emily Farmer, Bill Bayley

Director: Justin Spray

Special thanks to: Noah's Convenience Store for their support.

BEING (Re-Think Disability) – A film by Jania Marquez-Lopez

After experiencing a global pandemic we must question the way we could and should reconnect as a society, as this is an historic moment with immense potential to break down barriers and social stereotypes that have up to now kept us divided.

The storytelling in the film aims to spread a very important message to eliminate prejudice and social exclusion through an appreciation of life and the real meaning of being human.

Jania is an emotive storyteller and filmmaker from Mexico City, currently studying a Master's degree in Digital Media Practice for Activism and Social Change at the University of Sussex.

Many thanks to the following for their contribution:

Evie Halligan, Emily Croucher, Otilie Hainsworth, Stuart Leaney, Becky Ellis, Melanie Kingsford, Rachel Hickman, Zoe Abiltt and Andrea Russell and all the amazing performers of the Grace Eyre Dance & Drama Workshop.



RE-THINK DIS-ABILITY – A film to challenge perception and change priority



We wanted to humanise people ahead of their preconceived judgemental label. So we asked people with all types of different abilities and disabilities to tell us about them, and tell us what they wanted most. There is a negative stigma and unfair prejudice around the disability label that we aim to make people re-think.

Cast (in order of appearance):

John Harris

Ben Doehren

Katherine Wroe

Daniel Stocker

Kel Enby

Ryan O'Donovan

Dom McMahon

Eleana Button

Natascha Knowles

Fran Reynolds

Producer/Director: Jenny Good

Assistant wProducer/DOP: Justin Spray

Production Manager: Kath Stoner

DONATE TO SUPPORT OUR CAMPAIGN ABILITY

For all of us, our common goals in life are to be happy and healthy. These may seem simple enough, but for people with learning disabilities and/or autism there are additional barriers that make these more difficult to achieve.

With campaigns such as our launch today of Re-Think Dis-Ability, Grace Eyre aims to remove these barriers by raising awareness and advocating for change. By educating people, challenging perceptions, and putting people first we can change attitudes, behaviours and systems that lead to greater equality and inclusion for everyone. But we can't do it alone - we need your support.

With your help we can tackle the priority areas of healthcare, housing and employment to support equity and accessibility.

To donate scan the QR code or visit:
www.grace-eyre.org/campaignsupport

All donations received will directly support our campaigning to make positive change.

