

# Welcome to the 2020



MEDIA ACCESS AWARDS  
Presented by Easterseals

Zoom Meeting 60-Minutes

Speaker View

A screenshot of a Zoom meeting grid with 20 participants. The participants are arranged in a 5x4 grid. The participants are: Nyle DiMarco (HOST), James LeBrecht & Nicole Newnham, Jimmy Kimmel, Whoopi Goldberg, Jane Lynch, Ed Zwick & Jason Katims, Jessica Goldberg & Andrew Hinderaker, Zack Gottsagen, Eric McCormack, Selma Blair, Danny J Gomez, Ramy Youssef, Lauren Ridloff, Deborah Calla & Allen Rucker, Leah Daniels-Butler, and Howie Mandel. A chat bubble from Deborah Calla & Allen Rucker says: "From Deborah & Allen to Everyone... So glad you could join us!". The Zoom interface includes a title bar, a toolbar at the bottom with buttons for Mute, Stop Video, Participants (7.8 Billion), Chat, Share Screen, Record, Reactions, and a red Leave button.

Nyle DiMarco: HOST

James LeBrecht & Nicole Newnham

Jimmy Kimmel

Whoopi Goldberg

Jane Lynch

Ed Zwick & Jason Katims

Jessica Goldberg & Andrew Hinderaker

Zack Gottsagen

Eric McCormack

Selma Blair

Danny J Gomez

Ramy Youssef

Lauren Ridloff

Deborah Calla & Allen Rucker

Leah Daniels-Butler

Howie Mandel

From Deborah & Allen to Everyone...  
So glad you could join us!!

Mute Stop Video Participants 7.8 Billion Chat Share Screen Record Reactions Leave

Together changing the way we see  
all people with disabilities.



Congratulates Tonight's  
Honorees and Salutes  
the



for honoring accurate portrayals  
and employment of  
people with disabilities  
in all media.

welcome **2020**  
to the  
**Media Access Awards**

PRESENTED BY



Thursday, November 19



# Easterseals

In Entertainment

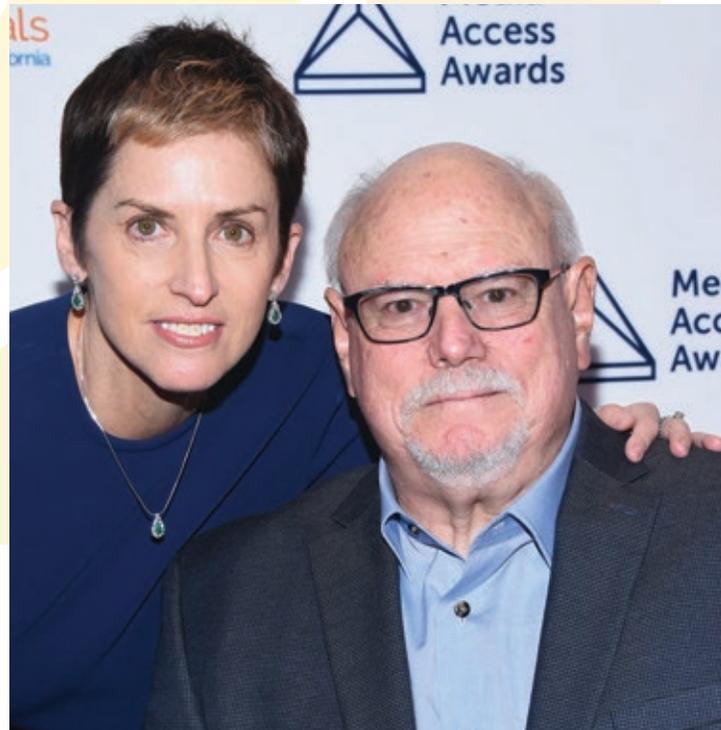
**Entertainment** has the ability to **influence, inspire** and shift people's perceptions to **advance social change.**

That's why Easterseals is working with our many partners in the entertainment industry to expand disability inclusion.



Learn more at [EastersealsInEntertainment.org](http://EastersealsInEntertainment.org)

# welcome 2020 to the Media Access Awards



**We are so happy to share this tremendous event with all of you as the reigning Hollywood showcase for disability inclusion.**

Every year we come together to celebrate those in the entertainment industry who employ people with disabilities and who depict the disability experience with the same depth and craft they depict any other person. The Media Access Awards are also a celebration of a vibrant community which wants to see itself represented in media.

In 1979, a nascent group of disability advocates – led by legendary TV producer Norman Lear and a young secretary in his office, Fern Field – hit upon the idea of an annual Hollywood awards event focused on disability, both in front of and behind the camera. That first ceremony was held in a small room at the Holiday Inn in Westwood and as Fern remembers it, they pretty much gave awards to each other, along with the makers of *Coming Home*, the Vietnam-era drama featuring John Voight as a returning paralyzed vet. Fern had produced a groundbreaking short film about disability called *A Different Approach*, starring a neophyte actor named Michael Keaton. Norman had produced an episode of *Maude*, the hit CBS sitcom, in which Maude Finley (Bea Arthur), encountering an old friend who had recently suffered a stroke, was discombobulated in her presence. The whole group who gathered that day saw the abysmal absence of characters with disabilities in American mass media and acted to rectify this injustice.

Norman Lear met a young actress/comic with Cerebral Palsy, Geri Jewell, at the second Media Access Awards and cast her as the first person with a disability as a recurring character in a primetime sitcom, on his series *Facts of Life*. With the help of Loreen Arbus and other entertainment industry notables, the MAAs thrived as a non-televised Hollywood event for the next two decades. In the mid-nineties the California Governor's Committee for the Employment of People with Disabilities took over funding, and when that support dried up during the Great Recession of 2007-08, the show went dark for two years.

In 2010, producer-writer Deborah Calla and writer Allen Rucker took on the job of reviving this critical event. With the enthusiastic support of a coalition of Hollywood guilds and unions – the Producers Guild of America, the Writers Guild of America, West, SAG-AFTRA, and the Casting Society of America – plus the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, the MAAs resumed in a tiny meeting room at the Peninsula Hotel. That year, honorees included Vince Gilligan, creator of *Breaking Bad*, noted actor/activist Danny Woodburn, and the casting directors of *Glee* – and the rest is history.

Expanding year after year and drawing upon the participation of noted Hollywood figures like Jimmy Kimmel, Shonda Rhimes, Peter Farrelly, Jane Lynch, and of course, the indefatigable Norman Lear, these awards are now here to stay. In the last two years, Easterseals of Southern California – also celebrating their 100th year as a national organization – has stepped in as a partner to offer major support and expertise. Other industry sponsors (see accompanying list) have also remained committed throughout. Without them, there would be no Media Access Awards.

Ask long-time Hollywood disability leaders like agent Gail Williamson and they will tell you that a major uptick in the industry's inclusion of actors with disabilities and storylines featuring them began about three years ago and continues unabated. There is still enormous progress to be made, of course – statistically, the employment of actors and others with disabilities remains hardly a blip on Hollywood call sheets. The Media Access Awards, along with Easterseals, the rest of the ever-increasing Hollywood disability community, and hopefully you, are proud to be part of this historic march toward full inclusion.



**DEBORAH CALLA and ALLEN RUCKER**



For more than 100 years, Easterseals has ensured that the needs of children and adults with disabilities are met with services to help them live, learn, work and play in their communities. As America's largest nonprofit health care organization, Easterseals is committed to the comprehensive health and wellness of the more than 1.4 million people we serve each year.

Since our founding in 1919, after Ohio businessman Edgar F. Allen lost his son in a streetcar accident, Easterseals has been at the forefront of important change by making a profound, positive difference in people's lives every day. Whether helping to eradicate polio, supporting returning veterans from WWII, or advocating for legislation such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Easterseals continues to serve a vital and important role in our nation.

A crucial part of our mission is to change the way the world defines and views disability. One the ways to influence change is through the power of entertainment. Entertainment has the ability to inspire and change people's perceptions about who we are, how we see ourselves, and how we understand and empathize with other people.

Together, Easterseals is working alongside the entertainment industry to advance disability representation. We work to bring tangible employment opportunities to people with disabilities and increase the volume of stories being shared through efforts such as the Easterseals Disability Film Challenge, a filmmaking contest offering important mentorships and opportunities to build an entertainment career in front of or behind the camera.

Through our partnership with the Media Access Awards we honor and applaud those who are doing the best work. By participating in key industry events and film festivals, partnering with studios, entertainment media and organizations, we have brought attention to the previously ignored need for authentic disability inclusion and stories. We continue to push for real and systemic change. We hope that you will support us in our efforts to build a world where everyone is 100% included and 100% empowered. Learn more by visiting [EastersealsInEntertainment.org](https://EastersealsInEntertainment.org)



## **NYLE DIMARCO**

As the first deaf contestant to win both *America's Next Top Model* and *Dancing with the Stars*, Nyle DiMarco has been breaking down barriers and winning over audiences since he burst onto the scene in 2014. Alongside numerous TV acting credits, Nyle is currently producing and developing scripted and non-scripted programming, as well as consulting on disability inclusion and authentic representation.



Nyle, a fourth-generation Deaf person, returned to his alma mater, Gallaudet University, to Executive Produce the Netflix series *Deaf U*, which premiered October 9th. The coming of age docu-series follows a tight-knit group of deaf students at Gallaudet, a renowned private college for the deaf and hard of hearing, giving an unfiltered look inside the Deaf community. He is currently in development on two scripted comedies, is executive producing a short film due to premiere on Netflix in the spring, and is producing a film about the Deaf President Now movement that took place at Gallaudet University in the '80s.

Nyle has quickly become a well-recognized champion of not only the Deaf but for disabled people worldwide and is a strong advocate for LGBTQ+ rights. As the founder of The Nyle DiMarco Foundation, he works tirelessly on bilingual education initiatives and aims to improve access to accurate information about early language acquisition. He is also an ally and influencer with the United Nations, further propelling his advocacy and tackling both education and accessibility under their 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.



## ALAN SILVA

Alan Silva is a sixth-generation circus performer from Brazil. He started training in floor acrobatics at the age of four and eventually picked up aerial acrobatics and trapeze. He trained in and performed many circus disciplines, including Russian bar, clowning, tumbling and flying trapeze. At 16, he found his true passion -- aerial silks. Soon after mastering his craft, he traveled around Brazil, performing as the first male artist to fly on aerial silks for circuses and festivals all over the country.



Alan was asked to join Cirque du Soleil in 2002. Unfortunately, though, he fell during practice and broke both of his hips prior to the start of the show. Luckily, he made a full recovery and, just a year later, became part of Cirque du Soleil's *Zumanity* production at the New York-New York Hotel in Las Vegas.

Since 2003, Alan has called the United States his home and is proud to have earned his citizenship in 2017. While working and living in Las Vegas, he met and married his wife and they are now parents of two amazing young children.

Alan performed his aerialist act on Season 15 of *America's Got Talent* and finished the competition in 5th place.



## EVAN RUGGIERO



Evan Ruggiero began dancing at the age of five in his hometown studio and by age ten, he was accepted into the famed New Jersey Tap Ensemble.

Upon entering his sophomore year at Montclair State University while pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre, Evan was suddenly diagnosed with Osteosarcoma, a rare bone cancer of the right leg. Enduring nine surgeries in a six-month period in an effort to save the leg, the cancer returned more aggressively than the original diagnosis.

He was faced with the ultimate decision of amputation in order to stop the cancer and save his life, as well as undergoing chemotherapy for sixteen months. Eighteen months after the amputation, and only two days after receiving his "peg-leg", Evan was tapping again.

In 2018, he received a Drama Desk Nomination for Best Actor in a Musical; a Chita Rivera Award Nomination for "Best Dancer in a Musical"; and was awarded a Clive Barnes Award in Theatre for his portrayal of Tom Jones in NYC's off-Broadway hit, *Bastard Jones*. The production did nothing to disguise his prosthetic leg—it became a comic prop or a handy weapon as necessary, and melted away the rest of the time, just part of his mesmerizing dance toolbox. This past year he performed at Carnegie Hall and at the 90th *Academy Awards*. He has performed for many notable individuals and most recently performed alongside two-time Grammy winning artist, Jason Mraz.



The Co-Directors & Producers of **CRIP CAMP:**  
**JAMES LEBRECHT** and **NICOLE NEWNHAM**



Jim LeBrecht and Nicole Newnham are the co-directors of *Crip Camp*, executive produced by Barack Obama and Michelle Obama. The film tells the story of Camp Jened, a retreat for disabled teens in the early 1970's, and its impact upon the disability rights movement. In 2020, the film won the "Audience Award" at the Sundance Film Festival and the "Zeno Mountain Award" at the Miami Film Festival.

## Nicole Newnham

Nicole Newnham is an Emmy Award-winning documentary producer and director, a four-time Sundance Film Festival alumnus, and a five-time Emmy nominee.

Films she has directed have played at many prestigious venues, including the Sundance Film Festival, the New York Museum of Modern Art, the San Francisco International Film Festival, Lincoln Center and the Walker Art Museum. Nicole earned a master's degree in Documentary Film from Stanford University in 1994.



She initiated, co-produced, and directed *The Rape of Europa*, about the fate of Europe's art treasures during WWII. The film was nominated for two national Emmys and a WGA award and was shortlisted for a documentary Oscar.

She has created 25 documentary shorts about California farmers, artists and food purveyors for Martha Stewart Living. Her film, *The Revolutionary Optimists*, won the Sundance Hilton Sustainability Award. That film spawned the data-mapping website, Map Your World, an open source data/mapping/storytelling platform.



## James Lebrecht

Jim was born in New York with spina bifida. At 14, he began to attend Camp Jened during the summer, where he befriended teens with disabilities and felt empowered as a disabled youth. Later, he attended the University of California, San Diego, where he helped form the Disabled Student Union.

After college, James relocated to Berkeley, California, a cradle of disability rights activity. He worked as a sound designer and began his career with a ten-year stint at the Berkeley Repertory Theater. In the 1980s, he obtained an apprenticeship at a post-production facility and broke into film.

Over the years, James has done sound design work for over 145 films, with a particular focus on documentary films. His filmography includes *Minding the Gap*, *The Waiting Room*, *The Kill Team*, *Audrie and Daisy*, *Battlefield Earth*, and *Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story*. He is the founder of Berkeley Sound Artists and co-author of *Sound and Music for the Theater: the art and technique of design*. He is a board member of the Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund.

Presenter: **Andy Samberg** (*Saturday Night Live*, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*)



## LEAH DANIELS-BUTLER



Leah Daniels-Butler is a casting director and producer most noted for launching the careers of gifted actors like Academy Awards Best Actress Nominee, Gabourey Sidibe, star of the Oscar-winning film, *Precious*, and other young talent.

In 2001, Leah started LDB Casting. As an independent casting director, Leah works across genres securing talent for films like *2 Fast 2 Furious*, *Shadow Boxer*, *ATL*, and *The Paperboy*, which showcased an all-star cast including Matthew McConaughey, Nicole Kidman, Zac Efron, Macy Grey and David Oyelowo.

In 2013, Leah cast the award-winning film *The Butler* with another all-star line-up including Oprah Winfrey, Forrest Whitaker, Liev Shreiber, Robin Williams, John Cusack, Cuba Gooding, Jr., Terrence Howard and rising star YaYa DaCosta.

As a member of the Casting Society Board of Directors, Leah was instrumental in establishing a national open call and digital data bank for actors with disabilities. She also co-founded the Casting Society Equity in Entertainment Committee.

Among her many accolades, Leah is the recipient of the Hamilton Award for Outstanding Casting for her work on *The Butler*, and the Casting Society's "Outstanding Achievement in Casting for a Television Drama" award for her work on *Empire*.

Presenter: Gabourey Sidibe (*Precious*, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, *Empire*)



## LAUREN RIDLOFF

Lauren attended California State University, Northridge, a university with a large deaf and hard-of-hearing student population, because of its National Center on Deafness, where she majored in English with an emphasis in creative writing.

After graduating, she went to Hunter College to study education with the goal of becoming a children's author. She was also involved with deaf community theater and film work for friends.



She is a "Miss Deaf America" Pageant winner and was the first competitor of either African American or Mexican American descent to win the pageant. After winning Miss Deaf America, she began a two-year stint as a spokesperson for the National Association of the Deaf.



Ridloff joined the production of the 2017 film *Wonderstruck* as a consultant and was ultimately cast in a small role. She also appeared in the music video for the song "Love Me Now" by John Legend. In 2018, she was nominated for several awards, including a Tony Award for Best Actress in a Play, for her performance as Sarah Norman in a revival of *Children of a Lesser God*.

Ridloff was a fan of the TV series *The Walking Dead* and submitted an audition tape to be cast in the series. She was cast as Connie and introduced in the show's ninth season. She also plays a deaf superhero, Makkari, in the Marvel superhero film *Eternals*, scheduled to be released in 2021. The casting makes her the first deaf superhero in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Presenter: Joshua Jackson (*Dawson's Creek*, *Fringe*, *The Affair*, *Little Fires Everywhere*)



 **RAMY YOUSSEF**



Writer, actor, and comedian Ramy Youssef started his career in New York City's comedy scene. He studied political science and economics at Rutgers University, though he left before graduating to enroll at William Esper Studio. He frequented stand-up showcases, performed sketch comedy and took acting classes before landing his first major role in the Nick At Nite sitcom *See Dad Run* in which he had a main role.



During the run of the show, Youssef shadowed the writers' room, an experience Youssef would bring to his own show in 2019.

In 2017, Youssef appeared on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* where he performed his stand-up routine. He later had a recurring role in the USA Network drama, *Mr. Robot*.



He is best known for his role as Ramy Hassan on the Hulu comedy series *Ramy*. In the show, of which he plays the title character and tells the story of a millennial Muslim who is a first-generation American born to immigrant parents in the United States. *Ramy* also stars Academy Award-winning actor, Mahershala Ali, and Steve Way, a friend with muscular dystrophy from high school who plays his best friend on the series. Ramy received the Golden Globe Award -- "Best Actor - Television Series Musical or Comedy" -- in 2019 and was nominated for Primetime Emmy Awards in 2020 for both best acting and best directing in a comedy.

In June 2019, Youssef starred in an HBO stand-up comedy special, *Ramy Youssef: Feelings*. He currently has two shows in development, one for Apple TV+ and one for Netflix.

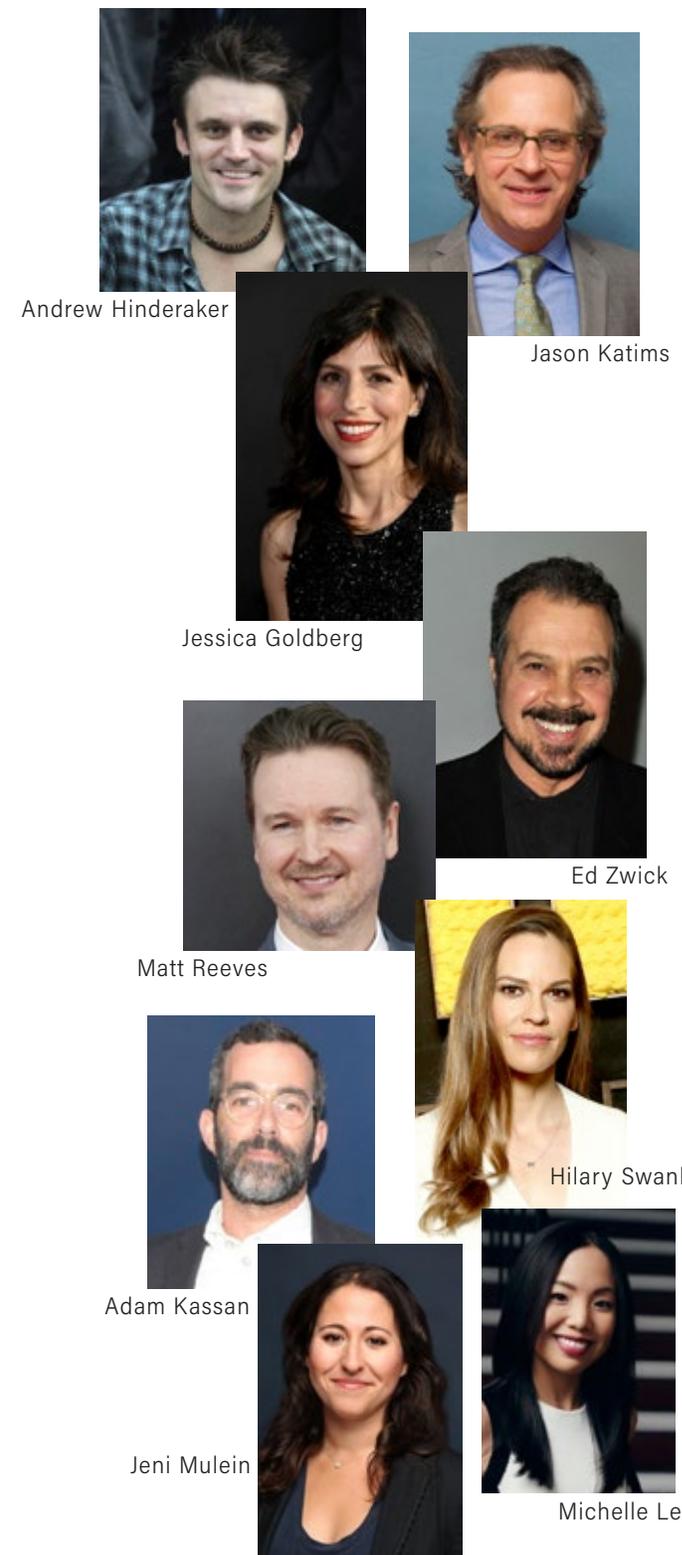
Presenter: [Steve Way](#) (*Nepotism, Projecting, Ramy*)



# producers guild of america george sunga award



The Executive Producers of **AWAY:**  
**ANDREW HINDERAKER, JASON KATIMS,**  
**JESSICA GOLDBERG, ED ZWICK, MATT REEVES,**  
**HILARY SWANK, ADAM KASSAN, JENI MULEIN**  
 and **MICHELLE LEE**



Extrapolating from that experience, creator Andrew Hinderaker and Executive Producers Jason Katims and Jessica Goldberg, have fashioned a tale about a woman astronaut, played by Hillary Swank, and an international space crew as they ventured on a 40 million-mile journey to Mars. Like Scott Kelly, they had to leave their families behind as their loved ones grappled with fortunes and misfortunes of life.

"There's a moment in the article that talks about an astronaut being up in the International Space Station when something really catastrophic happens to his family, and what that is to be so far away," Andrew says. "I've been in a long-distance relationship with a woman who was diagnosed with a progressive disease just shortly before Jason had brought me the article, so that moment of finding out that someone you love is in trouble and needs you and you're away (working) was something that resonated really deeply."

Additionally, Andrew's desire for accurate disability representation grew out of his close working relationship with his theater producer, Michael Patrick Thornton, who is a wheelchair user. (Thornton plays therapist Dr. Fred Putney in the show.)

**Presenter: Ato Essandoh**  
*(Jason Bourne, Blood Diamond, Altered Carbon, Chicago Med, X-Men: Dark Phoenix, Away)*



*Away* is loosely based on a magazine piece about astronaut Scott Kelly as he began a year-long mission aboard the International Space Station to better understand how the human body reacts to longer space flights. He was in space when his sister-in-law, Gabriel Gifford, was shot by an assassin in Arizona and he could do nothing to help his family in this traumatic moment.



Adam Kassan

Jeni Mulein

Michelle Lee

# christopher reeve acting scholarship

## DANNY GOMEZ



Danny J. Gomez is a professional actor/model based in Los Angeles, California.

Since 2018, he has acted in a number of short films and television shows, including NBC's hit series *New Amsterdam*.

He has also appeared in national ads for Target, Facebook, and Zappos. In 2019, Danny was named the "Person With Determination" male winner of Model Hunt's international model search -- a worldwide competition with more than 700+ total applicants.

However, these achievements have not come without adversity. In 2005, Danny lost his Louisiana home to Hurricane Katrina. And in 2016, he almost died in a mountain biking accident -- an event that left him paralyzed from the waist down instead. But what has reset and shifted his life has also introduced him to his life's passion and commitment to advocacy.

After rehab at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, he became an ambassador for the non-profit Triumph Foundation, connecting the local community to fun activities like wheelchair sports. And every year, he is an active participant in the Easterseals Disability Film Challenge, raising awareness for better representation for disabled actors in Hollywood.



**Presenter: Will Reeve**  
(Ambassador and Board Member for the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, Correspondent at ABC News)

**Introduced by Whoopi Goldberg**  
(Best Actor Academy Award for *Ghost*, Best Supporting Actor Academy Award Nominee for *The Color Purple*, Host of *The View*)



# 2020 black list disability list



The DISABILITY LIST, a partnership of the Media Access Awards, The Black List, WGA's Writers with Disabilities Committee and Easterseals Disability Services, is a juried selection of the very best screenplays and teleplays featuring a major character with a disability. This year's honorees were drawn from over 140 entrees in an open call to writers from all over the country.

Those writing about disability are often shut out of Hollywood because the subject matter, with rare exception, is not part of mainstream programming. Either out of ignorance or indifference, only a few extraordinary stories about disability get told. The DISABILITY LIST is a way of inspiring decision-makers to embrace more of these stories. The audience, a vast portion of whom are disabled or live with someone who is disabled, is waiting.

The eight scripts chosen this year for THE DISABILITY LIST are:

- No One Is Looking** by Michael J. Dougherty
- Possum** by Bob Ingraham
- Good Vibe** by Lily Gwyer-Miller and Janna Taylor
- The Pain Free Day** by Sarah Granger
- The Smell of Gold** by Jared Turner
- Looking Up** by Anna Thorup
- Cents** by Sam David
- Phantom** by Jennifer Noonan

Presenter: Franklin Leonard  
(Founder of The Black List)



## Cents by Sam David

Frankie--a high school senior with an intellectual disability--sets a penny on the railroad tracks the morning of a freak train derailment. Assuming responsibility, he goes into hiding amidst a citywide evacuation and must survive on his own--a "fugitive" in a ghost town, with the police who "hunt" him, and a pile of combustible train cars looming.

Sam David is a multi-hyphenate filmmaker with a foundation in cinematography. His work has screened at world-class festivals including SXSW and Tribeca, and on major streaming platforms such as Netflix and Hulu. Sam produced, shot, and edited the 2019 Academy Award-winning documentary short, **Period. End of Sentence.** He later co-directed the short film **Just Hold On** which premiered at SXSW this year. Currently, Sam is developing his next feature screenplay. His holistic approach to filmmaking has made him a versatile and dynamic storyteller.

## Good Vibes Only by Lily Gwyer- Miller and Janna

Afraid to tell her bubbly best friend about her recent cancer diagnosis, a cranky TV director turns to a cancer support group. There she meets a diverse group of women who help each other through real-life problems that can't be solved with good vibes.



Lily Gwyer-Miller and Janna Taylor began writing together during a particularly satisfying bitch session shortly after Lily was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. They quickly realized their shared hatred of feel-good mantras and their love of Prince could only lead to one thing: their first pilot, **Good Vibes Only.** Lily is a writer and post supervisor, whose passions include Taco Bell, Dollywood and her three pups, (Ellen) Ripley, Rivers (Cuomo), and Trixie (Mattel). Janna is a consultant for the Open Stage Project, a non- profit that introduces young women to backstage careers. As a former Mormon, her most ardent love is coffee.



## Looking Up by Anna Thorup

A wheelchair-using twenty-something messes around and messes up in New York City.

Anna Thorup is a wheelchair-using, LA-based comedy / dramedy writer. Her past work experiences include time spent at DreamWorks Animation and Netflix.

# 2020 black list disability list

## ***No One Is Looking*** by Michael J. Dougherty

Sam, a physically challenged high schooler, kills a bully and thinks he got away with it because no one would believe a kid in a wheelchair would be capable of that, but he must find the bully's missing severed head before anyone finds out about the murder.



The son of a former priest & nun, Michael J. Dougherty is an Irish New Yorker blessed with spina bifida who lives in Los Angeles. He eats, drinks and breathes movies, going back to *E.T.*, which he saw at three while recovering from brain surgery. A co-founder of the ReelAbilities Film Festival: LA, Michael's second-greatest accomplishment was selling a drawing of a watermelon to a member of the public when he was eight. In the next lifetime, he hopes to return as a sea turtle, because they drag themselves one minute, and fly the next, and that seems to fit.



## ***Phantom*** by Jennifer Noonan

A double amputee combat veteran returns from Afghanistan and faces a new battle she must wage to regain herself.

Jennifer Noonan is a writer, director and producer based in Los Angeles. Her screenplays have received accolades from the Nicholl, Sundance,

The Black List, Athena Film Festival, Women in Film, Tribeca Film Festival and New York Women in Film and TV. Her stories focus on women overcoming obstacles to achieve greater personal freedom. She feels passionately that story has the power to inspire, to uplift and to unite humanity.

## ***Possum*** by Bob Ingraham

When a band of thieves targets a charity for the disabled, the father of one of the disabled residents must find a way to thwart their plans.

Bob was a semifinalist twice in the Academy's Nicholl Fellowship, and has placed well in several other major competitions. His crime drama, *Alibi Man*, made the top 75 of the Tracking Board Launchpad TV Pilot contest. His legal drama was produced as a radio play by a California NPR station. Ingraham's screenplays have been optioned by Ashton Kutcher, Avenue Pictures, Barry Rosenbush, Rachel Winter and others. Ingraham has an MFA in Playwriting from UC San Diego. His award-winning stage plays have been produced in Colorado, California and Arizona. One of Ingraham's dramas was recently produced and aired on Lifetime.



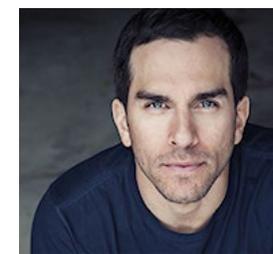
## ***The Pain Free Day*** by Sarah Granger

After struggling for years housebound with severe pelvic pain, a dejected mother takes a risk and pulls her teenage daughter out of school for one day in an attempt to mend their strained relationship.

Sarah Granger writes and produces films with diverse lead characters grounded by her background in science and technology, including dramas and sci-fi. She studied playwriting and screenwriting at the University of Michigan. Her dramatic features are drawn from personal experiences growing up as the daughter of a paralyzed polio survivor and living with chronic pain. Sarah has contributed to Slate, LA Weekly, SFGate, and The Huffington Post and is the author of *The Digital Mystique*. She has also been a speaker at South by Southwest, the Ability in Tech Summit, and the Writing for Hollywood Summit.

## ***The Smell of Gold*** by Jared Turner

After her husband is murdered in cold blood, a tenacious, young Scotswoman, with the help of an English tracker and his Maori son, sets out across the wild New Zealand landscape in pursuit of the accused, a reclusive Chinese goldminer. All the while, they must fight to stay ahead of a vicious gang who are desperate to claim the bounty.



Born in New Zealand and raised in Australia, Jared studied Acting in Sydney before relocating back to NZ to work on the local feature film, *Fracture*. From here, Jared's success in the NZ film and television industry continued to expand, working on acclaimed local productions such as *Go Girls*, *The Almighty Johnsons*, and *One Lane Bridge*, as well as international productions including *The Shannara Chronicles*, *Roman Empire*, *6 Days*, and, most recently, the upcoming Netflix series, *Sweet Tooth*. Over the years, Jared has written several short films. *The Smell of Gold* is Jared's first feature length screenplay.



Selma Blair



Zack Gottsagen



Jane Lynch



Jimmy Kimmel



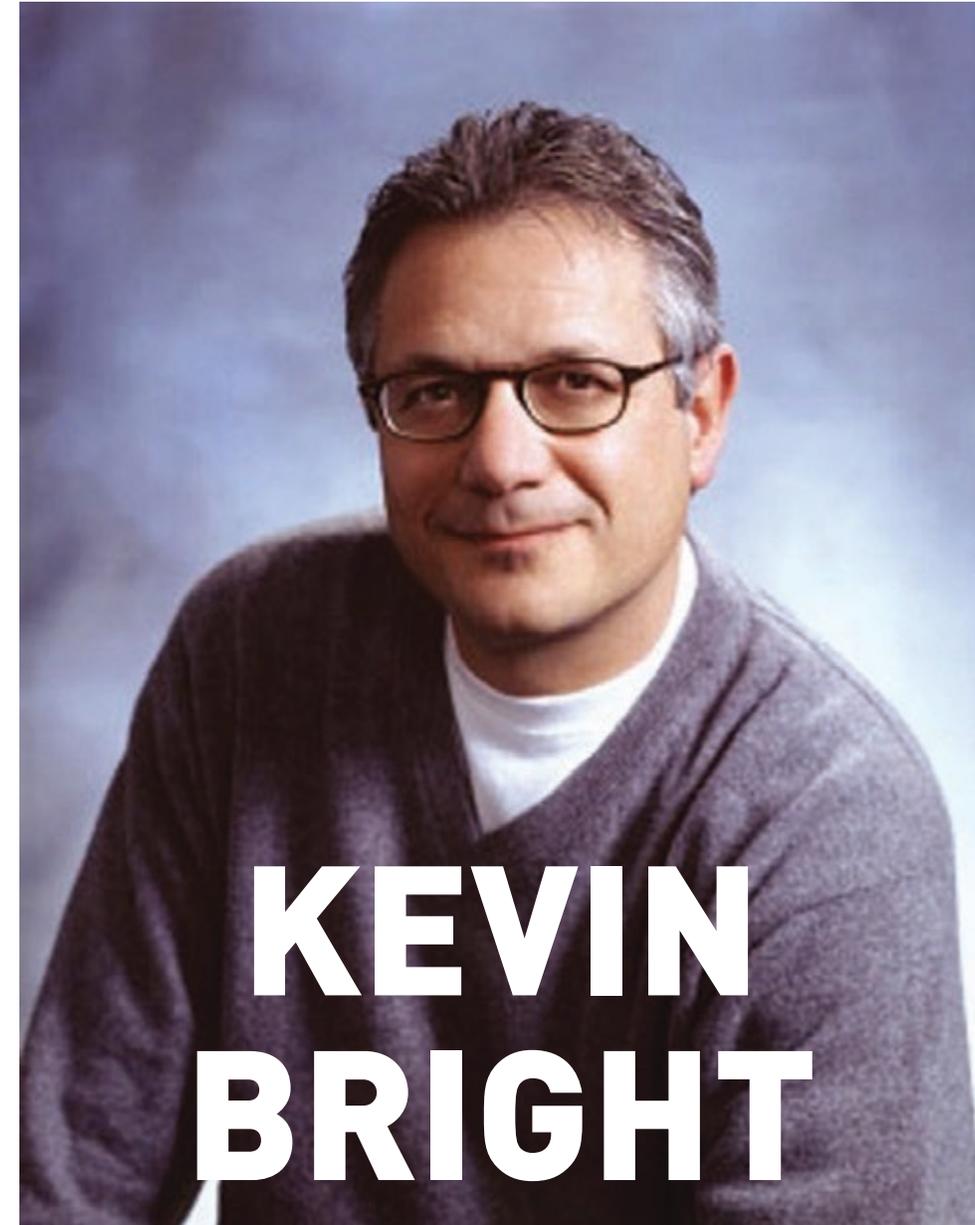
Howie Mandel



Eric McCormack



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# FILM INDEPENDENT PRESENTS:

Disability Inclusion Showcase,  
kicked off by the premiere of the  
2020 Media Access Awards  
presented by Easterseals.

Thank you to the Media Access Awards  
and Easterseals Disability Services for  
making this showcase possible.

The showcase features screenings and conversations  
celebrating Media Access Awards honored talent, including:

Media Access Awards Writers Guild of America West,  
Evan Somers Memorial Award recipient  
**Ramy Youssef** with actor **Steve Way**

Media Access Awards Christopher Reeve Acting  
Scholarship recipient **Danny J. Gomez**

SAG-AFTRA Harold Russell Award recipient  
**Lauren Ridloff**

Moderated by writer **David Radcliff**.

**Friday, November 20 – Monday, November 23**

Disability Inclusion Showcase Featuring



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This event is open and free to the public.

**Learn more and register at [filmindependent.org/presents](https://filmindependent.org/presents)**

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Deborah Calla & Allen Rucker

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# **MEDIA ACCESS AWARDS - THE SHOW**

## **2020 MEDIA ACCESS AWARDS PRODUCED BY**

Calla Productions

### **HOST**

Nyle DiMarco

### **EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

Deborah Calla

### **WRITER**

Allen Rucker

### **CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

Scott Mauro

### **PRODUCER**

Kia Kiso

### **DIRECTOR**

Paul Miller

### **POST PRODUCTION**

Gold Pictures

### **Editor**

Jenni Gold

### **Assistant Editor**

Cole Miller

### **Technical Consultant**

Jeff Maynard

### **GRAPHICS AND ADDITIONAL EDITING**

Darryl Harris

### **AUDIO DESCRIPTION SPONSORED BY**

*Woman*  
OF HER *Words*

Narrated by Michele Spitz

## **STARRING**

Selma Blair  
Deborah Calla  
Leah Daniels-Butler  
Nyle DiMarco  
Ato Essandoh  
Jessica Goldberg  
Whoopi Goldberg  
Danny Gomez  
Zack Gottsagen  
Andrew Hinderaker  
Joshua Jackson  
Jason Katims  
Jimmy Kimmel  
James LeBrecht  
Franklin Leonard  
Jane Lynch  
Howie Mandel  
Eric McCormack  
Nicole Newnham  
Will Reeve  
Lauren Ridloff  
Allen Rucker  
Evan Ruggiero  
Andy Samberg  
Gabourey Sidibe  
Alan Silva  
Steve Way  
Ramy Youssef  
Ed Zwick

Nyle DiMarco's ASL Interpreter  
Justin Maurer

Make Up & Hair  
Bradford Rogne

Covid Compliance Manager /  
Production Assistant  
Christina Holleran

Production Assistant  
Tim Schilling

# 2020 MEDIA ACCESS AWARDS credits

## LA CASTLE STUDIOS

Technical  
Brett Pipher

Lighting / Camera  
David Cruz

Jib Operator  
Evan Ferrario

Camera  
Toms Sarmulis

Teleprompter  
Brooks Pipher

Studio Support  
Tim Pipher  
Pam Pipher

## NY SHOOT

Camera / Sound  
Steven Ruggiero

## LAS VEGAS SHOOT

Camera Operator  
Jeff Taylor

Camera Operator  
Kyle Zuelke

Audio Technician  
Denny Harris

## SITUATION INTERACTIVE

Senior Producer  
David Holmes

Executive Creative Director,  
Arts & Culture  
Chris Powers

VP, Business Development  
& Communications  
Jordan Person

Executive Event Producer  
Rachel O'Connor

Senior Designer  
Kevin Diaz

Project Management Supervisor  
Dana Abrams

## PROGRAM DESIGNER

Gabrielle Raumberger  
eposinc.com

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

Slate PR  
Andy Gelb and Elyse Weissman





MEDIA ACCESS AWARDS  
Presented by Easterseals