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Superfest: From Hooks to Jehovah's, International Disability Film Festival to Host West Coast and World Premiere Screenings

Tickets on sale: superfestfilm.com

Saturday, October 22 at The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, Berkeley

Sunday, October 23 at The Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco

Terminal Device and *Awake* explore disability with edgy, fresh perspectives

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (August 16, 2016): Superfest is proud to announce its 30th Anniversary slate of films, starting with two exciting premieres:

Terminal Device – (World Premiere)

The cinema loves the one-armed bad guy, but just who is Captain Hook? *Terminal Device* is an autobiographical essay by a real one-armed man shown through pop cultural images and diving deep into notions of difference. The director's story of living as one of these "men with hooks" provides a fresh look into the lives of people with prosthetic limbs. [Watch the trailer.](#)

Awake – (West Coast Premiere)

Everybody knows what it's like to open your door and see a stranger, sent to tell you about Jesus. But Anna isn't everybody and neither is Doreen, the proselytizer who knocks. *Awake* is a film about what happens when you decide not to close the door on someone's face; when Jesus talk gives way to breaking into a house, baking a chocolate cake, smoking a joint, watching Ingmar Bergman, and more. *Awake* is the story of two women, seemingly so different, and the unlikely friendship they forge. [Watch the trailer.](#)

These are just two of the twelve films we will show over the two day festival. See the schedule of films at <http://www.superfestfilm.com/2016-films/>. For screeners, email beitiks@sfsu.edu.

Festival Schedule

Different films shown both days, each of which will include filmmaker Q&As and moderated discussion.

Saturday, October 22nd

The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, Berkeley

1-4pm and 6-9pm; 30th anniversary celebration 4:30-6pm

Sunday, October 23rd

The Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco

1-4pm

About Superfest

[Superfest: International Disability Film Festival](#) is a showcase of juried films held in San Francisco and Berkeley. What started in 1970 as a small showcase in Los Angeles, has grown into a sold-out international event. As we celebrate our 30th festival, we continue to honor and celebrate the unique contributions of the growing disability arts and culture movement. The festival exhibits the most innovative and provocative works from both seasoned filmmakers and emerging media arts professionals.

We are one of the few festivals, of any kind, in the country that is completely accessible. All films will be presented with captioning and audio-description and all live dialogue will be available with American Sign Language and live captioning. Filmmakers are traveling from Israel, Italy, France, England and Canada to participate in panels, engage with the audience and accept awards.

Pre-screen at our September Press Conference

Join us for an advanced screening of three shorts, brief remarks, an open Q&A, and refreshments.

Thursday, September 22nd from 10am-11:30am

LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 1155 Market St. 10th Floor, San Francisco

Press RSVP to dbrown@lighthouse-sf.org.

Festival Highlights

- We have selected the following awards to distribute this year: Best of Festival (Short), Best of Festival (Feature), P.K. Walker Innovation in Craft Award, Advocacy Award, Disability Justice Award, Liane Yasumoto Judges' Choice Award. Winners will be released just before the festival.
- We will bestow one *special* film a "Dissie" Award. Based on the infamous "Razzie," the "Dissie" is awarded to a film that has so completely missed the mark about disability that we want to hold it up as a shining example of what NOT to do when making representations of people with

disabilities. While the community is now casting their votes for “worst of the worst,” the lead nominee is *Me Before You*, a movie which caused nation-wide protests from the disability community and has been called a “disability snuff film.” [Click here to read more.](#)

- The festival will be emceed by two comedians with disabilities, Nina G. and Mike Beers.
- All Superfest films are screened with open captioning and audio-description.
- Disability rights leaders from several Bay Area organizations will participate by presenting the awards or accepting awards on behalf of filmmakers who cannot attend in person.
- Bay Area filmmakers: *The Chili Story* and *Best and Most Beautiful Things*
- West Coast Premieres: *Awake*, *Double Discrimination*, *Supersonic*
- World Premieres: *Terminal Device*, *The Right to be Rescued*, *Yam’s Journey*, *Zoufs*

Superfest Producers

[LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#) and [San Francisco State University’s Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability](#) together host Superfest, the 30th festival of the longest running disability film festival in the world. All films will be presented with captioning and audio-description and all live dialogue will be available with American Sign Language and live captioning. Festival coordinator Emily Beitiks said, “Superfest goes way beyond minimum standards for hosting an accessible event. Nondisabled attendees may find that they benefit from these access features, changing the way we experience moviegoing for the better.”

Screeners, press packets, film stills, filmmaker contact info and emcee bios are available upon request.

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