



Contact: William Greer
Film Festival Director
filmfest@txdisabilities.org
(512) 478-3366 ext. 310
www.CTDFilmFest.org

Humans—and other Animals—Thrive with Prosthetics at Annual Disability Film Festival

AUSTIN Texas (Oct. 6, 2017) -- Cinema Touching Disability, Texas' premiere cinematic celebration of disability, returns to the Alamo Drafthouse Village Theater, Oct. 13 and 14. This annual event works to counter negative media and film portrayals of people with disabilities.

The Festival opens on Friday with *My Bionic Pet* (2014), a documentary that follows the story of animals with injuries or disabilities—and the custom prosthetics their humans develop for them. Following the film, *My Bionic Pet* star Chris P. Bacon, a pig that uses a wheelchair, will join the Festival via Skype for an audience Q&A. Festival cohost Austin Animal Shelter will hold a meet and greet with Austin-based bionic pet and Instagram star, Elmer the Cat, before the film.

Saturday night, the Festival turns to the human experience of using artificial limbs with documentary *Out on a Limb* (2011). Seamlessly blending the technical with the personal, *Out on a Limb* captures the experience of using today's most advanced artificial limbs and glimpses the exciting possibilities in the future of prosthetics. Following the film, the Festival will hold a panel on modern prosthetics with Greg LaKonski, a local athlete, and Glori Das, president and founder of e-NABLE UT (a student group that builds custom prosthetics for children using 3D printers).

Both nights, the Festival will screen winners from its international Short Film Competition.

Expanding on the international element of the Festival, this year, Cinema Touching Disability welcomes The Arabic Media Center Specialized for People with Disabilities. A 4-person crew of Egyptian and Tunisian media specialists, including the Center directors, will be in attendance at the Festival, as well as participate in an Exchange of Experiences roundtable about disability film and film festivals with local filmmakers.

Admission to Cinema Touching Disability is free; however, a \$10.00 ticket guarantees a seat and can be redeemed for \$10.00 worth of food and drink from the Drafthouse menu. Full schedule, tickets, and more information can be found at www.CTDFilmFest.org.

Cinema Touching Disability is made possible with major sponsor support from Superior HealthPlan, United Healthcare, Amerigroup, BlueCross BlueShield of Texas, Magellan Healthcare, Pfizer, Gilead, Genentech, and Mobility Works. This project is supported in part by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department.

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The Cinema Touching Disability Film Festival and Short Film Competition is a project of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD). Texas' oldest and largest cross-disability advocacy