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FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES DIVERSITY AND SHARED HUMANITY

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PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CINCINNATI REELABILITIES

Oscar and Golden Globe Award Winning Actress **Marlee Matlin** is heading a list of big screen stars coming to Cincinnati February 27 to help celebrate one of the country's largest film festivals, the Cincinnati ReelAbilities Film Festival organized by Living Arrangements for the Developmentally Disabled (LADD) and presented by Macy's. The Festival (February 27 to March 7, 2015) is expected to attract thousands through world class film and speaking events and celebrates our community's diversity and shared humanity.

Matlin, currently starring in ABC's *Switched at Birth*, will be the key note speaker for the ReelAbilities Awards Premiere Luncheon. Also speaking will be actor **Danny Woodburn**, widely recognized for his role as Kramer's volatile friend on the NBC hit, *Seinfeld*. Woodburn has been featured in more than 130 television shows and two dozen movies including his most recent role as Master Splinter in the summer blockbuster, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*.

Additional stars to participate in the Festival events are **Justin LeBlanc**, popular finalist on *Project Runway* Season 12, and current contestant in *Project Runway All Stars*



(left—right) Mayor John Cranley and Cincinnati Reds' Teddy Kremer announced the 2015 Cincinnati ReelAbilities Film Festival dates: February 27—March 7! Marlee Matlin, Oscar and Golden Globe Award Winning actress, headlines the list of big screen stars attending the film festival.

(Photo | Cincinnati Reelabilities)

Season 4; **Daryl Chill Mitchell**, who starred in the FOX sitcom *Brothers* with NY Giants football player Michael Strahan and currently can be seen on CBS' *NCIS New Orleans*; and **Kurt Yaeger**, whose many film credits include *Dolphin Tale* and *War Flowers*, and whose most recent television role is as the fan favorite character on FX's hit show *Sons of Anarchy*.

The Cincinnati ReelAbilities Film Festival Premiere Weekend will include the Corporate Awards Luncheon, a Premiere Night film screening of *Little World* at the Cincinnati

Art Museum, a Premiere Day film screening of *The Crash Reel* (a documentary about the epic rivalry between world champion snowboarders Shaun White and **Kevin Pearce**) with an appearance with Pearce, a Premiere Night 'Mingle with the Stars' Dinner Gala followed by an After Party hosted by Yaeger, and a Sunday film screening of *Touch of Light* with special guest Richard Bernstein, Michigan Supreme Court justice (and our country's first state Supreme Court justice who is blind). The *Crash*

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FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES DIVERSITY AND SHARED HUMANITY (CONT'D)

Reel screening is being sponsored by Allegra Marketing and benefiting LADD, Inc.; and Touch of Light is sponsored by Macy's with support of Erma A. Bantz Foundation and benefitting the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

At a news conference earlier this year, Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley (one of the Festival's honorary co-chairs) had this to say,

"ReelAbilities continues to foster meaningful partnerships between social-service non-profits, arts and culture organizations, academia and schools. I am proud to say that these organizations are uniting around this festival to welcome a diverse array of stars and filmmakers to our community."

In its third year, the Cincinnati ReelAbilities Film Festival has more than quadrupled in size. Seventeen local nonprofits whose work enriches the lives of people who have disability will benefit from it. Juried films to be screened celebrate the lives, stories and art of people who experience disability. The films are wide ranging and touch on issues and topics such as autism, mental health and returning veterans.

"I'm proud that Cincinnati is hosting a major film festival around disabilities," wrote University of Cincinnati President Santa Ono on his Facebook page.

(clockwise) Among the big screen celebrities coming to Cincinnati ReelAbilities Film Festival 2015: Danny Woodburn, Daryl Chill Mitchell, Justin LeBlanc, Kurt Yaeger, and Justin Pearce.



Nationally, the ReelAbilities Film Festival was founded in 2007 in New York City and has spread to 12 cities across the US. Cincinnati was the first city in the nation to host the festival outside of New York and now hosts the second largest festival nationwide, second only to New York.

In 2014, the festival's national headquarters moved to Cincinnati where it is being managed by LADD, Inc. More than 500 world class films from around the world were submitted.

To learn more about the Cincinnati

ReelAbilities Film Festival including film trailers, other events, beneficiaries, and ticket purchase information, visit <http://www.CincyRA.org>.

Follow along with festival hashtags #DifferentLikeYou and #CincyRA.

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