

## **Disability Related Movies**

Sources:

Santa Monica Public Library *All movies with an asterisk (\*) are available through the Santa Monica Public Library*

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/MRC/disabilitymovies.html>

[www.Netflix.com](http://www.Netflix.com)

[www.IMDB.com](http://www.IMDB.com)

### *An Affair to Remember*

A couple meets and falls deeply in love; they agree to meet at the Empire State Building in six months if they still feel the same way. A tragic accident prevents their rendezvous, and the lovers' future takes an uncertain turn. (1957, not rated)

### *Arts: A film About Possibilities, Disabilities and the Arts*

This documentary examines how a number of men and women with disabilities turn to painting, music and other art forms to enrich their lives. (2009, not rated)

### *As Good As It Gets\**

When an acerbic, reclusive and obsessive-compulsive author lets a stressed-out single mom and a neighbor and his dog into his life, profound changes await them all in this touching dramedy. Winner of two Academy Awards. (1997, rated R)

### *Awakenings*

Based on the true story of a research physician who uses an experimental drug to "awaken" the catatonic victims of a rare disease. (1990, rated PG-13)

### *A Beautiful Mind\**

Oscar® winner Russell Crowe plays a brilliant mathematician who develops schizophrenia. (2002, rated PG-13)

### *Benny and Joon\**

Johnny Depp plays a young man who styles himself after Buster Keaton who falls in love with a woman with a mental illness. (1993, rated PG)

### *The Best Years of Our Lives*

Three returning WWII veterans face problems as they attempt to pick up the threads of their previous lives. One of the central characters in the film is played by Academy Award-winner Harold Russell, a vet who had lost both arms in the war. (1946, not rated)

### *Birdy*

A young Vietnam veteran, sits in an almost catatonic state in an Army hospital, where he has come to believe he is one of the feathered creatures of his boyhood dreams. In an effort to break Birdy's silence, his psychiatrist brings Birdy's best friend of his youth to reach Birdy and bring him back to reality. (1984, rated R)

*Body and Soul: Diana and Kathy\**: Two activists with severe disabilities support each other to live independently. (2007, not rated)

*Born on the Fourth of July*

Director Oliver Stone won an Oscar for this film which follows a young man from his days as a zealous teen who eagerly joins up for the Vietnam War, to his return from the war as an embittered veteran, paralyzed from mid-chest down. (1989, rated R)

*Chattahoochee*

Based on a true story, this film depicts the life of Emmett Foley, a Korean War hero who becomes an unlikely crusader on behalf of mental health patients after being committed to Chatahoochee State Mental Hospital in Florida and seeing the abusive conditions in which the inmates live. (1990, rated R)

*Children of a Lesser God\**

A love story about an idealistic special education teacher, and a headstrong girl with profound deafness. At first, he sees her as a teaching challenge but their relationship soon blossoms into a passionate love. Marlee Matlin won an Academy Award for Best Actress for her work in this. (1986, rated R)

*The Collector of Bedford Street\**

This short documentary takes an intimate look at Larry Selman, the filmmaker's 60 year old neighbor who has intellectual disabilities. A tale of personal persistence overcoming the odds, the film humanizes the story behind the abstract statistics of intellectual disabilities, shedding light on how a community has built tolerance and understanding. (2002, not rated)

*The Color of Paradise (Rang-e khoda)\**

A boy returns to his tiny village on vacation from the Institute for the Blind in Tehran, unaware of his father's intentions to disown him before his imminent marriage. certain the boy's disability will destroy his only chance for happiness. (1999, rated PG, in Persian with subtitles)

*The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (Le scaphandre et le papillon)\**

Based on the true story of the French editor of Elle magazine, Jean-Dominique Bauby, who suffered a stroke that paralyzed his entire body, except his left eye. Using that eye to blink out his memoir, Bauby eloquently described the aspects of his interior world. (2007, rated PG-13, in French with English subtitles)

*Edward Scissorhands\**

As the result of an inventor's sudden death, his creation Edward is left with long, sharp scissors instead of hands. He is brought from his lonely castle to a pastel suburb by a kindly Avon lady, who tries to make a home for him (1990, rated PG-13)

### *The Elephant Man*

Based on a true story from 19th century England, the film details the experiences of John Merrick, greatly affected by neurofibromatosis and known as the "Elephant Man." He is discovered and rescued by a dedicated surgeon from his life as a circus freak, and is given a chance to live his last years with comfort, respect, and dignity. (1980, rated PG)

### *Eyes in the Night*

A blind detective investigates a murder with the aid of his seeing-eye dog; the only clue is the odor of violets in the room. From this clue he builds a case against a Nazi spy ring headed by someone close to the victim. (1942, not rated)

### *Finding Nemo\**

Academy Award-winning animated movie features two plucky fish, Marlin and Dory, who search high and low for Marlin's missing son, Nemo, who has been stolen from his coral reef home. (2003, rated G)

### *Frida*

Oscar®-winning dramatization of the life of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, from her humble upbringing to the worldwide fame and controversy that surrounded both her and her husband, Diego Rivera. (2002, rated R)

### *George Wallace*

The late Alabama Gov. George Wallace, an infamous politician and segregationist, became one of the most hated American politicians. The movie follows him from his early days as a state circuit judge to his presidential run, when he was paralyzed by a would-be assassin. (1997, not rated, made for TV)

### *Girl, Interrupted*

Diagnosed with borderline personality disorder, a young woman is sent to a mental institution for a short stay but spends the next year avoiding her fears, descending into the skewed world of people who truly belong in the hospital. (1999, rated R)

### *Home of the Brave*

WWII vet, paralyzed from the waist down, wages a battle against horrifying memories of the treacherous undergrowth of South Pacific jungles, of Japanese snipers, and the virulent racism of his soldier comrades. (1949, not rated)

### *The Horse Boy\**

A family sets off to the Mongolian steppes in search of a fabled shaman in the hopes that a combination of traditional shamanic healing and horseback riding will benefit their autistic son. (2009, not rated)

*The Horse Whisperer\**

A young teenager has her leg amputated after a terrifying accident that also injured her horse. Her mother believes there's a link between her embittered daughter and the horse's erratic behavior. Learning of a horse trainer with a special gift, she takes the girl and the horse to Montana where the "horse whisperer" lives. (1998, rated PG-13)

*I Am Sam*

An intellectually disabled man fights for custody of his 7-year-old daughter, and in the process teaches his cold-hearted lawyer the value of love and family. (1998, PG-13)

*Johnny Got His Gun\**: Dalton Trumbo's story of a soldier who loses all of his limbs, his sight, hearing and smell and his struggle to develop a way to communicate. (1971, rated PG)

*Kounandi*

In this fairy tale for adults from Burkina Faso, a young beauty who is often scorned and overlooked because of her dwarfism, earns her living and finds village favor making delicious cup cakes. She falls in love with only to discover that he is married to a woman who is dying. (2003, not rated, in Jula with English subtitles.)

*Lars and the Real Girl\**

When a delusional loner buys a life-size doll over the Internet, promptly falls in love with her and starts telling people that the doll is his girlfriend, his brother and sister-in-law decide it's time to intervene. Their doctor urges them to go along with the delusion, unexpectedly provoking the involvement of friends and neighbors. (2007, rated PG-13)

*The Lucky Ones\**

Three soldiers injured in the Iraq War return to the U.S., only to find that their tour of duty has taken its toll on the home front as well. Hoping to repair their tattered lives they set off on an impromptu cross-country road trip. (2008, rated R)

*The Mighty \**

Although both teens have problems that label them as outcasts, two boys discover that by combining their strengths they can overcome their individual limitations. As the two set out on a series of courageous adventures, they find the mightiest treasure of all: friendship! (1998, rated PG-13)

*Murder Ball\**

Documentary about the U.S. quad (wheelchair) rugby team. (2005, rated R)

*My Left Foot\**

Based on the life of Christy Brown, born with cerebral palsy, who learned to write and paint with his left foot- the only limb he can control. (1989, rated R)

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest\**

A man contrives to spend his jail sentence in a psychiatric hospital instead of prison, raising his fellow inmates to rebel against the head nurse. Winner of five Academy Awards. (1975, rated R)

*Passion Fish*

A bitter soap opera star returns home to rural Louisiana after an auto accident leaves her paralyzed. She alienates those around her until she meets her match in a nurse who has her own problems. Together, they form an unlikely friendship. (1992, rated R)

*A Patch of Blue*

A young blind woman falls in love with an African American man, but her racist mother declares that their relationship cannot continue, forcing the girl to choose between her family and her heart. Shelley Winters won an Oscar for her role as the mother. (1965, not rated)

*Philadelphia\**

Tom Hanks, in his Academy Award-winning role, is an attorney who launches a wrongful termination suit against the hand that feeds him when his law firm finds out about his HIV-positive status -- and his homosexuality -- and fires him. The first major-studio picture to tackle the topic of AIDS. (1993, rated PG-13)

*The Piano\**

A young mute woman and her child travel to New Zealand in the 1800's for an arranged marriage to a farmer. After the marriage she meets another man, and the competition for her love begins. Only one of the men realizes that her affections can only be won through her beloved piano. Golden Globe and triple Academy Award winner. (1993, rated R)

*Post Concussion\**

Based on events in the director's own life. Terminated by his employer after sustaining a serious concussion, dumped by his girlfriend, and stalked by New Age healers, he finds a way to rediscover himself, his family and the meaning of true friendship. (2000, not rated)

*Ray\**

Based on the life of Ray Charles (played by Oscar winner Jamie Foxx), who lost his sight at age seven. Inspired by his mother who insisted he make his own way, he found his calling at the keyboard, battling drug addiction while becoming one of America's most beloved performers. (2004, rated PG-13)

*Reach for the Sky*

The amazing true story of Douglas Bader, who after losing both legs overcame almost insurmountable odds to not only master walking with two prosthetic legs, but to also become one of the most remarkable fighter aces of WWII. (1956, not rated)

*Scent of a Woman\**

Hoping to earn extra money, an innocent and reserved teen agrees to look after a blind, retired Lieutenant Colonel, who takes him off for a wild weekend in New York City. (1992, rated R)

*See What I'm Saying: The Deaf Entertainers' Documentary*

Four dedicated stage artists, all either deaf or hearing-impaired, are profiled in their struggle to make inroads not only in the deaf community, but with mainstream audiences as well. (2009, not rated)

*Shine\**

Dramatization of the true story of gifted Australian piano prodigy, David Helfgott who experiences a nervous breakdown and is hospitalized, but later returns to the concert hall. Geoffrey Rush, won best actor Oscar and Golden Globe for his role as David Helfgott. (1996, rated PG-13)

*Shrink\**

In the wake of a personal tragedy, Hollywood's psychiatrist to the stars devolves into a slovenly pothead and worries he's become incapable of helping his patients, including a famous actress, an insecure young writer, and an obsessive-compulsive super-agent. (2009, rated R)

*Sling Blade\**

A developmentally disabled man returns home after being released from a psychiatric hospital, where he'd been confined since age 12 for murdering his mother and her lover. On the outside, he lands a job at a garage fixing motors and befriends a young boy -- but can he outrun his past? (1996, rated R)

*The Soloist\**

The true story of a journalist who discovers a former classical music prodigy playing his violin on the streets of L.A. As the journalist endeavors to help the homeless man find his way back, a unique friendship is formed, one that transforms both their lives. (2008, rated PG-13)

*Sound and Fury\**

This documentary takes an unexpected approach to the "medical miracle" film by examining the political and emotional turmoil that erupts between brothers over the cochlear implant that might allow their deaf children to hear. (2000, not rated)

*The Station Agent\**

A young man born with dwarfism inherits a train station in rural New Jersey and moves there for a life of quiet solitude. He soon finds friendships and a sense of belonging that he never expected, and never thought he wanted. (2002, rated R)

*The Three Faces of Eve*

Based on a true story. After a series of unusual events, a withdrawn housewife goes to a psychiatrist who soon encounters her second personality, Eve, a sexy, uninhibited woman. As her therapy continues her third self, the sensible Jane appears to help resolve her rare Dissociative Identity Disorder (formerly known as Multiple Personality Disorder). Joanne Woodward won an Oscar and a Golden Globe Award for her performance in the title role. (1957, not rated)

*Through Deaf Eyes\**

Emmy-winning actress Stockard Channing narrates this documentary that chronicles the history of deaf culture in America from the 19th century to the present day. (2007, not rated)

*Wait Until Dark\**

A photographer unwittingly smuggles a doll stuffed with heroin into New York City. His recently blinded wife, who is alone in their apartment, is terrorized by hired crooks in search of the doll. (1967, not rated)

*The Waterdance*

Based on writer/director Neal Jimenez own experiences. A talented young writer who is paralyzed in a hiking accident finds his equilibrium in a rehabilitation unit, peopled by patients of varied emotional states. Winner of an Independent Spirit Award for Best First Feature. (1991, rated R)

*What's Eating Gilbert Grape\**

In this Academy Award-nominated movie, Johnny Depp stars as a young man responsible for his two sisters and intellectually disabled brother and his attempt to have a typical life. (1993, rated PG-13)

*Wit\**

A demanding and uncompromising professor is diagnosed with advanced cancer. She decides to go through treatment alone, but as her treatment progresses, she wishes she had some more truly caring human interaction from people who see her as a person and not just a research experiment. (2001, rated PG-13)

*Without Pity: A Film About Abilities\**

Emmy- winning made-for-TV documentary narrated by Christopher Reeve chronicles the abilities of 11 people with disabilities. (1996, not rated)