

March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

To honor the many children and adults in Orange County who live with developmental disabilities, their contributions to our community, and the families, friends, caregivers, and advocates who support them a film festival has been organized by the Orange County Developmental Disabilities Education and Training Consortium. The consortium represents the 19 Orange County based government and non-profit providers of community services for children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. The festival will showcase five films during the month of March. Films will be shown on March 3rd, 11th, 17th, and 25th. Please see the attached flyer with details.

“Developmental disabilities are a variety of conditions that become apparent during childhood and cause mental or physical limitation. These conditions include autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, mental retardation, and other neurological impairments.

People with developmental disabilities may not learn as quickly as others learn, or express themselves clearly. Some people may have limited ability to take care of their physical needs or may have limited mobility. Many have more than one disability.

Developmental disabilities have a variety of causes, which can occur before, during or after birth. Those occurring before birth include genetic problems, poor prenatal care, or exposure of the fetus to toxic elements, drugs, or alcohol. Occurrences during birth, such as a cut off of oxygen to the baby, or accidents after birth, like car accidents causing traumatic brain injury, also can cause developmental disabilities.

It is difficult to define the limits of people with disabilities, as we continue to discover extraordinary abilities within them. While people who have developmental disabilities face a more challenging future than most, they still can enjoy a full and active life. What they need most is encouragement, understanding, and the willingness of others to help them maximize their opportunities for becoming part of their community.”

---New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities

Please go to www.orangecountynyddconnection.com for information about services, providers, training, and events.

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<p>Offense Taken A documentary of one community's response to use of the word "retard."</p> <p>I'm Tyler Tyler is a typical high school student who happens to have cerebral palsy and some other challenges. He has taken on a mission to educate the world about Ability Awareness.</p> <p>Location Orange County Community College 115 South Street Middletown, NY 10940 Harriman Hall Room 111 Date: March 3, 2012 Time: 12-2 pm</p>	<p>Where's Molly? After Jeff finally learns the truth to the family secret that kept him from his sister in a reunion that will warm your heart and give you hope for the future of "less than perfect" people like Molly.</p> <p>Location: Downing Film Center 19 Front Street Newburgh, NY 12250 Date: March 25, 2012 Time: 12-2 pm</p>				
<p>Monica and David Two adults with Down Syndrome get married in this documentary. The film follows Monica and David before and after the wedding.</p> <p>Location: Downing Film Center 19 Front Street Newburgh, NY 12250 Date: March 11, 2012 Time: 12-2 pm</p>	<p>Seating is limited Please RSVP to:</p> <p>Scarlett Pantoja Orange County Department of Mental Health</p> <p>Phone: 845-291-2622</p> <p>Email: spantoja@orangecountygov.com</p> <p>Deadline: Wednesday, February 29, 2012</p>				
<p>Front of the Class The story of a man with Tourette Syndrome and his quest to become a teacher despite his disability.</p> <p>Location: Orange County Community College 115 South Street Middletown, NY 10940 Harriman Hall Room 111 Date: March 17, 2012 Time: 12-2 pm</p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>Please check off the films you will attend:</p> <table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> March 3rd</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> March 11th</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> March 17th</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> March 25th</td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/> March 3 rd	<input type="checkbox"/> March 11 th	<input type="checkbox"/> March 17 th	<input type="checkbox"/> March 25 th
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<p>Special Thanks To: Downing Film Center Orange County Community College Psychology Club</p>					