

Selected Positive Exposure Programming  
made possible with the generous support  
of the New York State Council on the Arts

2022-present



## **2022**

- \* SAQM exhibition, Prayers in a Thread, a collection of quilts memorializing the last words of George Floyd, designed to inspire anti-racist conversations & actions.
- \* Threads That Unite Us, a Celebration of Textile Awareness, invited visitors to see and touch work by diverse artists.
- \* "Thank You For The Music," a one-woman cabaret show with Marleena Barber telling the story of her life growing up legally blind and how music played a vital role in her journey of self-acceptance.
- \* A screening of the "The Oscar Show!" with Oscar Segal, an autistic man.
- \* Auditions, rehearsals, & performances of "Triggerman" by Identity Crisis Theater Ensemble, featuring the work of minority playwrights.
- \* Book launch of My Phone Lies to Me: Fake News Poetry Workshops as Radical Digital Media Literacy with poetry readings by Poets of Course & other NY poets.
- \* Two films featuring disabled and non-disabled artists: Bound by a Thread and 5 Poems.

## **2023:**

- \* Poets, Of Course, and Outside Voices Theater Company in Residence.
- \* Program Associate Employment Initiative for individuals with I/DD and Autism.
- \* "Vascular Birthmark Portrait Show: Portraits of beautiful vascular birthmarks on gorgeous faces and bodies" by Celina Leroy, who has a vascular birthmark. Portrait Painting Workshop with Celina Leroy. Drama Therapy Workshop was co-facilitated by Patricia Contreras, who has a vascular birthmark & Celina Leroy.
- \* The Many Faces of Neurofibromatosis by Rachel Mindrup, Exhibition & Workshop.
- \* "The Ketrina Story: Breaking Those Glass Ceilings" (Special Education to College) book launch with a screening of the documentary "In My Own Voice" & discussion with the author Ketrina Hazel.
- \* In partnership with the New Yorker Magazine, a screening of the award-winning documentary short Holding Moses, followed by a conversation with the filmmakers about caregiving, the journey of ableism, & LGBTQ+ families.
- \* Art Workshops in the Gallery: Family Crests with Christian Dianna; Framing with Deborah Dawson.
- \* Story as Medicine: a multimedia photography exhibit by Living in the Light with workshops focused on themes of anti-ableism, experiences of disease & disability, explorations of movement in body, and dance, as well as a primer in the study of narrative medicine led by alums of Columbia's School of Narrative Medicine.
- \*Hispanic Heritage Day Celebration at the intersection of disability.
- \* The Prismatic Lens of Lizzie Tian exhibition and workshop. "Lizzie's autism has a profound imprint on her artwork, which reflects Lizzie's way of seeing, processing, and engaging with her immediate environment."
- \* Fulbright students & Heidi Latsky Dance
- \* The Oscar Show: My Independent Life, An original film by Oscar Segal. Screening & discussion.
- \* FRAME (Faces Redefining the Art of Medical Education) film and photography shoots with the NY Common Pantry, Sickle Cell, First Responders, and Adults with I/DD & Autism.

## **2024:**

- \* Poets, Of Course and Outside Voices Theater Company is in Residence.
- \* Program Associate Employment Initiative for individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities/Autism.
- \* "Peter Sonenshein: Visions from Behind the Curtain" in collaboration with the Familial Dysautonomia (FD) Foundation. Peter has lived his entire life with FD, which uniquely expresses his work. Painting and drawing help Peter to deal with the uncertainty and anxiety caused by FD.
- \* Celebrate Rare Disease Day with the Wilhelm Foundation's Undiagnosed Initiative, featuring portraits by NYC-based photographer Rick Guidotti from Australia, India, Mali, the Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden, and the U.S.
- \* Henry & Juanita: Film, Photography, Memory. Multimedia Exhibition: The Memoir - an adaptation of the life and story of Henry Szczepanski, a disabled man who lives in Coler Hospital on Roosevelt Island (Open Rehearsals and Performance). Q and A with Henry, the director, and the actors.
- \* Film Sneak Preview of "Please Hold," a Video by Alexandra Juasz, 2024. This experimental documentary asks how AIDS and AIDS activism have changed since the dawn of this ongoing pandemic.
- \* Medley: Narratives of Healing Exhibition by visual and musical artists who are medical students and doctors at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.
- \* Poets & Oracles: A Poetry Reading by Poets, Of Course (A fabulously neurodiverse Poetry Collective and Project of the Job Path Community Connection Program).
- \* Art Heals by artist James E. George, MD, JD - a highly accomplished doctor and lawyer who experienced a brain and spinal cord injury after a fall in his home, resulting in a coma and quadriplegia.

SAQM exhibition, Prayers in a Thread, a collection of quilts memorializing the last words of George Floyd, designed to inspire anti-racist conversations & actions.



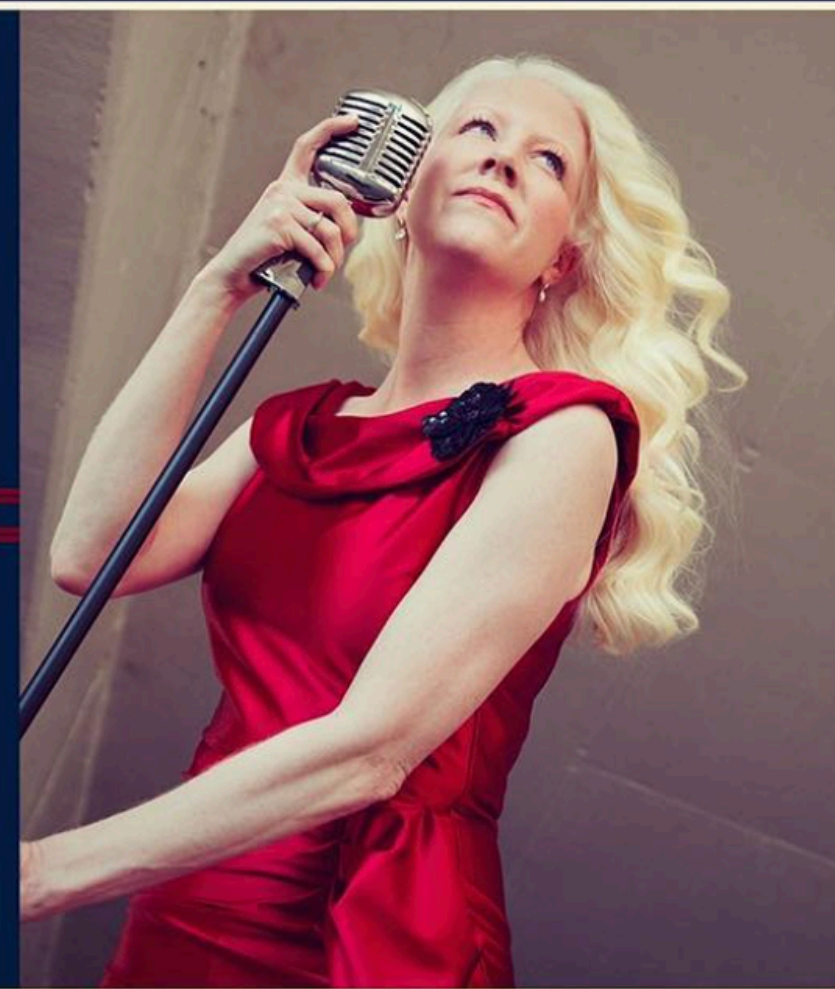
Threads That Unite Us, a Celebration of Textile Awareness, invited visitors to see and touch work by diverse artists.



"Thank You For The Music," a one-woman cabaret show with Marleena Barber telling the story of her life growing up legally blind and how music played a vital role in her journey of self-acceptance.

# Thank You for the Music Marleena Barber

A One-Woman Cabaret Show



Saturday,  
October 1st  
at 2pm

Followed by a  
talk with the artist

Positive Exposure  
14 E. 109th St, NYC

Marleena Barber shares the story of her life growing up legally blind due to albinism, and how music played a vital role in her journey to self-acceptance.

Once told she would never be a successful stage performer, Barber inspires audiences of all ages and abilities to live their dreams despite the challenges they face.



Screening of the "The Oscar Show!" with Oscar Segal, an autistic man.

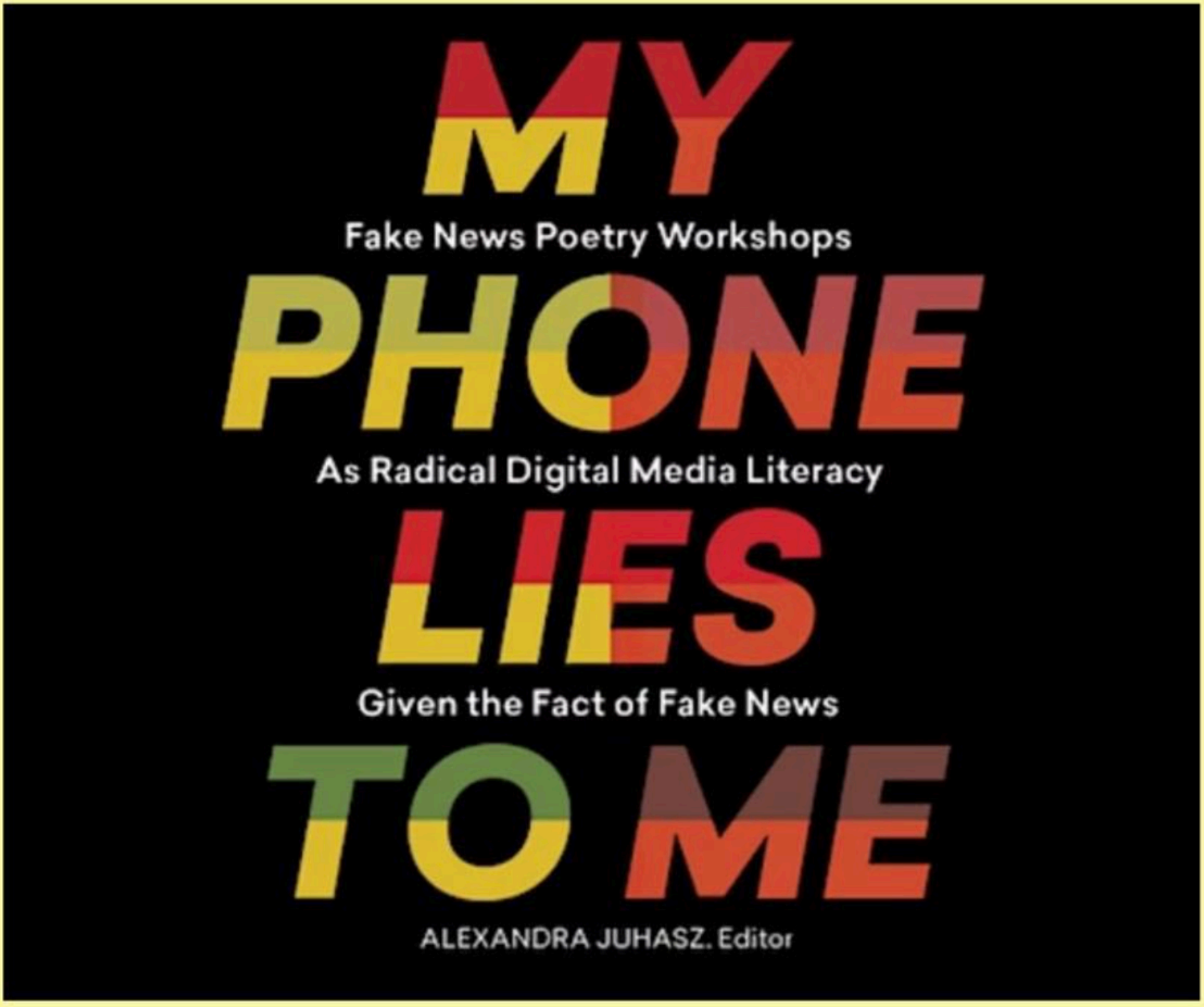


Auditions, rehearsals, & performances of "Triggerman" by Identity Crisis Theater Ensemble, featuring the work of minority playwrights.



Book launch of My Phone Lies to Me: Fake News Poetry Workshops as Radical Digital Media Literacy with poetry readings by Poets of Course & other NY poets.

Positive Exposure Presents



**MY**  
Fake News Poetry Workshops  
**PHONE**  
As Radical Digital Media Literacy  
**LIES**  
Given the Fact of Fake News  
**TO ME**  
ALEXANDRA JUHASZ, Editor

Monday, December 5, 6-8pm

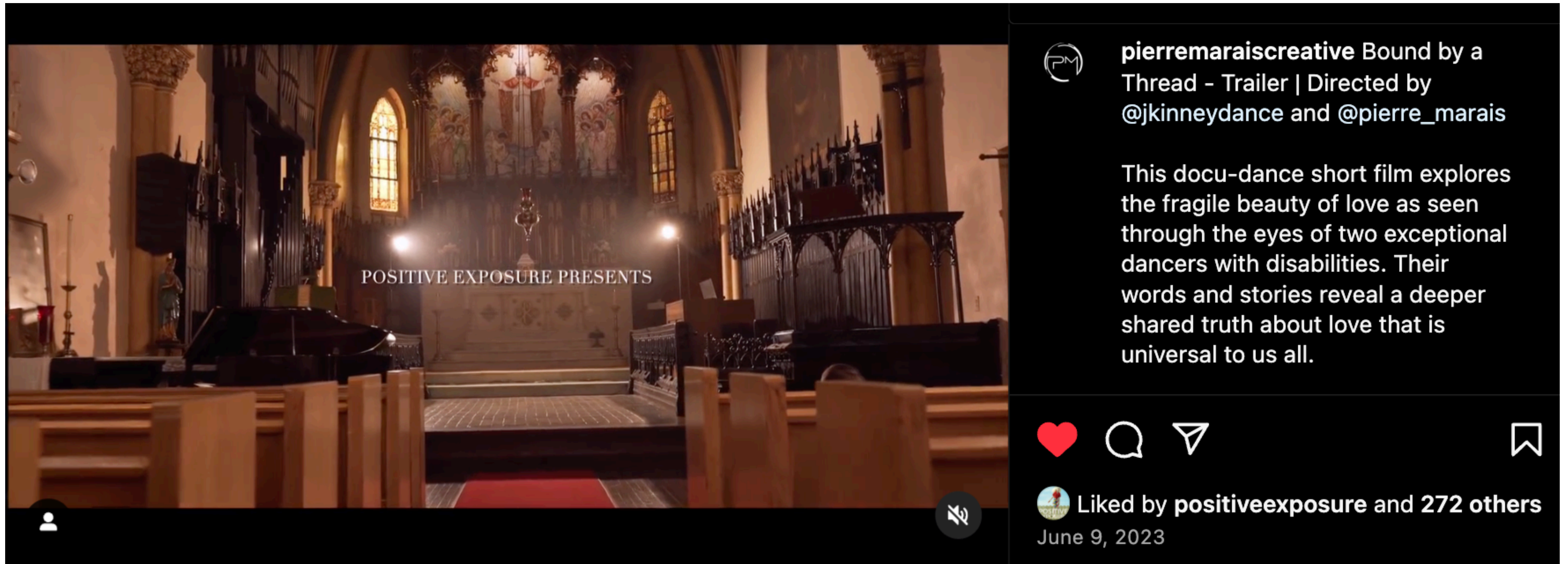
In partnership with

**NYUcmch** and  **CENTER FOR DISABILITY STUDIES**





Two films featuring disabled and non-disabled artists: Bound By A Thread and Five Poems.



The image is a screenshot of a social media post. On the left is a video player showing a church interior with a red carpet leading to an altar. The text "POSITIVE EXPOSURE PRESENTS" is overlaid on the video. On the right is a dark social media interface. At the top left is a profile picture with the initials "PM". To its right is the text "pierremaraiscreative Bound by a Thread - Trailer | Directed by @jkinneydance and @pierre\_marais". Below this is a paragraph of text: "This docu-dance short film explores the fragile beauty of love as seen through the eyes of two exceptional dancers with disabilities. Their words and stories reveal a deeper shared truth about love that is universal to us all." At the bottom of the post are icons for a heart, a comment bubble, a share arrow, and a bookmark. Below these icons is the text "Liked by positiveexposure and 272 others" and "June 9, 2023".

**pierremaraiscreative** Bound by a Thread - Trailer | Directed by @jkinneydance and @pierre\_marais

This docu-dance short film explores the fragile beauty of love as seen through the eyes of two exceptional dancers with disabilities. Their words and stories reveal a deeper shared truth about love that is universal to us all.

Liked by **positiveexposure** and 272 others  
June 9, 2023

[Click to watch Bound By A Thread](#)

Two films featuring disabled and non-disabled artists: Bound By A Thread and Five Poems.

We are about advocacy, empowerment, out-of-the-box-thinking and disability pride. We chose our name because we believe that VOICES from the OUTSIDE deserve to be heard. We believe in access. We will not use our quiet, inside voices to get your attention.



[Click to watch Five Poems](#)

Poets, Of Course, and Outside Voices Theater Company in Residence.



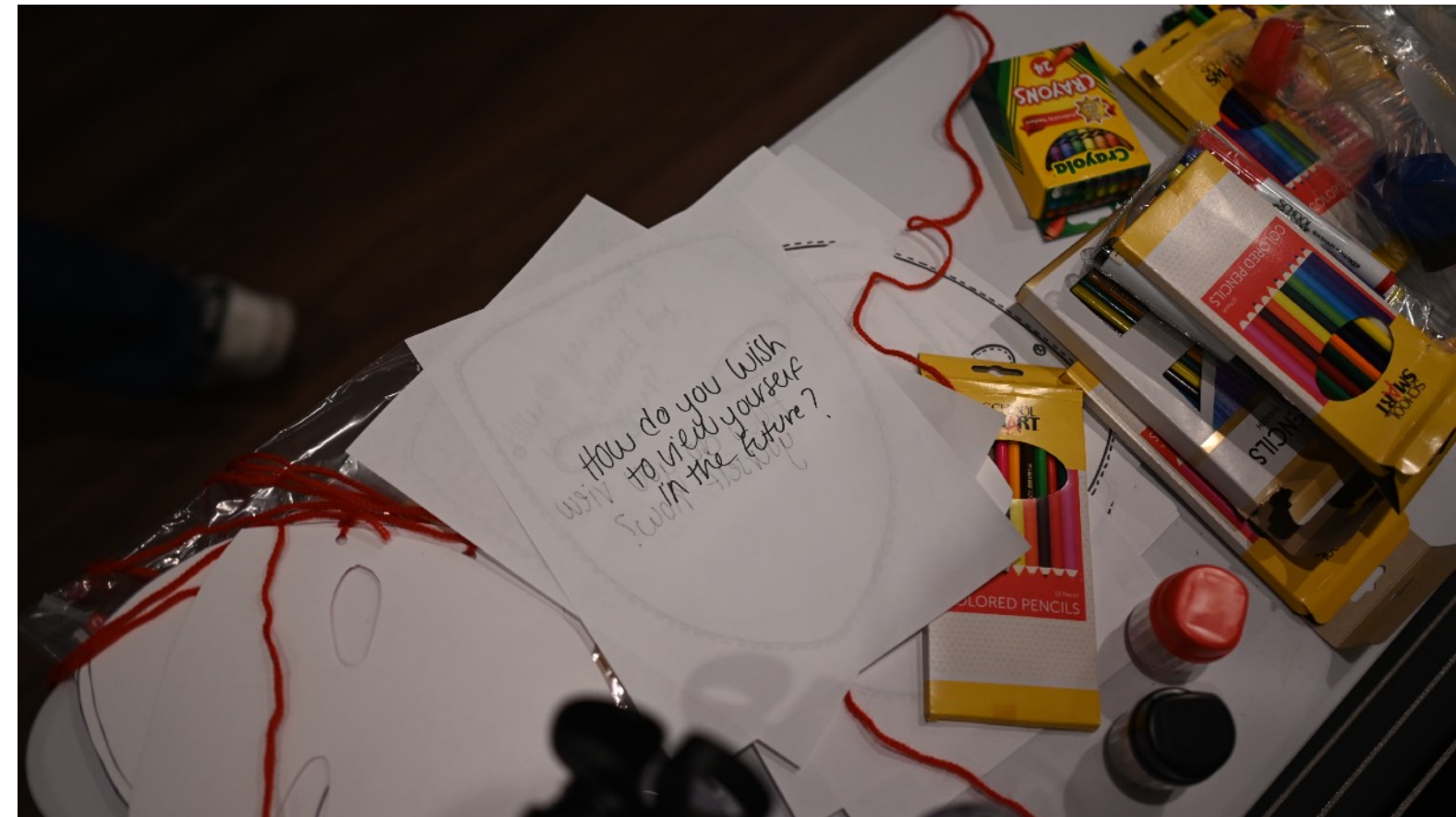
Program Associate Employment Initiative for individuals with I/DD and Autism.



Vascular Birthmark Portrait Show: Portraits of beautiful vascular birthmarks on gorgeous faces and bodies by Celina Leroy, who has a vascular birthmark. Celina also led a Portrait Painting Workshop.



Drama Therapy Workshop was co-facilitated by Patricia Contreras and Celina Leroy, who have vascular birthmarks.



# The Many Faces of Neurofibromatosis by Rachel Mindrup, Exhibition & Workshop.



The Ketrina Story: Breaking Those Glass Ceilings (Special Education to College) book launch with a screening of the documentary "In My Own Voice" & discussion with the author Ketrina Hazel.





In partnership with the New Yorker Magazine, a screening of the award-winning documentary short *Holding Moses*, followed by a conversation with the filmmakers about caregiving, the journey of ableism, & LGBTQ+ families.



Art Workshops in the Gallery: Family Crests with Christian Dianna;  
Framing with Deborah Dawson.

# Art Workshops in the Gallery

Saturday, May 20 at Positive Exposure

**Family Crests with Christian Dianna**

Design and make your own colorful  
family crest. 10:30-11:30am

**Framing with Deborah Dawson**

Learn how to frame a  
painting. 12:00-1:00pm



**Council on  
the Arts**

Story as Medicine: a multimedia photography exhibit by Living in the Light with workshops focused on themes of anti-ableism, experiences of disease & disability, explorations of movement in body, and dance, as well as a primer in the study of narrative medicine led by alums of Columbia's School of Narrative Medicine.



Hispanic Heritage Day Celebration at the intersection of disability.



The Prismatic Lens of Lizzie Tian exhibition and workshop. "Lizzie's autism has a profound imprint on her artwork, which reflects Lizzie's way of seeing, processing, and engaging with her immediate environment."



# Fulbright students & Heidi Latsky Dance



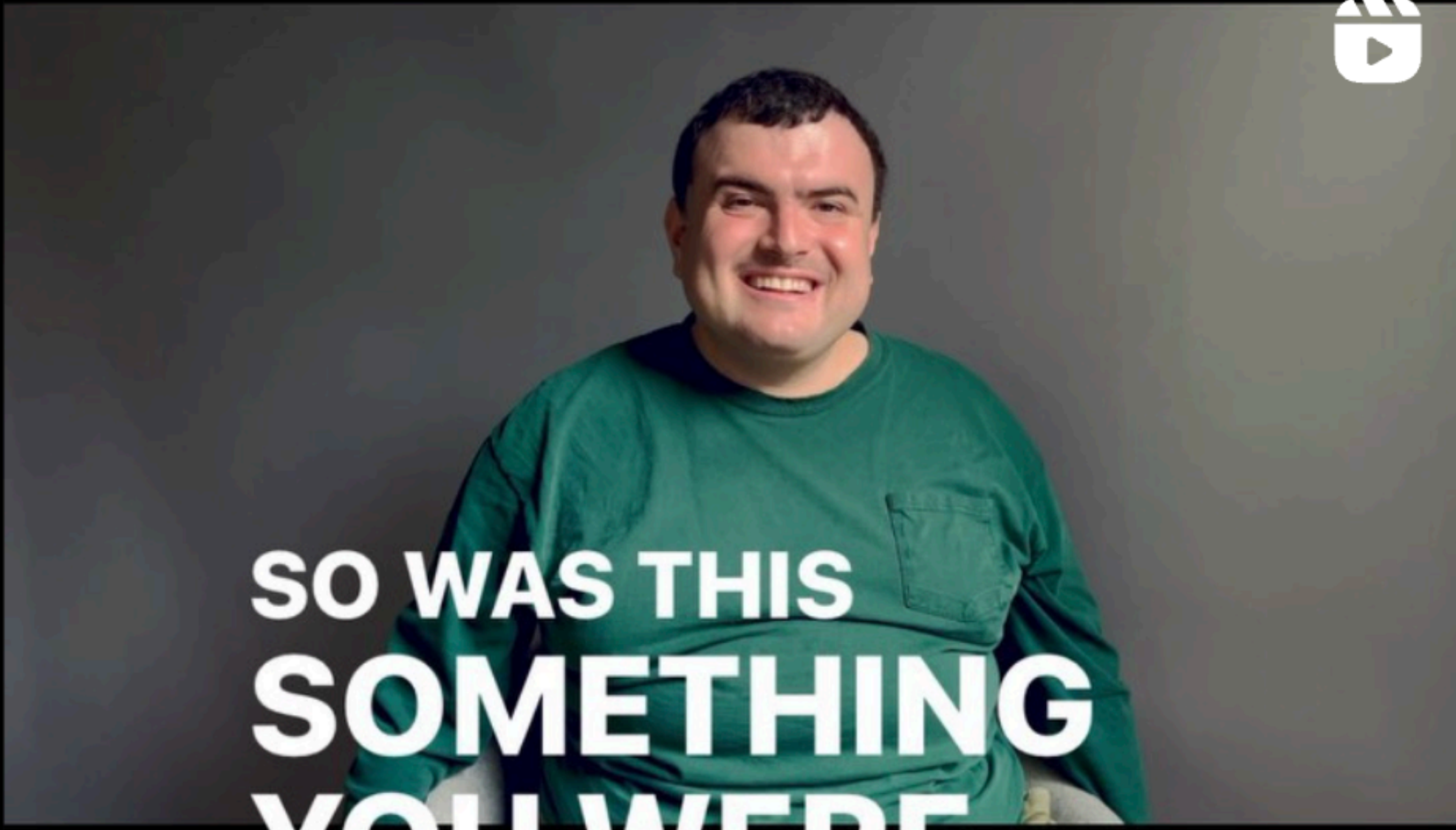
The Oscar Show: My Independent Life, an original film by Oscar Segal. Screening & discussion.

The Oscar Show Presents:  
**My Independent Life**



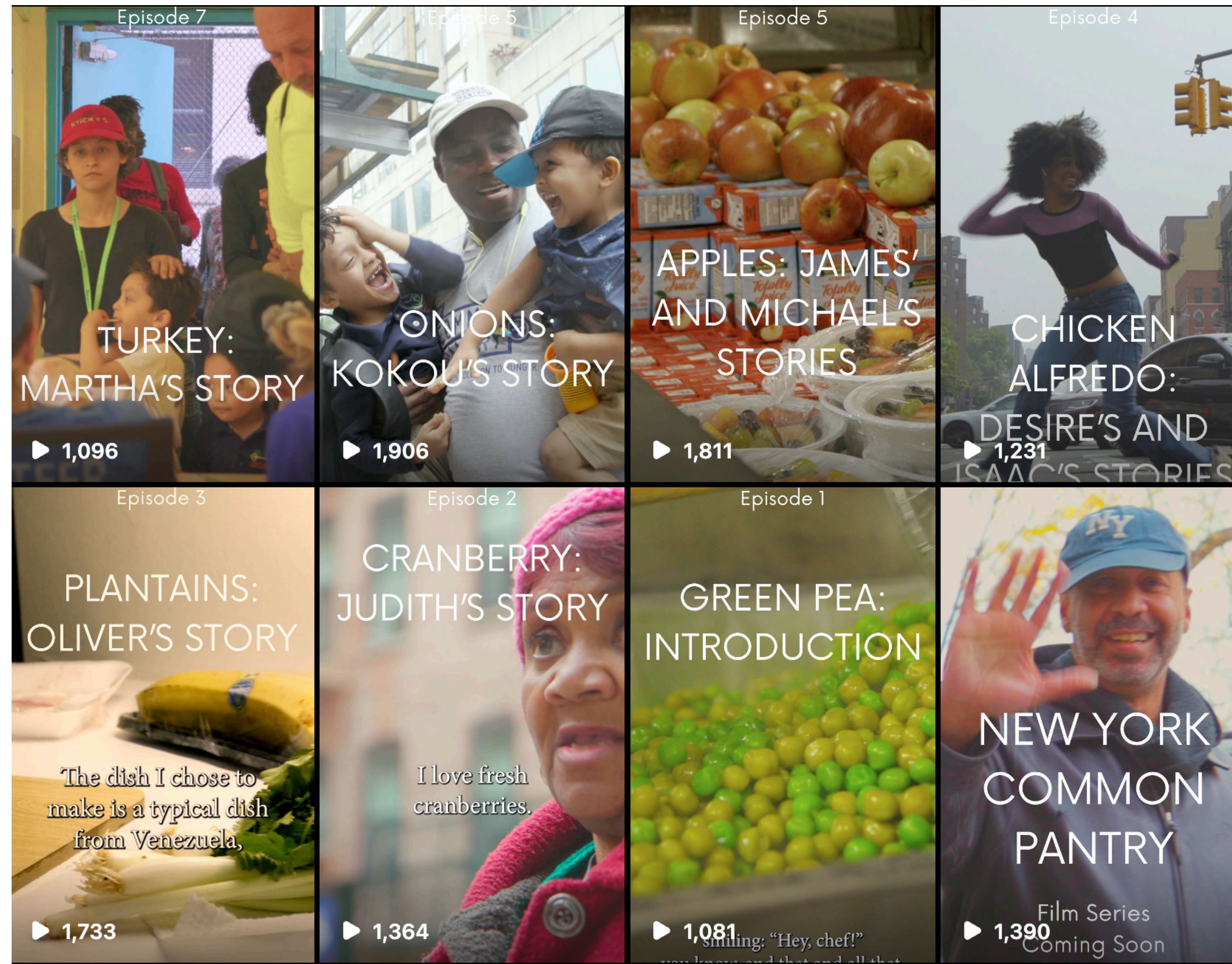
An Original Film  
by Oscar Segal

**Screening & Discussion**  
At POSITIVE EXPOSURE  
Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6-8pm  
14 E. 109th St. New York, NY



SO WAS THIS  
**SOMETHING**  
YOU WERE  
PREVIOUSLY  
**AFRAID TO**  
**DO?**

FRAME (Faces Redefining the Art of Medical Education) film and photography shoots with the NY Common Pantry, Sickle Cell, First Responders, and Adults with I/DD & Autism.



[Click to watch this FRAME series on Instagram](#)



# Poets, Of Course and Outside Voices Theater Company is in Residence.



Music File Edit Song View Controls Account Window Help

zoom You are screen sharing Stop Share Thu Oct 5 11:04 AM

**Today's Writing Prompt**  
Inspired by the work of Jamal's dad!

**POEM ONE**

The spirit has to embrace the wind  
To hear whispers in a storm . . .

**What Secrets Would You Whisper Into a Storm?**

30 minutes

Multi View

The image shows a Zoom meeting screen with a writing prompt slide. The slide has a light blue background and contains the following text: 'Today's Writing Prompt Inspired by the work of Jamal's dad!', 'POEM ONE', 'The spirit has to embrace the wind To hear whispers in a storm . . .', 'What Secrets Would You Whisper Into a Storm?' (underlined and bolded), and '30 minutes'. The Zoom interface includes a top bar with 'zoom', 'You are screen sharing', and 'Stop Share', and a bottom bar with 'Multi View' and various system icons. A small video thumbnail in the top right corner shows a person in a wheelchair.

# Program Associate Employment Initiative for individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities/Autism.

## What are you most proud of?

Starting this job at Positive Exposure.

- ◀ And finishing my job at INCLUDEnyc. I was the Program Assistant, sitting at the front desk, but after seven years there I was ready to move onto something new.

## What do you find challenging?

Getting up in the morning because I am still tired. Sometimes I like to go out at night.

- ◀ I find it hard not to give people hugs.
- It is also challenging not to live on my own. Right now I'm working on finding an apartment.



"Peter Sonenshein: Visions from Behind the Curtain" in collaboration with the Familial Dysautonomia (FD) Foundation. Peter has lived his entire life with FD, which uniquely expresses his work. Painting and drawing help Peter to deal with the uncertainty and anxiety caused by FD.



Celebrate Rare Disease Day with the Wilhelm Foundation's Undiagnosed Initiative, featuring portraits by NYC-based photographer Rick Guidotti from Australia, India, Mali, the Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden, and the U.S.



Film Sneak Preview of "Please Hold," a Video by Alexandra Juhasz, 2024. This experimental documentary asks how AIDS and AIDS activism have changed since the dawn of this ongoing pandemic.



Please Hold, 70 mins, 2024 by Alexandra Juhasz

**Friends and Family Screening  
Sunday, April 21, 3-5pm**

Please join us for a sneak preview of a just-finished experimental documentary, Please Hold, featuring Juanita Mohammed Szczepanski and members of her family, including her husband Henry Szczepanski, daughter Jahanara Zzaman King, and granddaughter Pharah Diaz.

The tape asks: What does it mean to hold the legacy of beloveds on changing formats of memory? How do mourning, haunting, and memory change across time? How have AIDS and AIDS activism changed since the dawn of this ongoing pandemic?

Alex and Juanita met in 1990 to make the celebrated collective AIDS activist video, We Care: A Video for Care Providers of People Affected by AIDS, and went on to collaborate for decades on many activist media projects, including this one.

Alexandra Juhasz, Juanita's family members, and others will be present to discuss this haunting, sometimes sad, and often hopeful personal documentary about how we collaborate with fellow activists in life and also in death.

The film screening will be held alongside an exhibit of Henry's work as a photographer and writer, as well as the work of his wife, Juanita, who was a filmmaker and an AIDS activist.

Alexandra Juhasz is a Distinguished Professor of Film at Brooklyn College, CUNY and a lifelong AIDS activist.

Juanita Mohammed Szczepanski (1957-2022) was a prolific activist videomaker whose work focused on AIDS, disability, racism, and gender.



Medley: Narratives of Healing Exhibition by visual and musical artists who are medical students and doctors at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.



Poets & Oracles: A Poetry Reading by Poets, Of Course (A fabulously neurodiverse Poetry Collective and Project of the Job Path Community Connection Program).



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