

*Disability Rights Center - NH and Institute on Disability at UNH Present*

# Disability and the Media: A Free ADA Anniversary Discussion



ADA National Network [ADATA.ORG](http://ADATA.ORG)

**Wednesday, July 22**  
**12:00-1:30 pm**

*Event will be live captioned*

With Imani Barbarin, Emily Ladau, and Andrew Pulrang

Moderated by filmmaker Dan Habib

**Welcome! The webinar will begin at 12:00 PM ET and end at approximately 1:30 PM ET.**

**Please use this moment to test your audio system. This slide includes music.**

**If you do not hear music, click on the "^" symbol next to your Audio Settings to select or test your preferred audio system.**

**Happy ADA Anniversary week!**

**We hope everyone is staying healthy and safe, and that the next 90 minutes can be an engaging and affirming gathering for the hundreds of people that are joining us today on Zoom and Facebook Live. The Zoom registration is closed, but you can invite others to watch on FB Live:**



**ADA30**



Today's event is  
co-hosted by:



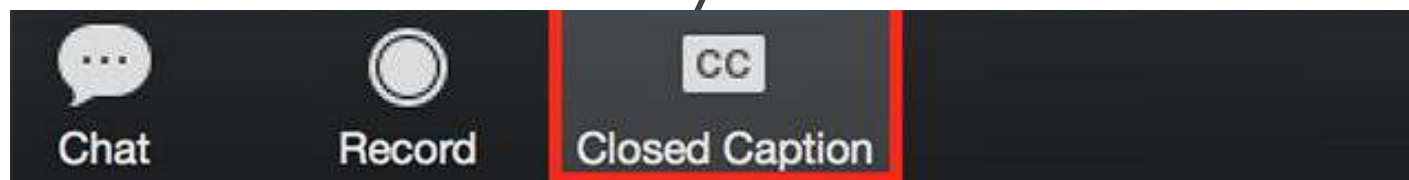
Institute  
on Disability

**UNH**



We will provide captions during the entire webinar.

To turn on captions, click "**Closed Caption**" in your meeting controls, and choose either "**Show Subtitles**" or "**View Full Transcript**" to select the view that works best for you.



Download the PowerPoint featured in today's webinar, which contains alt text for images

<https://tinyurl.com/DisabilityAndMedia>

Live captioning and ASL interpreting supported by the

**NH Bar Foundation Advancement of Justice Fund**

# Dan Habib, moderator

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Director and producer of:

- *Including Samuel (2008)*
- *Who Cares About Kelsey? (2013)*
- *Mr. Connolly Has ALS (2018)*
- *Intelligent Lives (2019)*

Filmmaker at the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire and “Inclusive Communities” Project Director. 20 years as a journalist before joining the IOD.

Lives in Concord, NH, with wife Betsy McNamara and their son Samuel, 20, a college student, and his service dog, Proton. Their older son Isaiah, 23, lives in Flagstaff, AZ, and is a direct support worker for youth with emotional/behavioral disabilities.





# Be social!

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We encourage you to tweet/share the content of this webinar.

Use hashtags: #ADA30 #disabilitymedia

Tags:

@DRCNH @UNHIOD

@Imani\_Barbarin FB: CrutchesandSpicebyImaniBarbarin

@Emily\_ladau FB: WordsIWheelBy

@AndrewPulrang FB: Apulrang

@\_danhabib FB: intelligentlives



# Housekeeping

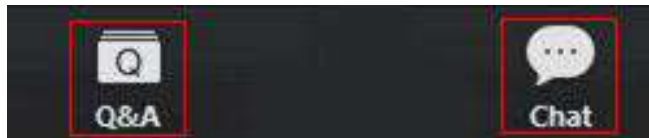
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As an attendee of this webinar, you are a viewer. Webcams and microphones have been disabled for all participants.

If you have a question for our panel, please send it through the "Q&A" or "Chat" boxes at the bottom of your Zoom player during the webinar. We'll answer as many as we can.

Be sure to select "All Panelists and Attendees" if you want everyone attending the webinar to see your message.

Please remember that this is a family-friendly event.



# The Panelists

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**Imani Barbarin**

Imani Barbarin is a disability rights and inclusion activist and speaker who uses her voice and social media platforms to create conversations engaging the disability community.





# The Panelists

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Emily Ladau is a disability rights activist, writer, speaker, and communications consultant.

**Emily Ladau**



# The Panelists

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**Andrew  
Pulrang**

Andrew Pulrang is a freelance writer on disability, an online activist, and a former Center for Independent Living director.



“Disabled people in film, on television, and in other forms of media should reflect the reality of our lives. Our joys, sorrows, struggles, victories, and the everyday issues we all face. Only then will we be able to effectively counteract the themes of our being invisible or seen only as incapable, a drain, a tragedy.”

- Judith Heumann, from the Ford Foundation's 2019 white paper  
“Road Map for Inclusion: Changing the Face of Disability in Media”

# To get the conversation rolling...



Golden Buzzer: Kodi Lee Wows You With A Historical Music Moment! - America's Got Talent 2019

56,848,273 views • May 28, 2019

👍 1.4M    👎 17K    ➦ SHARE    ≡+ SAVE    ...



How does this AGT segment influence perceptions about people with disabilities?





**terry crews** ✓  
@terrycrews

This child of God is a prodigy. Autism and blindness can't erase the smile from the face of [@KodiLeeRocks](#). Kodi has given HOPE, POWER, and HAPPINESS to those who feel marginalized because of who they are. Erase the DIS, highlight the ABILITY! [@gabunion](#) 👍  
[twitter.com/AGT/status/113...](https://twitter.com/AGT/status/113...)

10:03 PM · May 28, 2019 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

12.4K Retweets and comments 24.6K Likes



**Emily Ladau** ✓ @emily\_ladau · May 30, 2019  
Replying to [@terrycrews](#) [@Kodileerocks](#) and [@gabunion](#)

I recognize you're trying to push back against society's marginalization of disability but your sentiment contributes to it. You can have a disability & be talented. Disability is an identity, not something that must be overlooked to acknowledge talent. No need to erase anything.



34

459



**Nicole G. Cowie** @belovedbless · May 30, 2019  
Replying to [@terrycrews](#) [@Kodileerocks](#) and [@gabunion](#)

All those people who are crying. Stop for a minute. Are you crying for the sheer beauty of his performance or are you crying just because he has a disability and it gives you warm fuzzies. If it is the latter, then you cheating the young man of being admired on his sheer merits.

3

10

50



## Tweet



**Crutches&Spice** 🗣️ : Rude For A Disabled Person ✓  
@Imani\_Barbarin

Yeah, this ain't it. He is talented WITH A DISABILITY.

If you were in more inclusive spaces you would know that peddling inspiration porn only further stigmatizes disabled people.

We are marginalized not because of a diagnosis, but in the ways we were treated because of it.



**terry crews** ✓ @terrycrews · May 28, 2019

This child of God is a prodigy. Autism and blindness can't erase the smile from the face of [@KodiLeeRocks](#). Kodi has given HOPE, POWER, and HAPPINESS to those who feel marginalized because of who they are. Erase the DIS, highlight the ABILITY! [@gabunion](#) 👍  
[twitter.com/AGT/status/113...](https://twitter.com/AGT/status/113...)

6:55 AM · May 30, 2019 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

1.1K Retweets and comments 3.6K Likes



# “Inspiration porn”

Fast-food employee feeds man with disability in moving video



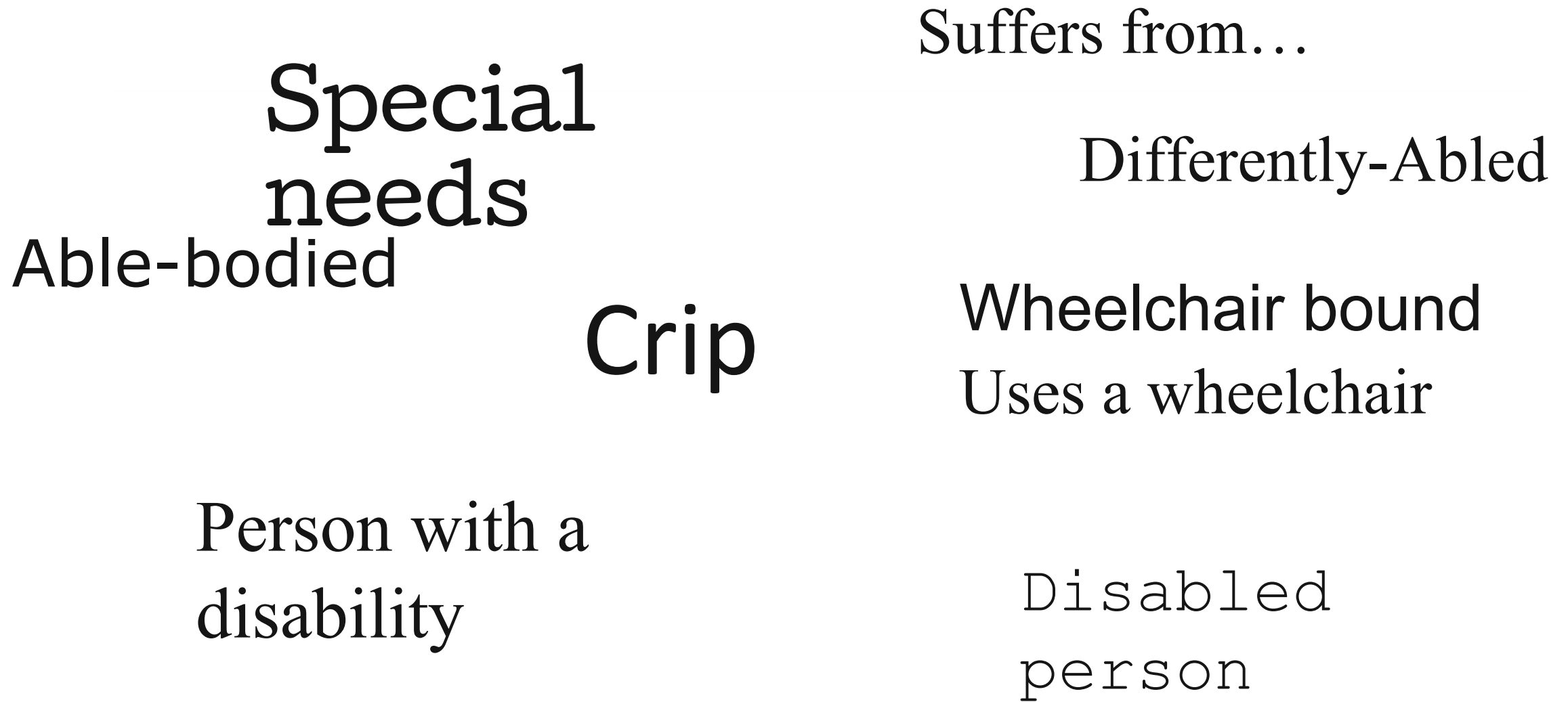
**Teen couple with Down's syndrome voted prom king and queen**

🕒 16 July 2019

[f](#) [💬](#) [🐦](#) [✉](#) [Share](#)



# Framing media language around disability



**OUR LIVES ARE NOT A TRAGEDY**

**#LIVEBOLDLY?**

me  
before  
you

**NOT DEAD YET**  
#CRIPARMY

**WE LIVE BOLDLY BY STAYING ALIVE!**

# Disability portrayals

A recent Annenberg Inclusion Initiative study found that only 2.5 percent of film characters were depicted with a disability over the past 10 years, even though people with disabilities make up 25% of the U.S. population. And of those small numbers of characters, 95% were played by non-disabled actors.

Center for Disease Control. (2018, August 16). *1 in 4 US adults live with a disability* [Press release].  
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2018/p0816-disability.html>

Pieper, K. (2016, March 3). Disability. *USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism*. Retrieved from  
<https://annenberg.usc.edu/research/annenberg-inclusion-initiative/research/disability>





EVERYONE HAS NEEDS

# COME AS YOU ARE

# Non-disabled actors playing “super-crips,” “heroes,” and “villains”



*I Am Sam, 2001*



*The Theory of Everything, 2014*



*Soloist, 2009*



*The Joker, 2019*



*Rainman, 1988*



*My Left Foot, 1989*



# Authentic portrayals of disability – yes, there are some!



*Game of Thrones*



SHIA LABEOUF

DAKOTA JOHNSON

JOHN HAWKES

INTRODUCING ZACK GOTTSAGEN

# the Peanut Butter Falcon





A NETFLIX ORIGINAL SERIES

# Special

NETFLIX | APRIL 12

LIVING. LAUGHING. LIMPING.





# *Speechless*

# Marvel casts Lauren Ridloff as Makkari, the first deaf super hero in "The Eternals"

IN [DISNEY](#), [ENTERTAINMENT](#), [MARVEL](#), [MOVIES](#), [MOVIES & TV](#)

Posted on July 23, 2019 by [Bailee Abell](#)

Why is disability in media so white?



# “Erasing” disability





# Appropriating disability

Kylie Jenner in *Interview Magazine*



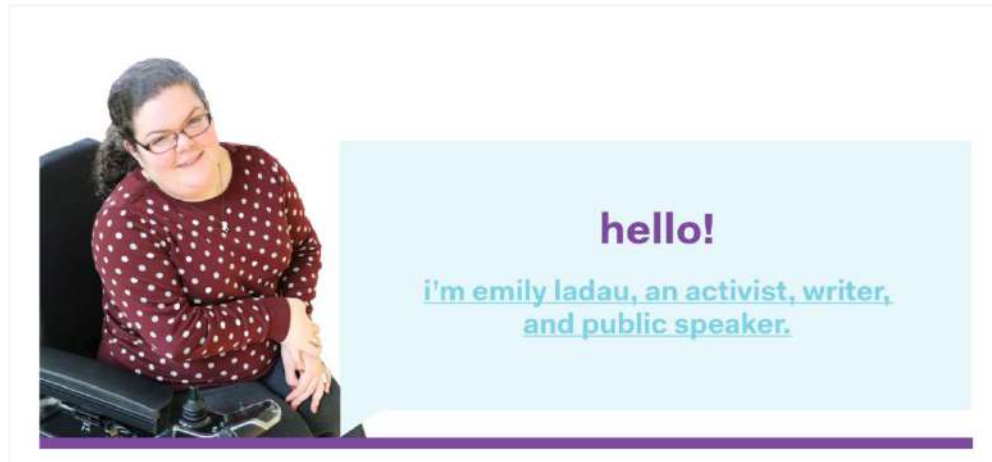
# Ali Stroker reclaims the image

“We are not putting people in black face anymore,” she said. “When we put them in a wheelchair, what is this saying?”

—Stroker, in Seventeen Magazine



# How do you work to frame the disability discourse through social media?





What are your go-to resources?



# Resources

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Imani Barbarin:

[CrutchesandSpice.com](http://CrutchesandSpice.com)

Twitter: [@Imani\\_Barbarin](https://twitter.com/Imani_Barbarin)

Facebook: [Facebook.com/CrutchesandSpice](https://Facebook.com/CrutchesandSpice)

Instagram: [@Crutches\\_and\\_Spice](https://www.instagram.com/Crutches_and_Spice)

Emily Ladau:

[Wordsiwheelby.com](http://Wordsiwheelby.com)

Twitter: [@emily\\_ladau](https://twitter.com/emily_ladau)

Instagram: [@Emlad729](https://www.instagram.com/Emlad729)

Andrew Pulrang:

[Disabilitythinking.com](http://Disabilitythinking.com)

Twitter: [@AndrewPulrang](https://twitter.com/AndrewPulrang)

Instagram: [@Apulrang](https://www.instagram.com/APulrang)



# Resources, cont'd.

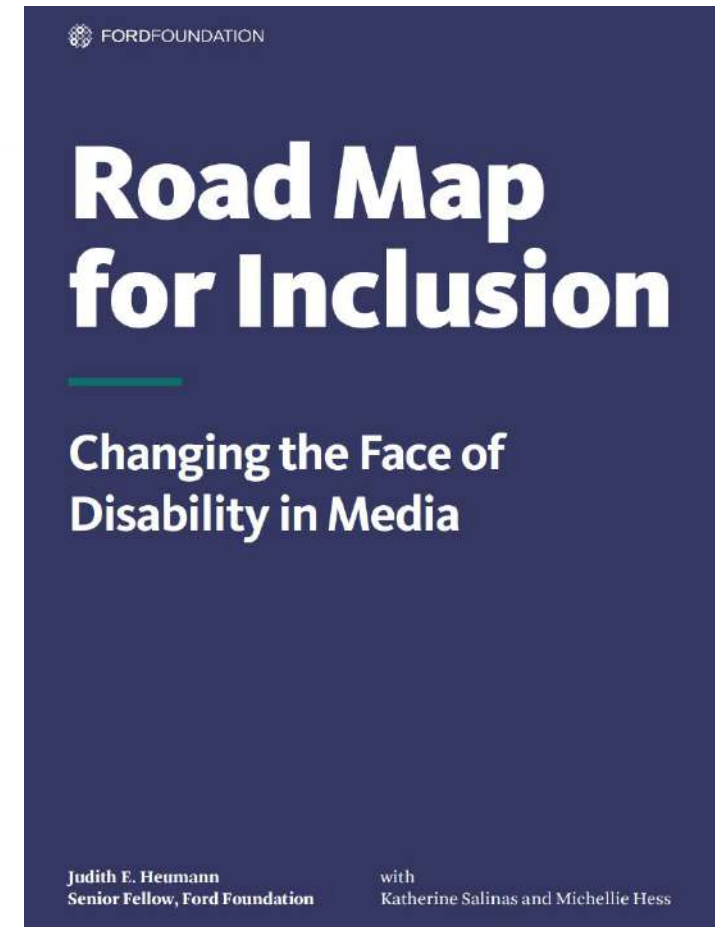
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Disability Rights Center – NH  
[drcnh.org](http://drcnh.org)



Institute on Disability – UNH  
[iod.unh.edu](http://iod.unh.edu)



[Fordfoundation.org](http://Fordfoundation.org)