

Red Shirt Day™ Movie List

Our Top 10 Picks on Accessibility, Inclusion, and Equity



1. Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution (2020)

The first film on our list is “Crip Camp,” a documentary from Barack and Michelle Obama’s production company, Higher Ground Productions. Defiant, boisterous and at times shocking, it takes a look back at Camp Jened (located in the Catskills in the US), which welcomed people with disabilities in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. Accompanied by historical footage from the camp, the film documents the revolutionary spirit that surrounded the camp, and the complex experiences of many of the campers – many of whom went on to be leaders in the disability rights movement in the United States.



2. The Terry Fox Story (1983)

No Canadian list is complete without “The Terry Fox Story,” a Canadian-American biographic of athlete, humanitarian, and cancer research activist, Terry Fox. Few other Canadians in history have demonstrated the strength and resiliency of the human spirit and left behind the kind of legacy like Terry has, making this movie a must-watch for everyone.



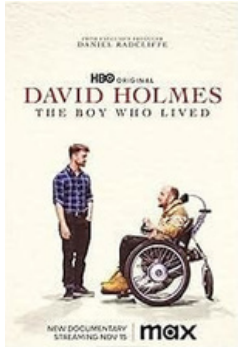
3. CODA (2021)

As the sole hearing member of a deaf family - a CODA - Ruby is a seventeen-year-old who is gifted with a voice that her parents can’t hear. Ruby finds herself torn between the obligations she feels to her family and the pursuit of her own dreams as she applies to a prestigious music school and is confronted with a difficult decision.



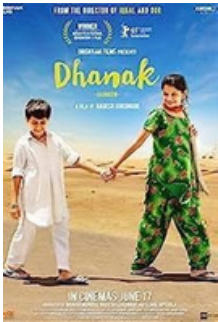
4. Soul Surfer (2011)

Based on a true story, Soul Surfer tells the story of Bethany Hamilton, a talented, female surfer who experiences the loss of her arm following a shark attack. The movie follows Bethany’s journey as she adjusts to her new reality, confronting challenges, and ultimately overcoming the odds as she returns to competing.



5. David Holmes: The Boy Who Lived (2023)

David Holmes: The Boy Who Lived is a documentary released in 2023 that recounts the story of David Holmes, a stunt double whose life was forever changed by a tragic on-set accident during the filming of a Harry Potter movie. This film, executive-produced by Daniel Radcliffe, follows Holmes' journey since the incident in January 2009 and the pair's longtime friendship.



6. Rainbow (Dhanak) (2015)

This film follows the journey of two siblings, ten-year-old Pari and her visually impaired eight-year-old brother, Chotu. With just months to go before Chotu turns nine, Pari feels the pressure to fulfill her promise to her brother - that he will have his eyesight back before his ninth birthday. The children set off alone on a 300 km expedition on a challenging journey, filled with courage, love, and the boundless optimism of childhood, showcasing the heartwarming power and beauty of the bond between siblings.



7. The Theory of Everything (2014)

The next film on our list is "The Theory of Everything," a biographic romantic drama about the life of renowned British theoretical physicist, Stephen Hawking. The film, which first premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2014, looks at the life of Stephen Hawking: the genius, the man, the husband and father. At age 21, he was diagnosed with a fatal disease – Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease – and gradually lost the use of his limbs. Nevertheless, Stephen Hawking continued on to become one of the most brilliant and celebrated scientific minds in history, advancing mankind's understanding of the universe.



8. Wonder (2017)

Based on the New York Times bestseller, Wonder tells the story of August Pullman as he enters mainstream school for the very first time. Born with facial differences that, up until now, have prevented him from attending school, Auggie becomes the most unlikely of heroes when he enters the local fifth grade. As his family, his new classmates, and the larger community all struggle to find their compassion and acceptance, Auggie's extraordinary journey will unite them all and prove you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.



9. A Space in Time Documentary (2021)

Our next film follows the story of two young boys with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Following the journey of the boys and their family, the documentary serves as a celebration of love and togetherness.



10. Rising Phoenix (2020)

This documentary tells the history and current standing of the Paralympic Games, which has grown to become the world's third-largest sporting event.