

INTELLIGENT LIVES- PRODUCTION TEAM

Dan Habib, Producer/Director/Cinematographer

Dan Habib is the creator of the award-winning documentary films *Including Samuel*, *Who Cares About Kelsey?*, *Mr. Connolly Has ALS* (an IDA nominee for Best Short), *INTELLIGENT LIVES* and many other films on disability issues. Habib's films have been featured in dozens of film festivals, broadcast internationally, nominated for Emmy awards and translated into 17 languages for worldwide distribution. Habib is a filmmaker at the University of New Hampshire's Institute on Disability and gave a widely viewed TEDx talk, "Disabling Segregation." He received the Champion of Human and Civil Rights Award from the National Education Association, and the Justice for All Grassroots Award from the American Association of People with Disabilities. In 2014, Habib was appointed by President Barack Obama to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. Habib and his wife, Betsy, live in Concord, NH, with their sons Isaiah, 21, and Samuel, 18. Samuel has cerebral palsy and was the subject of Habib's first film *Including Samuel*.

Chris Cooper, Narrator/Executive Producer

Chris Cooper won the 2003 Best Supporting Actor Academy Award for his role in *Adaptation*. He has been an actor on stage, screen, and television for three decades, with notable roles in *Lone Star*, *American Beauty*, *Seabiscuit*, *The Bourne Identity*, *October Sky*, *August Osage County*, *Lonesome Dove*, and dozens of other films. In 1987, Cooper and his wife Marianne Leone had their son Jesse, who had cerebral palsy and epilepsy. They became advocates for inclusive education, and Jesse became a high school honor student. In 2005, Jesse died suddenly from a seizure at age 17. Cooper worked tirelessly donating his time working on the film.

Marianne Leone, Executive Producer

Marianne Leone is an actress who appeared in *The Sopranos*, a screenwriter, an essayist published in *The Boston Globe*, and author of the 2010 book, *Jesse: A Mother's Story*. She lives in Massachusetts with her husband, actor Chris Cooper and two rescue dogs. The Jesse Cooper Foundation funds inclusion and adapted sports for children with special needs, and supports disabled orphans in Romania.

Amy Brenneman, Executive Producer

Amy Brenneman divides her time evenly between acting, producing and political activism. She has extensive theater credits and her film and television history includes award-winning roles on *NYPD Blue*, *Judging Amy*, *Fear*, and *The Leftovers*. She produced and directed the documentary *The Way the World Should Be* about the trailblazing work of the CHIME Institute and its mission of inclusive education. Her 16-year-old daughter, Charlotte, was born with a rare chromosomal abnormality (only diagnosed at age 15, with only 1400 cases worldwide), so throughout her

early school years she qualified through services through a label of intellectual disability.

James Rutenbeck, Editor

James Rutenbeck is an independent producer and editor. His films have been screened internationally at museums and festivals. His feature-length film *Scenes from a Parish* won the three Insight Awards of Excellence from the National Association of Film and Digital Media Artists and was broadcast on the PBS series Independent Lens in 2009. Rutenbeck has been awarded grants from the Sundance Documentary Fund, Latino Public Broadcasting and Southern Humanities Media Fund. He is Executive Producer of *Class of '27*, a recent series of three short films about the lives of very young children in remote parts of rural America. *Class of '27* was awarded an DuPont Columbia Journalism Award in January 2018. James has an adult son, Anthony, with autism.

Matisyahu, Contributing Musician

Matisyahu is a world-renowned reggae vocalist, beatboxer, and alternative rock musician. Known for blending Orthodox Jewish themes with reggae, rock and hip hop beatboxing sounds, Matisyahu's 2005 single "King Without a Crown" was a Top 40 hit in the United States. Based on his commitment to human rights, Matisyahu is donating the use of his songs to INTELLIGENT LIVES.

Paul Brill, Original Score

Paul Brill has composed scores for numerous award-winning films, TV series, commercials, and NPR program themes, as well as several acclaimed original and innovative songwriting. He has received three Emmy award nominations for his film scores and recently collaborated with rock legend U2 on the HBO film, *Burma Soldier*.

Jody Becker, Story Editor

Jody Becker is an award-winning documentary film, radio and print journalist. As a writer and story editor, she collaborates with directors aiming their cameras at subjects highlighting issues ranging from public policy to health (*Autistic-Like, Voices*, and *Habib's Mr. Connolly Has ALS*) and the arts.

Melanie Perkins McLaughlin, Consulting Producer

Melanie Perkins McLaughlin is an award-winning documentary filmmaker with more than 20 years in film production. She has worked on films for HBO, PBS, ABC, A&E, The Discovery Channel and The History Channel. In 2007, Perkins McLaughlin also received a prenatal diagnosis: her third child had Trisomy 21 and a congenital

heart defect. She's in development on a feature length documentary *Accepting Grace* that shares the experience of her daughter's life with Down syndrome.