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By Ethan Shanfeld, Selome Hailu



NewFilmmakers Los Angeles Announces Disability Challenge Filmmakers Grants

NewFilmmakers Los Angeles (NFMLA) has awarded \$2500 in grants to five 2021 Easterseals Disability Film Challenge Filmmakers. The awardees will also have their projects screened at NFMLA's InFocus: Disability Film Festival on Aug. 7.

The filmmakers awarded with funding include Emily Pascal, Maria DiDomenico, Natalie Trevonne, Dani Bowman and Anna Pakman. The winning filmmakers will be able to have meetings with executives and creatives including FilmNation Director of Development Natalie Wegner, film agent Charlotte Lichtman at ICM Partners, Director of Comedy Programming Pia Chikiamco at HBO, Creative Executive Charnay Mather at Anonymous Content, Senior Manager of Documentary & Docuseries Development Tara Nadolny at VICE Media, Director of Comedy Development Gus Hoffman at Warner Bros. Television, TV Literary Agent Auri Maruri at Gersh and Director of Development Carly Kleinbart at Mandeville Films.

The fund is part of a year-round endowment established at NFMLA by the Rhulen family, in celebration of the life and career of the late film producer Anthony Rhulen. The grants aim to support, nurture and champion emerging independent, diverse voices and aid in the creation of new documentary and narrative projects.

“There is so much creative talent out there just waiting to be discovered. NFMLA is consistently curating powerful new voices worth hearing from and the Anthony Rhulen grants add another layer of support to these content creators with disabilities and contribute to filling an unacceptable void in our industry. We’re proud to be partnered with the Easterseals Disability Film Challenge on this initiative,” says NFMLA’s Co-Founder and Executive Director, Larry Laboe. Go to [NFMLA.org](https://www.nfmla.org) for more information.

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