

A Celebration of Disability Culture

KQED TV Programming Highlights

Sponsored by Kaiser Permanente

In October 2008, KQED hosts a Celebration of Disability Culture, airing a selection of programs that explore a complex web of experiences and issues faced by people with disabilities--some joyful, some humorous, some inspiring and some painful.

Spark! "Frontiers of Dance"

Wednesday, October 1, 7:30pm airing on KQED

Thursday, October 2, 1:30am airing on KQED

Spark explores the frontiers of the dance world with some of the Bay Area's most innovative choreographers and performers.

Butoh artist Ledoh - The Bay Area has become a flourishing center for butoh, a modern dance of darkness that originated in post-war Japan. Spark goes into rehearsals with veteran butoh dancer Ledoh, as he uses this contemporary Japanese form to explore the ancient, agrarian roots of his Ka-Ren ancestry in Burma

AXIS Dance Company's Dust - AXIS Dance Company has a long history of delivering performances that stun and delight, combining the work of dancers with and without physical disabilities. This season marks the world premiere of a new work by well-known choreographer Victoria Marks called Dust, a provocative choreo-portrait of AXIS that challenges the viewer's assumptions about each of the performers. Spark is backstage throughout the process, from first tentative improvisation to opening night.

The Art of Poi - At the Crucible, an industrial arts center in Oakland, dance teacher Belva Stone instructs her students in the art of poi, an ancient fire dance first practiced by the Maori people of New Zealand. Swinging fiery balls on cords, students struggle to overcome their fears and spin fire.

HomeTime "Accessible Bathroom – Finishing"

Saturday, October 4, 10:30am airing on KQED

Saturday, October 11, 4:30pm airing on KQED

The crew finishes the accessible bathroom with special counters, plumbing fixtures and furnishings.

Hometime "Accessible Bathroom – ReFraming"

Saturday, October 4, 10am airing on KQED

Saturday, October 4, 4:30pm airing on KQED

The crew starts to convert three main floor rooms into a wheelchair accessible master suite.

American Masters "David Hockney: The Colors of Music"

Sunday, October 5, 7p.m. airing on KQED Life

Monday, October 6, 1am airing on KQED Life

The influential artist and passionate music lover is now going deaf at the height of his craft.

Spark! "The Next Generation Speaks"

Wednesday, October 8, 7:30pm airing on KQED

Thursday, October 9, 1:30am airing on KQED

Especially in these turbulent times, young people have a lot on their minds, as this episode demonstrates. We see how several innovative programs give young people powerful and eloquent ways to express themselves through the arts at venues such as the Youth Speaks Poetry Slam, the East Palo Alto Mural Art Project, and Oakland's Destiny Arts Center.

Champions on Wheels

Saturday, October 11, 4pm airing on KQED

Monday, October 13, 11pm airing on KQED

America has 54 million disabled people with over two million in wheelchairs, usually from accidents. One moment they are walking; the next moment their lives are turned upside down. A handful of them not only grab back their lives - but they insist on squeezing joy from every day. They are mothers, fathers, and friends: dedicated wheelchair tennis athletes who play for the love of the sport, not for financial rewards. However, there is the thrill of pushing yourself, winning, traveling, representing your country, and the joy of living life to the fullest. This doc highlights five amazing human beings and extraordinary athletes. The action begins in Sydney and follows as they compete to make Team USA and represent the US in Athens' Paralympics 4 years later. It is a story of courage, determination, preservation, faith, belief in self, powerful athleticism, zest for life and a great desire to be seen as a person just like anyone else. They have recaptured their lives and are savoring them. Hosted by Daryl "Chill" Mitchell. Produced and directed by Grace Shafir.

Bridge Between Silence and Sound

Saturday, October 11, 5pm airing on KQED World

Mario Cuomo narrates this exploration of hearing loss and the cutting edge Cochlear Implant.

Journey Out of Silence: The Heather Whitestone Story

Saturday, October 11, 6pm airing on KQED

The remarkable story of a beauty queen who was the first deaf Miss America title holder, in 1995.

Great Performances "Vivere: Andrea Bocelli Live in Tuscany

Sunday, October 12, 12pm (noon) airing on KQED

Sunday, October 12, 7:30pm airing on KQED

The superstar returns to his native Italy for a concert of his greatest hits along some new songs.

Farther Than the Eye Can See

Sunday, October 12, 1:30pm airing on KQED

Follows blind climber, Erik Weihenmayer, on his historic ascent of Mount Everest.

We Also Dance

Sunday, October 12, 7pm airing on KQED Life

Monday, October 13, 1am airing on KQED Life

Five blind Amateur and professional dancers, aged 7 to 80, introduce their world of dance.

Dakota's Pride

Saturday, October 18, 3pm airing on KQED World

A heartwarming and informative look at a father's search for the truth about Down Syndrome.

But You Still Look so Well... Living with Multiple Sclerosis

Saturday, October 18, 3:30pm airing on KQED World

This documentary portrays poignantly and in depth the emotional, social and physical challenges of MS on the personal and working lives of the participants as well as how they have learned through the years to both live and thrive with MS. They also share what helps them to cope on a daily basis with this unpredictable disorder. Additional topics covered include, among other things, MS & pregnancy, MS & children, disclosure and alternative medicine.

Beyond the Scars

Saturday, October 18, 5pm airing on KQED World

An uplifting documentary about a unique summer camp for young survivors of serious burn injuries, viewers meet the campers and hear their stories. Because camp provides one of the rare opportunities to interact with other burn survivors, the kids grow emotionally and socially. They describe the physical and emotional pain of burns, talk openly about the social challenges of life for someone with scars and explain how camp has changed their outlook on life.

Including Samuel

Saturday, October 18, 6pm airing on KQED

Photojournalist Dan Habib rarely thought about inclusion before he had his son Samuel 7 years ago. Now he thinks about inclusion every day. Habib's documentary examines the educational and social inclusion of youth with disabilities as a civil rights issue.

Rolling

Sunday, October 19, 12pm (noon) airing on KQED

Three Californians in wheelchairs shoot "video diaries" which capture their struggles and triumphs.

History Detectives: "USS Thresher/Pete Gray Cartoon/Manhattan Project L

Sunday, October 19, 1pm airing on KQED

Documents is linked to one of the most secret weapons in the U.S. Cold War arsenal.

Outsider : The Life and Art of Judith Scott**Sunday, October 19, 2pm airing on KQED**

For more than a decade, Judith Scott has been deeply involved in making large, colorful, body-like sculptures out of objects and yarn. Her works are abstract, dense, multilayered and ultimately, a mystery. Judith cannot tell us what inspires her to create these objects. As a woman with Down's syndrome, who is deaf and does not speak, these sculptures are Judith's most complex means of communication.

Phoenix Dance**Sunday, October 19, 2:30pm airing on KQED**

This film shows us the beauty and strength of one individual who defies our expectations of what it means to be "disabled." In March 2001, Homer Avila – who had been dancing with Twyla Tharp, Bill T. Jones and Mark Morris - discovered that the pain in his hip was due to cancer. One month later, his right leg and most of his hip were amputated. What unfolds is the story of the pas de deux called "Pas," which the renowned Alonzo King choreographed for Homer, now missing one leg. This film is an intimate poem, revealing that when heart and will are joined, the impossible happens.

Truly CA: Our State, Our Stories "The Key of G"**Sunday, October 19, 6pm airing on KQED****Monday, October 20, 11pm airing on KQED**

A 22-year-old man with a rare disability moves out of his mother's home in San Francisco and into an apartment.

Passion Works: A Story of Flying**Sunday, October 19, 7pm airing on KQED Life****Monday, October 20, 1am airing on KQED Life**

This program tells the story of a thriving arts studio in Athens, Ohio, designed around the talents of artists with developmental disabilities. Told through heartwarming stories and eye-popping art, the program shows how an active community arts program can inspire, transform and even transport people to new passions and new places. Launched in 1996, the studio began modestly in the corner of a sheltered workshop for adults with developmental disabilities. Their artwork has been exhibited nationally as well as featured in stories in newspapers, magazines and on the radio.

Great Performances "Operatunity"**Sunday, October 19, 8pm airing on KQED Life****Monday, October 20, 2am airing on KQED Life**

Recently the English National Opera took on an unprecedented challenge: to conduct a nationwide search to find someone with no operatic experience who could be coached to sing in Verdi's Rigoletto on the stage of the London Coliseum, side by side with world-class performers. The result is "Operatunity," the compelling human story of six, then ultimately two, raw talents whose operatic dreams finally meet reality.

First, a casting call across all of England introduces viewers to a colorful array of characters with secret passions for Puccini, Wagner and Mozart. Regional auditions lead to a London workshop where the final six participants - including an investment banker, a

supermarket cashier and a blind mother of three - are selected and receive coaching in vocal and dramatic technique, as well as physical training and the fundamentals of stagecraft.

Finally, "Operatunity" follows two star discoveries from the nerve-wracking final days before performance to curtain-up and the exhilaration of their operatic debut, combining real-life drama with the high theatrical drama and emotional intensity of grand opera.

Independent Lens "The Loss of Nameless Things"

Sunday, October 19, 9:30pm airing on KQED Life

Monday, October 20, 3:30am airing on KQED Life

In 1978, Oakley Hall was a promising playwright on the verge of national recognition when a mysterious fall violently transformed his life. This program is the haunting story of a young man's fall from grace, of the vibrant artists who surrounded him and what happens when, decades later, a theater company discovers the very play he was writing the night he fell. By Bill Rose.

P.O.V. "Big Enough"

Tuesday, October 21, 11pm airing on KQED

Wednesday, October 22, 5am airing on KQED

Revisits people affected with dwarfism, 20 years after they appeared in the film, "Little People."

Spark! "A Room of One's Own"

Wednesday, October 22, 7:30pm airing on KQED

Friday, October 24, 11:30pm airing on KQED

Places where artists' can live, work, and play together
Headlands Center for the Arts - Nestled in the coastal wilderness of the Mar in Headlands are historic military buildings that house Headlands Center for the Arts, a nationally-acclaimed residency program that provides artists from around the world with the scarce resources of time and space to pursue further development of their work. Resident artists introduce SPARK to the rhythm of life at the Center and explain why the program represents a rare opportunity for experimentation and interaction among the lucky few chosen to participate.

Creative Growth Art Center - Working miracles with artists with developmental, emotional or physical disabilities, giving them the tools and guidance they need to find their creative voices and support themselves through their art work.

ArtShip - one of the Bay Area's most innovative and offbeat art spaces goes in search of a new home.

Postcards from Buster "Step by Step" (Hartford Connecticut)

Thursday, October 23, 9:00am airing on KQED Kids

Thursday, October 23, 3:30pm airing on KQED Kids

He learns Puerto Rican dancing like the bomba and modern salsa from a girl who is hearing impaired.

Road to Independence**Saturday, October 25, 3pm airing on KQED World**

High-school students with physical, social or learning disabilities ease into collegiate life.

What Does Normal Mean?**Saturday, October 25, 4pm airing on KQED World**

Documents the daily struggles & triumphs of children with disabilities in the public school system.

Charlie's Lake**Saturday, October 25, 5pm airing on KQED World**

Jon Whitmer refuses to allow the challenges of Duchenne muscular dystrophy to slow him down.

Hubert's World**Saturday, October 25, 5:30pm airing on KQED World**

A man who has battled cerebral palsy for 44 years gives an inside look at his life and struggles.

Through Deaf Eyes**Sunday, October 26, 8pm airing on KQED World****Monday, October 27, 2am 10 airing on KQED World**

Explore 200 years of deaf life in America, with interviews with Marlee Matlin and community leaders.

Maya & Miguel "Give Me a Little Sign"**Tuesday, October 28, 6pm airing on KQED Kids****Thursday, October 30, 8:30pm airing on KQED Kids**

Tito learns American sign-language and works on a school project with a new boy who is deaf.

Reading Rainbow "Silent Lotus"**Wednesday, October 29, 2pm airing on KQED Kids**

Learn about the different ways deaf people communicate and try some phrases in Sign Language.

Right to Risk: A 15 Day Journey Through Arizona's Grand Canyon**Wednesday, October 29, 11pm airing on KQED****Thursday, October 30, 5am airing on KQED**

Individuals with disabilities overcome challenges rafting down 225 miles of the Colorado River.