PRESS & SALES INQUIRIES

Regan Brashear (Producer/Director) 510 470 0413 * info@fixedthemovie.com

For U.S. educational sales only, contact New Day Films 888 367 9154 * orders@newday.com

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Credits

Main Crew
Director and Producer: Regan Brashear
Co-Producer, Camera and On-line editor: Jamie LeJeune
Associate Producer: Hannah Swenson
Editors: Regan Brashear and Josh Peterson
Composer: Chris Brierley
Sound mix: James LeBrecht/Berkeley Sound Artists

Main Cast
Dominika Bednarska, disability studies scholar
Patty Berne, disability justice educator
Fernanda Castelo, exoskeleton test pilot
Hugh Herr, bionics engineer
John Hockenberry, NPR radio host
Gregor Wolbring, biochemist and ability studies scholar

Additional Cast
Rodney Brooks, robot scientist
Jamais Cascio, futurist
Marcy Darnovsky, bioethicist and policy advocate
Tim Hemmes, brain-computer interface study participant
Cressida Heyes, philosophy professor
James Hughes, transhumanist
Sujatha Jesudason, reproductive rights advocate
Silvia Yee, disability lawyer

Artists/Dancers
Anjali Dance Company, UK
Antoine Hunter, Sins Invalid and Urban Jazz Dance Company, USA
AXIS Dance Company, USA
Candoco, UK
Dancing Wheels, USA
Freewheeling, Sue Austin, UK
GIMP, USA
Kounterclockwise, USA
Lisa Bufano, USA
Marc Brew, UK
Remix Dance Company, South Africa
Loglines & Synopsis

(26 words) A haunting, subtle, urgent documentary, Fixed: The Science/Fiction of Human Enhancement questions commonly held beliefs about disability and normalcy by exploring technologies that promise to change our bodies and mind forever.

(40 words) Award-winning documentary, Fixed: The Science/Fiction of Human Enhancement, explores the social impact of human augmentation. Haunting and humorous, poignant and political, Fixed rethinks "disability" and "normalcy" by exploring technologies that promise to change our bodies and minds forever.

(74 words) From botox to bionic limbs, the human body is more “upgradeable” than ever. But how much of it can we alter and still be human? What do we gain or lose in the process? Award-winning documentary, Fixed: The Science/Fiction of Human Enhancement, explores the social impact of human augmentation. Haunting and humorous, poignant and political, Fixed rethinks "disability" and "normalcy" by exploring technologies that promise to change our bodies and minds forever.

(231 words) There is a growing buzz around the potential for science and technology to create significant "human enhancement" applications, such as bionic limbs, improved memory or cognition, or the ability to choose specific characteristics for our offspring. The possibilities stir the imagination and excitement of many, while for others the rhetoric and current research into human enhancement signals alarms of a new eugenics. And yet, for most non-scientists, this sounds like the realm of science fiction, a world awash in mystery and misunderstanding. Fixed features disability studies scholar Dominika Bednarska; disability justice educator Patty Berne; exoskeleton test pilot Fernanda Castelo; bionics engineer Hugh Herr; NPR radio host John Hockenberry; biochemist and ability studies scholar Gregor Wolbring; robot scientist Rodney Brooks; futurist Jamais Cascio; bioethicist and policy advocate Marcy Darnovskky; brain-computer interface study participant Tim Hemmes; philosophy professor Cressida Heyes; transhumanist James Hughes; reproductive rights advocate Sujatha Jesudason; and disability lawyer Silvia Yee. With cameo performances by some of the world’s leading integrated dance companies, featuring disabled and non-disabled dancers and artists, including the Anjali Dance Company, Antoine Hunter (of Sins Invalid and Urban Jazz Dance Company), AXIS Dance Company, Candoco, Dancing Wheels, GIMP, Kouterclockwise, Lisa Bufano, Marc Brew, Remix Dance Company, and Sue Austin/Freewheeling. Through a dynamic mix of verité, dance, archival and interview footage, Fixed challenges notions of normal, the body and what it means fundamentally to be human in the 21st century.

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Filmmaker Bio

Originally from Virginia, award-winning Producer/Director Regan Brashear has been working on labor, race, youth, LGBT, and disability issues for over twenty years through documentary film, union organizing, teen theater, community forums, and grassroots activism. Now based in Oakland, CA, Brashear is a co-founder of Making Change Media, a non-fiction film production company which produces short and long form social issue films. Previously, Brashear served as a producer and community engagement coordinator at Open Eye Pictures, a production company in Sausalito, CA, doing project development for the place-based, memory-mapping iOS app, Tributopia; community engagement for the Academy Award-shortlisted film, Under Our Skin and as co-producer for The Grove, a film about the National AIDS Memorial Grove. Both films aired across the country on PBS stations in 2011. Brashear has a BA in American Studies (Highest Honors, Phi Beta Kappa) and a MA in Social Documentation (Documentary Film) from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her interest in disability studies, which eventually led to the making of Fixed, started in 1997, after a car accident which began an ongoing journey with fibromyalgia and chronic pain. She finished editing Fixed as a visiting filmmaker at the Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes (CSPO) at Arizona State University.
Screenings & Awards

Best Feature Documentary, Picture This Film Festival, 2014

Special event at Ciência Viva - Pavilhão do Conhecimento, for the European Commission’s NERRI project’s kickoff, Neuro-Enhancement: Responsible Research and Innovation, Lisbon, Portugal, 2013

Special event at the Exploratorium Science Museum, SF, 2014

Keynote film at 2nd Annual Conference on Governance of Emerging Technologies: Law, Policy, and Ethics, 2014

Keynote film at the RESNA (Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Association) Annual Conference, 2014

Keynote film at Future Past: Disability, Eugenics & Brave New Worlds, SFSU, 2013

Keynote at Society for the Study of Nanoscience & Emerging Technologies, Northeastern, 2013

Special event at the NY ReelAbilities Film Festival, 2014

CHP:DOX Copenhagen International Documentary Festival, 2014

Institute for the Future Ten Year Retreat, 2014

Ethnografilm Festival, Paris, 2014

AFO Science Documentary Festival, Czech Republic, 2014

Maine International Film Festival, 2014
Reel Work May Day Labor Film Festival, 2014
Cyborg Ethics Film Festival, Edinburgh, 2013
United Nations Association Film Festival, 2013
DocUtah Film Festival, 2013
Differential Mobilities Conference, Montreal, 2013

Film Details

In English; includes English closed captions and English, French, Portuguese and Spanish descriptive subtitles.

Audio description by Audio Eyes.

TRT - approximately 60 minutes

Available preview formats: DVD, Vimeo link, Blu-ray

Available screening formats: DCP, Blu-ray, DVD, video file

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Reviews

★★★½ stars, Video Librarian, "Filmmaker Regan Brashear’s remarkable documentary focuses on the intersection of disability and science. We often hear about various achievements in helping people with disabilities through prosthetics, brain implants, eye implants, and drug therapies, but Fixed argues that the real cutting edge in these fields is not approximating “normalcy” but rather in extending human capability. State-of-the-art leg prosthetics, for example, can make someone stronger and faster, while bionic arms with robotic capabilities can do more than human arms. Memory can also be enhanced, while computers can be controlled by a person’s thoughts. Fixed introduces viewers to the world of the “extra-abled,” or “trans-humans,” along the way exploring some of the ethical and philosophical quandaries that are accompanying progress. While various advocates for human enhancement are interviewed here, there are equally strong points-of-view that there is nothing wrong with accepting a disability and living with it. Others foresee a time when a “rat race” for extra-abilities overtakes more traditional advocacy for issues such as access to buildings. Still others anticipate a wide range of people pursuing extra-abilities in order to get an edge on the job or in school. Debates will carry on, but Fixed offers a powerful introduction to this provocative subject. Highly recommended." — T. Keogh, Video Librarian

“In this wonderfully original look at bodily variations, Brashear reveals a world of disability research, advocacy, and counter-rhetoric. ‘Fixed’ introduces the real experts, who eloquently dispute stereotypes – and disclose the shocking news that the able human may be an outdated standard anyway.” — B. Ruby Rich, Film Critic and Professor of Social Documentation

“…For those unfamiliar with either disability studies or enhancement, the film remains a highly entertaining, as well as visually and intellectually stimulating presentation, making it ideal as introductory material for classroom use. As a way of visualizing and personalizing a difficult, multi-faceted debate, it is highly recommended both to academics and the general public.” — Journal of Responsible Innovation, Film Review by Stevienna de Saille, March 6, 2014. (Entire review is available for free online.)

“The men and women interviewed are thoughtful, deeply committed, and well spoken as they present their points of view… The film addresses the economic aspects of who benefits from enhancement technology, the issues arising when parents can select genetic traits in offspring, and the degree to which society is responsible for designing a world that’s accessible for everyone. (The film incorporates lilting dance segments by artists of with a variety of mental and physical differences.) In a non-judgmental way, it touches upon many thoughtful questions germane to almost any subject, and would be particularly well suited to classes in biology, robotics, ethics, counseling, and leadership. Director Regan Pretlow Brashear gives viewers much to consider and discuss.” — School Library Journal, Pick of the Day, March 11, 2014. (Entire review is available for free online.)
Endorsements

“Fascinating, humane, and provocative reframing of conceptions of ‘normal’ bodies and ‘disability.’” — Gina Maranto, Professor, Ecosystem and Science Policy, University of Miami

“With agility, grace, and titanium hip, FIXED prompts us to reflect upon the social and psychological stakes of human engineering. Its brilliance lies in its composition, in its masterful juxtaposition of ways of knowing and inhabiting this world. This stunning kaleidoscope seduces, subverting the reflexive bristle with which we so often disown eugenic narratives. We are left to consider our own humanity in a whole—if blemished—light.”
— Tammy Berberi, President, Society for Disability Studies 2012-2014

“‘Fixed’ is a “must see” film for anyone interested in technology solutions for people with disabilities, especially those who are learning about, exploring, or designing new ones. It expertly illuminates the debate surrounding human enhancement and transhumanist philosophies, while giving a clear voice to those who might be the most impacted—people with disabilities and their ongoing struggles within an “ableist” culture.” — Ray Grott, Director, Rehabilitation Engineering Technology (RET) Project, San Francisco State University, and President-Elect of RESNA, Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America

“‘Fixed’ is a movie about people. Funny, complicated, smart, emotional people, some of whom happen to be disabled. Their testimonies, and the way they live, are at the heart of the discussion the movie includes and promotes. It will make you think and just as important, it will make you feel. . . The issues this provocative documentary raises are profound and important, and touch all of us.” — Pete Shanks, author of “Human Genetic Engineering”

“‘Fixed’ presents an incisive, balanced, and mind-bending look at the opportunities and challenges the technology revolution has wrought for the future of human culture and the meaning of being human… Beautifully edited with multiple dance sequences that transcend preconceived notions of disability and normalcy, ‘Fixed’ poses the question, ‘What sort of world do we want to live in?’” — Mary Lou Breslin, Senior Policy Advisor, Disability Rights Education Defense Fund

“Watching ‘Fixed’ reminds you that human beings are an incredibly varied bunch. The film beautifully shows how we attempt to both enhance and constrain that variability, recreating ourselves with the technologies we make. ‘Fixed’ shows the different kinds of people we’re recreating and questions whether there should be limits to such re-creation. You’re a different person after you’ve watch ‘Fixed’. And that’s the point.” — Dave Guston, Director, Center for Nanotechnology in Society, ASU
“‘Fixed’ combines some of the most challenging questions facing the disability rights movement with the cutting-edge science of human enhancement. The result is eye-opening and raises provocative questions our civilization struggles to answer. Yet ‘Fixed’ doesn’t fail to fascinate, and communicates on so many levels. Everyone should see this film.” – Marilyn Golden, Senior Policy Analyst, Disability Rights Education Defense Fund

“‘Fixed’ is an authoritative exposé on the use of technology in the quest for physical perfection examining the possibilities for improving the human body. The film takes us through an intriguing journey of possibilities, while knowledgeable experts thoughtfully frame various complex ethical issues.

What are the limits of restoring physical differences in a society? What is being human or being normal? Is there an endpoint to the human quest for power and perfection? When have we gone too far? As the Compliance Officer for the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Mass Eye and Ear in Boston, I am responsible for facilitating IRB approval for clinical research. Approval criteria are based on continually evolving federal regulations and community ethical standards. The rapid progress in medicine and bioengineering that we will experience in the coming decades will create challenging ethical issues for the regulatory community, clinical investigators and society as a whole. The movie ‘Fixed’ will stimulate awareness and enhance the discourse required to approach these challenges with integrity. I can envision broad use of this well-researched documentary in universities, academic medical centers, on public TV as well as popular media.” — Fariba Houman, Director, Human Research Protections Program, Mass Eye and Ear Hospital

Endorsements from Educators & Campus Events Coordinators

"The film marked an absolutely pivotal moment in my own students’ understanding of the stakes of enhancement, as well as disability and embodiment. We found it engaging and enchanting.” -- Tammy Berberi, President of the Society for Disability Studies & Director of the Honors Program, University of Minnesota, Morris
“This film is extremely important and will be very valuable for faculty from dozens of different disciplines from the biological sciences to disability studies to the humanities and social sciences, precisely because it confronts one of the central issues of our time: how to make sense of variations among human beings and how to make sense of our capacity for radical technological innovation that will change our entire futures.” — Clark Miller, Chair, PhD Program, Human and Social Dimensions of Science and Technology

"I screened Fixed in a disability studies-focused course I co-taught this past semester... The students absolutely loved the film; they found it compelling and complicated, and it helped transform their understandings about bodies, disability, technology, ethics, economic justice, disability rights, etc. I *highly* recommend it." -- Joan M. Ostrove, Professor, Department of Psychology, Macalester College

“‘Fixed’ is entirely useful for my senior Medical Ethics course. There are countless ways that my students can connect with the material presented in the film, from the issues that the disability rights movement raises about societal change and adaptive technology, to ableism and Eugenics. The film is accessible, balanced, and while my students already have a background in the subject matter, there is also something entirely new here to help them stretch their thinking. It is perfect for the classroom but also for anyone wanting to expand their knowledge on the subject or simply someone who wants to achieve a better understanding of the world we all live in.” — Stacey Wickware, U.S. History and Medical Ethics teacher, Dozier-Libbey Medical High School

“As we bid good riddance to outdated, stigmatizing and controversial disability awareness programming such as ‘disability etiquette’, disability simulations, and ‘crippspirational’ speakers, this documentary is a breath of fresh air. Independent filmmaker Regan Brashear goes beyond the blurred lines of ability/disability, biology/technology and advantage/disadvantage to critically explore the flow above, below, and beyond the slashes of our familiar false binaries. Posing the important questions of ‘Where does disability live?’ and ‘Who gets to decide?’, the film offers input from scholars, scientists, social justice activists, creators and end-users of cutting-edge technologies and more to explore new and changing ways of being human in the world. An opportunity to transform your stale campus disability awareness programming – even better with opportunities for Q&A with director Regan Brashear!” - Margaret M. Camp, MEd, Director of Disability Services, ADA Coordinator, USC Upstate

*Additional reviews and endorsements can be found at www.fixedthemovie.com/reviews/
** High res images can also be found at http://www.fixedthemovie.com/for-press/

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