

**F I X E D**  
THE SCIENCE/FICTION OF HUMAN ENHANCEMENT

**PRESS KIT**

MAKING CHANGE MEDIA -- (U.S.A., 60 MINS)

**“Fascinating, humane, and provocative reframing of conceptions of ‘normal’ bodies and ‘disability.’”**  
-Gina Maranto, author of *Quest for Perfection*

BEST FEATURE DOCUMENTARY  
**PICTURE THIS...  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2014**

**FIXED**  
THE SCIENCE/FICTION OF  
HUMAN ENHANCEMENT

A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY  
**REGAN PRETLOW BRASHEAR**

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**REEL WORK  
MAY DAY LABOR  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2014**

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**MAINE  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2014**

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**REEL ABILITIES  
NY DISABILITIES  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2014**

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**DOCUTAH 2013**  
International Documentary  
Film Festival

Official Selection  
**UNAFF2013**  
International Documentary  
Film Festival

Official selection 2014  
**ACADEMIA  
FILM OLOMOUC**  
IFF of Science Documentaries

**WWW.FIXEDTHEMOVIE.COM**  
**WWW.NEWDAY.COM/FILMS/FIXED**

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**PRESS & SALES INQUIRIES**

Regan Brashear (Producer/Director) 510 470 0413 \* [info@fixedthemovie.com](mailto:info@fixedthemovie.com)

For U.S. educational sales only, contact New Day Films 888 367 9154 \* [orders@newday.com](mailto:orders@newday.com)

For international broadcast sales, contact Judy Barlow at APT-WorldWide \* [info@aptonline.org](mailto:info@aptonline.org)

U.S. Public TV distribution, contact Hilary Buxton at APT \* [Hilary\\_Buxton@APTonline.org](mailto:Hilary_Buxton@APTonline.org)

## 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 Darnovsky**; 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**, **Kounterclockwise**, **Lisa Bufano**, **Marc Brew**, **Remix Dance Company**, and **Sue Austin/Free-wheeling**. 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.

## Filmmaker Bio



Award-winning Producer/Director/Impact Producer Regan Brashear has been working on labor, race, youth, LGBTQ, and disability issues for over twenty years now through documentary film, union organizing, community forums, and grassroots activism. Brashear is the producer, director and impact producer of the award-winning documentary on technology, bioethics and disability, *Fixed: The Science/Fiction of Human Enhancement*, which was originally released in 2013 and aired on PBS from 2015-2018, screening in over 30 festivals in 16 countries, as well as 16 academic and professional conferences. Since its release, Brashear

has travelled extensively with *Fixed*, sharing the film with audiences of all ages around the world, beginning with *Fixed*'s premiere, a sold out event at the National Science Museum in Lisbon, Portugal, for the EU's NERRI (Neuro Enhancement Responsible Research Initiative). In 2014, the University of Rochester created a day-long symposium organized around *Fixed* called "*Complicating Normalcy: Disability, Technology, and Society in the Twenty-First Century*." The film is now being taught widely around the world in disability studies, sociology and science studies curriculums.

Brashear is also the Director of Impact at Making Change Media. Most recently, she coordinated the national screening tour for the Peabody Award-winning and Emmy-nominated film on autism, inclusion and neurodiversity, *DEEJ* (broadcast on America Reframed, fall & winter 2017 & summer 2018), bringing the film to over 150 high schools, colleges, universities, festivals, conferences and community groups around the country. She is also managing the film's distribution. Over the past two years, Brashear served as the Head of Launch & Member Services at *New Day Films*, developing New Day's "Promo School" training program to support New Day member-owners in developing impact distribution campaigns with their films, specifically for the educational market.

Previously, she served as a producer and impact producer at Open Eye Pictures, doing community engagement for the Academy Award-shortlisted film, *Under Our Skin* and as co-producer for *The Grove*. Both films aired on PBS in 2011. She also works with filmmakers as a consultant on their social impact campaigns and educational distribution. 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. She is very invested in helping social issue films make the most impact possible by deepening alliances between filmmakers and the specific communities, causes and movements that their films aim to support.





### Screenings & Awards

Winner, "Best of the Festival," Superfest Disability Film Festival, 2015

Winner, "Best Feature Documentary," Picture This Film Festival, 2014

Winner, "Harris Jury Prize for Best Film," Cincinnati ReelAbilities Film Festival, 2015

Winner of "Top 10 DVD of the Year" by School Library Journal

Awarded 3 1/2 stars by Video Librarian

Opening night film, The Other Film Festival, Melbourne, Australia, 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

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Special event at the NY ReelAbilities Film Festival, 2014

CHP:DOX Copenhagen International Documentary Festival, 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 and many more...



### 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*

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*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.)

\*Additional reviews and endorsements can be found at [www.fixedthemovie.com/reviews/](http://www.fixedthemovie.com/reviews/)

\*\* High res images can also be found at <http://www.fixedthemovie.com/for-press/>

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tel) 510 470 0413 \* [www.fixedthemovie.com](http://www.fixedthemovie.com)*