

BYkids

THEIR WORLD THEIR FILMS

FAITH'S WORLD

Living with Physical Disability (USA)
26:49 minutes, Airing on public television April 2021



16-year-old Faith Guilbault shares life with physical disability and her wish that students and society embrace our similarities, not our differences.

Whether by birth, accident or illness, nearly 14% of our student population (seven million kids) in the United States is disabled. Faith Guilbault is one of them. Born with cerebral palsy, epilepsy and cortical vision impairment, she can now walk with the use of canes due to her fierce determination to be independent and weekly physical therapy sessions. Because she was born with neurological blindness, Faith attends the Maryland School for the Blind where she works one-on-one with teachers who are guiding her towards new ways to learn.

Faith shares her many ways of being physically active in the world, from skydiving to traveling to New York City where she walks the catwalk during Fashion Week with Runway of Dreams, showcasing adaptive clothing lines that enables people with physical disability to dress themselves.

To be broadcast on public television in 2021 and distributed by Discovery Education, PBS LearningMedia and PenPal Schools, **Faith's World** will be shared with kids and teachers with a standards-aligned School Guide and a Take Action guide to engage kids in conversations and actions around education and inclusion.

FAITH'S WORLD key scenes include:

- At home in conversation with her family and friends
- Skydiving at iFLY
- Therapeutic horseback riding
- At school: Maryland School for the Blind
- Bicycling
- Runway of Dreams Fashion Show
- Interview with Runway of Dreams founder, Mindy Scheier

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT – FAITH GUILBAULT

Some people tell me that I am inspiring. Some people feel sorry for me. I have cerebral palsy, seizure disorder and cortical vision impairment. I was born this way. This is my normal. I don't want people to feel sorry for me, because I don't feel sorry for myself. I am living my life like everyone else, and what I want most, is for people to see what we have in common, not different, and what I am able to do, not what I am not able to do.

MENTOR'S BIO – JOYCE CHOPRA

Joyce Chopra has produced and directed award-winning films including *Smooth Talk*, Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner; *The Lemon Sisters* with Diane Keaton; and *The Lady in Question* with Gene Wilder. She has received the American Film Festival Blue Ribbon and Cine Golden Eagle Award for her documentaries including *That Our Children Will Not Die* about primary health care in Nigeria, and the autobiographical *Joyce at 34*, which is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art.

MENTOR'S STATEMENT

The beauty of volunteering to be a BYkids mentor is the opportunity to step into a world you know very little about and learn from a young person about the enormous challenges they face and then help them fashion a film that impacts the larger world and brings about real change.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS Holly Carter, Sammy Chadwick and Mindy Scheier/Runway of Dreams.

ABOUT RUNWAY OF DREAMS

Runway of Dreams is a non-profit organization that works toward a future of inclusion, acceptance and opportunity in the fashion industry for people with disabilities. Founded on the basis that clothing is a basic human need, the Foundation develops, delivers and supports programs and events that celebrate people's differences, break down stereotypes, highlight the need for mainstream adaptive apparel and showcase people with disabilities in fashion.

ABOUT BYKIDS. We create understanding through storytelling.

BYkids produces documentary films by kids and partners with public television, educators and online innovators to inspire conversations around global issues of human dignity and social justice. FILMS BYKIDS share the stories of kids who confront issues such as immigration, bullying, juvenile justice, climate change and child marriage. We reach kids -- in schools and home-learning -- with films and teaching materials that promote empathy and understanding to make global issues feel personal, relevant and actionable. Join us at BYkids.org to see and support stories that build global citizenry.

"By giving kids from diverse backgrounds around the world tools, skills and guidance to make documentary films, this great organization provides an outlet for sharing personal stories, which in turn brings us closer together as an international community rooted in compassion and understanding."

— Former NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg