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A New Kind of Listening at Cucalorus Film Festival
by David Morrison

“A New Kind of Listening,” a documentary about an inclusive theatre group, recently screened at the Cucalorus Film Festival.

Richard Reho, the theater company’s director, takes a group of people, some with disabilities and others that are able bodied, through a process over a year of weekly meetings that ends in a performance. Kenny Dalsheimer films the group and expands the storyline with the collaborative effort of Polly Medicott.

Polly’s son, Chris, nonverbal as a result of cerebral palsy, is a central character in the story. His message comes through loud and clear in this insightful and deeply touching story of communication in its many forms. “Richard, you need a new kind of listening to learn from me,” Chris said during one rehearsal. Indeed, no matter their level of ability, every person can express ideas if given the time and/or technology to do so.

A profound glimpse into the lives of some extraordinary actors, this film will simultaneously foster creativity and emotions in viewers of all ages and abilities. Dalsheimer deserves four stars.