

JOEY TRAVOLTA'S INCLUSION FILMS AND FUTURES EXPLORED, INC. CELEBRATE NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH BY FURTHER EXPANDING THEIR FILM & MEDIA STUDIOS FOR ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

New Vocational Filmmaking Program to be Announced at Red Carpet Event in Stockton, Making it the Sixth Location in California

CONCORD, Calif. (October 15, 2018) – Joey Travolta's Inclusion Films and Futures Explored, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides community opportunities and employment training services to adults with developmental disabilities, today launched a Practical Film and Media Studio in Stockton, making it the sixth location in California. The 20-week vocational program provides adults with developmental disabilities a working knowledge of film production and media, with the ultimate goal of finding employment and other opportunities in filmmaking or related industries. The studios also function as production houses that produce professional pieces for local businesses.

"Our unwavering commitment and mission is to open new doors for people with developmental disabilities," said Joey Travolta, Founder, Inclusion Films. "The film and media studios serve as an important gateway to a new and exciting world of employment opportunities for our participants. Many of our students have landed professional jobs after going through our programs, and most recently we sent a talented crew to work on a major motion picture in Georgia. We are moving the needle in a meaningful way." (See *Poison Rose* promo video here: <https://vimeo.com/290749533>)

In just a few short years, the Futures Explored Practical Film and Media Studios have taught over 80 students with developmental disabilities the art of filmmaking, and approximately 25 of those students have landed jobs and internships with professional film crews. With locations in Bakersfield, Livermore, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego and now Stockton, the studio's curriculum moves beyond classroom instruction and offers real-world practical experience to help students develop valuable social and professional skills.

"While important progress is being made, approximately 85% to 92% of adults with intellectual disabilities of working age are still unemployed in California," said Will Sanford, Executive Director, Futures Explored, Inc. "National Disability Employment Awareness Month offers a timely platform to continue to spread awareness about this employment gap. We will continue working tirelessly to break through employment barriers through our innovative programs that provide professional paths for our participants."

The Practical Film and Media Studio in Stockton is open to 20 to 30 individuals over the age of 18 with autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities. Participants will work with a team of film industry professionals to create and produce up to two short films. In addition to teaching script writing, acting, directing, editing and lighting, the program will also incorporate film marketing, instruction in graphic design, advertising and sales. Funding may be sourced privately or through the Valley Mountain Regional Center.

For more information about the Practical Film and Media Studio in Stockton, contact Hester Wagner at 916.416.5487 or hesterwagner@futures-explored.org. The Stockton studio is located at 8026 Lorraine Avenue, Suite 201.

In addition to offering film studios for adults, Travolta partners with non-profits throughout the country to organize two-week summer film camps for youth with developmental disabilities, where students learn filmmaking and produce short films that are later screened at Red Carpet events. The public is invited to attend these inspiring film screenings that celebrate young filmmakers:

Lodi Film Camp Red Carpet (in partnership with Lodi Career Connections)

Monday, October 15th at 6pm

Bob Hope Theatre, 242 E. Main Street, Stockton

Moraga Film Camp Red Carpet (in partnership with Futures Explored, Inc.)

Tuesday, November 13th at 5pm

The Vine Theater, 1722 1st Street, Livermore

For more information, visit www.futures-explored.org.

ABOUT INCLUSION FILMS

Founded in 2007 by veteran filmmaker, Joey Travolta, Inclusion Films teaches filmmaking to individuals with developmental disabilities in dedicated production studios throughout California. In addition to vocational film programs for adults, Travolta and his team travel the country running short film camps for children and teens with autism.

Additionally, Inclusion Films and two non-profit organizations that support adults with developmental disabilities, Futures Explored, Inc., and E&CO, recently launched "Inclusion Networks," a subscription-based channel featuring digital content produced by adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The first-of-its-kind channel presents short films, documentaries, news stories, original series, special features and behind-the-scenes footage. (See promo video here and to subscribe, visit: <https://youtu.be/Ec4tchcmwMU>.)

For more, visit: www.inclusionfilms.com.

ABOUT FUTURES EXPLORED, INC.

Founded more than 50 years ago in Lafayette, CA, Futures Explored, Inc. is a non-profit (501)(c)(3) organization that provides community and employment training services to adults with developmental disabilities. Futures Explored and Inclusion Films are partners in running the Bay Area-based film camps and vocational film programs.

To learn more about Futures Explored Inc.'s programs and services, including Advocacy, ALIVE, GARDEN, Futures Films, Huckleberry Kitchen, Inclusion Film Camp, Lafayette's Day Program, Nifty Thrift Stores, Supported Employment, and Vocational Training & Employment (VTE), please visit: www.futures-explored.org.

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