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Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

February 2012

CIDNY Quick Take

THREE OSCAR NOMINATED FILMS IN FEBRUARY

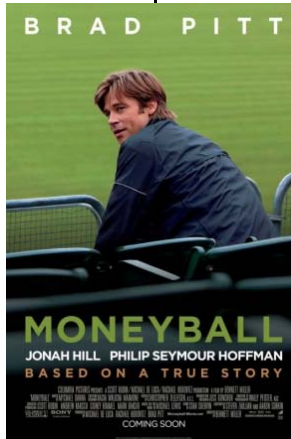
This month, leading up to the Oscars on Sunday, February 26, CIDNY will be viewing three Academy Award nominated films. This first is "Moneyball" which received six nominations including four biggies: best picture, lead actor, supporting actor and adapted screenplay, as well as film editing and sound mixing. The second is "Kung Fu Panda 2", which was nominated for best animated feature film. The third in our series will be "The Help", which received four nominations including best picture, lead actress, and two supporting actress nominations. See our February calendar for full details.

The Oscar fun doesn't end there. If you join us for any of the movies you have a chance to win a \$20 gift card to Lowes Theaters. All you to have to do is give us your best guesses for who will take home Oscars. If you guess the most winners, you WIN the gift card.

CIDNY'S WORK ON HEALTH DISPARITIES TO PAY OFF

Last year CIDNY's Executive Director, Susan Dooha, served on the Medicaid Redesign Team's Health Disparities Workgroup which made 14 recommendations to address health disparities. Her work paid off when these

proposals were included in the Governor's Budget. The Executive Budget includes \$ 1 m. to implement and expand on the data collection standards required by the Affordable Care Act by requiring detailed reporting health disparities based on race and ethnicity, gender identity, the six disability questions used in the American Community Survey, and housing status. This funding will support data analyses and research to promote programs and policies that will better identify, understand, and address disparities. The Budget amends Medicaid rates for hospitals, diagnostic and treatment centers, and health centers to provide reimbursement for the costs of interpretation services for patients with limited English proficiency and communication services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Budget also require a prescriber to indicate the primary language of someone who is limited English proficient on the prescription form and require pharmacists to provide for translation or other language services if they have reason to know that the person is limited English proficient.



EXECUTIVE BUDGET INCLUDES HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE

In 2014 everybody who does not get health coverage through an employer will be able to get coverage through a "Health Benefit Exchange", sometimes called an "Health Insurance Exchange". The Health Benefit Exchange will have a website and a call center. It will also have in-person assistance to



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help someone get coverage through public programs such as Medicaid and Family Health Plus and private commercial health insurance, with premium subsidies to help make the coverage affordable for people with incomes up to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level. For a single person, that amount is \$44,680 a year.

New York should have passed legislation to create this exchange last year, but did not. The State must pass it this year because we must be able to show the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in January of 2013 that we are going to be able to operate the exchange starting on January 1, 2014 or they will come in and set up a federal exchange that might not be right for New York. We are pleased that Governor Cuomo included language to establish such an Exchange and will be urging our legislators to pass it right away.

EXECUTIVE BUDGET DELAYS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE GRANT INCREASE

Many people with disabilities rely on public assistance for their income. In 2009 and 2010, the first two phases of a scheduled 3-step increase in the public assistance grant took effect, representing the first increases in the basic allowance in 19 years. In 2011, the legislature failed to implement the final stage of this modest grant increase and now the Governor's budget proposes to further delay the implementation of the third and final installment by spreading it over two years. This means that people living at half the federal poverty level

(\$465 per month for a single person) would receive an increase of 50 cents a day instead of \$1 a day in for state budget savings of \$ 6. m. This act of balancing the budget on the backs of the poorest of the poor is so unconscionable



that we are asking the Governor to reverse his decision in the 30 day budget amendment period.

DON'T MISS THE REELABILITIES FILM FESTIVAL

ReelAbilities is a Film Festival dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories and artistic

expressions of people with different disabilities. Initiated in NY in 2007, the festival presents award winning films by and about people with disabilities in multiple locations. Post-screening discussions and other engaging programs bring together the community to explore, discuss, embrace, and celebrate the diversity of our shared human experience. There are many **FREE** events, to find one check out the full schedule at www.reelabilities.org.