



INSPIRATION

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Inspiration is a word that is misused very frequently by society. When they see a individual with disability competing , or take part of, in a difficult action in spite of a physical limitation, people tend to have this phrase “if they can do it, so can I”. Stella Young was one of the many advocates who reject the idea of seem people with disabilities as a object of inspiration. Helen keller was also an object to be admire and feel inspired to change people’s life. The movie “The Rain Man” also has being seeing as an inspiration, when one of the main actors who is autistic and really smart, is save by his brother from the institution where he lives. Temple Grandin has also inspired many people because from being a severe autistic child whom overachieve her condition and excelled in her personal and in her professional life.

“For lots of us, disabled people are not our teachers, or our doctors,our manicurist, we are not real people. We are there to inspire” (Young). People get inspire by disabled people. When they realize if these people who have all limitation get a comfortable life and even with their limitations, they have a successful life then I can do it too. However, Young objects to this thinking because if society puts aside their limitations , they can see a typical person that also suffer, make tantrums, have a family , have fail and much more. In our society, people who are disabled are seen as an inspiration because they have the determination,attitude and values to defeat the obstacles and limitations of their own body and mind. Their lives inspire people to created a better world for themselves. Young also mention that society has lie to themselves about what inspirational was. She spoke about the inspirational porn where media advertise them for the benefit of neurotypical people so they can feel good about their own life. This lie make us

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see disabled people with pity and believe they are an exceptional people when in reality they are just as typical as they can be.

Helen Keller has been one of the famous disabled person who is look up as one inspirational woman because of her achievement to overcome the obstacles, her blindness and deafness brough on her life, Still she became a writer and a symbol of perseverance for people. For Keller to achieve these on her life, she needed a person which without her help, she would not be able to overcome her disabilities. That person was her teacher, Annie Sullivan, who saw on Keller an smart, and bright little girl who had the capability to learn. Her teacher's patience and love make the difference. In the book *The story of My life* there is part where Keller described how she was able to start reading and she mention that her teacher worked hard for her to conquer her limitation "Someone was drawing water and my teacher placed my hand under the sprout"(Keller). Keller recognize that her teacher was the key of her success in her life. We can see Keller as a symbol of prevail over her limitation. However, as many other disabled people, she was portrait as a childlike and innocent and not as a successful woman that she was. One of the things my teacher Ms. Rodas mention was that Keller in her paintings, she was all in white dresses which was representing purity and innocence and I agree with her point because most of the people who have limitations are misrepresent as someone who does not look like he has excelled in life and become an adult.

Society will not only look up for inspiration in people lives but in films too. In the movie "The Rain Man", the story is about two brothers who have not meet and find out about each other after their father death. This movie make you have the sensation of satisfaction because

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you see a Raymond who is an autistic person and who has “successfully” integrate in society and his brother has being the vehicle to do that. When we watch this movie, we get inspire to see how Raymond has achieve to get along in life regardless of his condition. However, the reality is that his brother only wanted the money his father left to Raymond and Raymond’s brother only used him to get the money he needed to pay off some of the things he owns. Here, we can observe that there is not much to admire if we see beyond the disability, Raymond was only being used by his brother, there were not any intentions to help him or to make him adjust to his new life but to being abuse by his brother to only obtain what he needed.”Now casinos have house rules: they don’t like to lose. So you never show that you’re counting cards. That is the cardinal sin, Ray” (the Rain man) This is something that we see it very frequently with the disabled community. One family member supposedly is going to take care of them but they want something from them. It can be the money they will receive to take care of them, get a less expensive housing and etc . Their hearts are not to get help for their disabled relative but to get whatever they can for their own good. This is something that in the movie is clear.

Temple Grandin is a woman who was diagnosed with autism as a child and as an adult have a career in psychology and animal science. She became an activist and advocate for the autistic community. In 2010, her life was put on a movie, the movie was “Temple Grandin” . This movie describe her a autistic person who is super smart because she has a “photo visual” mind that helps her to get to college. Also, the difficulties she had because her lack of socialization and do not tolerate to be touched at all when she was in college. She went to her aunt’s ranch and here was where her life change. She became interested in how to make the

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cattles death less scary because she felt their fear as it was hers. Because of her interest in this, she invented the slaughter for animals.”It is not good way to run a stockyard. I believe what’s good for caddle is also good for business”(Temple Grandin). She was passionate about science too and that was how she was able to do her invention “ But my favorite of Einstein’s words on religion is ‘science without religion is lame. Religion without science is blind”(Temple Grandin).

This movie has been seen as inspirational because how she make her own ways in her life.

Although, the movie successfully give the audience a positive view about autism, it gives the wrong idea that all “functioning autistic adult” can be as smart as Grandin was. When the reality was that Grandin was coming from a wealthy family and had the money to pay for resources that were not available for other individuals. It gave an idea that this is the norm for these type of autistic individuals when it was not. Because even today’s day many resources are only reachable if your guardian or your family has the money to pay for them.

In conclusion, inspiration is something that has been created it by society and media to make people feel better about their failures or for have not achieve in life. They have make their main focus, the disabled community. Society use them for them to get inspire by someone that has been less fortunate than them. They have used people like Young to make an example of achievement but she make it clear that that is not the case and had advocate to remove this stereotype from society minds. Helen Keller was also showed around the world as an overachieve woman and that even though she could not see or heard, she was able to manage herself around and have a successful life. Media has used movies like “The Rain Man” to showed the public that even with a disability as autism, disabled people tried to get accepted and

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integrate in a daily routine. This movie was made with the intention of people felt satisfied with their own life and feel lucky to be “normal” situation. And the movie “Temple Grandin” where showed her life as successful autistic woman who manage to have a profession and who beats all the odds of her condition as autistic adult. The life of all these people indeed are exceptional and make them seem as a vision to make themselves better. We can not forget that they have worked more harder that any of us because of what their conditions may be and to remember that they are just as normal as us, the only difference is that they need an extra help to cope with their daily life and routine.

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