

Representation matters; communication through voice and being seen

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Duration of audio clip: 1 minute and 55 seconds

I think one of the things that I can take away very positively from the film is this this is not a young woman who cannot communicate. On the surface our initial introduction to her through the synopsis in some ways, gives us the idea that she cannot communicate, but this is a young woman who can communicate and she is using her voice to be expressive, and there's a lot that comes through there.

But thinking about both what you were saying about the hidden children of India but also what Andy was saying that overprotective parents I can't help but contrast what you've done with *Justine* against a short film that was made for the Midlands news in the early 1970s, which we showed at the Doc Media Fest last year, where there was a young woman who was being described as in inverted commas "severely disabled". It was basically about all the technology that she needs in order to simply maintain life. Her mother was the one who was standing there - dressed like Maggie Thatcher on a bad day - who was being very authoritative. Who was talking about her as if she had no participation in her own life, except when she'd say things like, "Oh she likes listening to ... to improving programs." The girl, the young woman rather, in in that film, she was completely paralyzed except for, I think it was her big toe, and they fixed up everything so she could change the channels on the radio with a big toe. But the young woman wasn't seen in the whole film, only her toe was seen.