

read me differently

www.readmedifferently.com

PRESS AND SALES CONTACT INFORMATION

Sarah Entine

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TECHNICAL INFORMATION

56 minutes / Color / Stereo

Exhibition Format: Digibeta

Production Format: DVCam

SYNOPSIS

An estimated 15-20% of the population in the United States has dyslexia, and 4.5 million children have been diagnosed of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

A shock of recognition in social work school leads first-time filmmaker Sarah Entine to explore how undiagnosed dyslexia and ADHD have impacted three generations in her family, starting with her own struggles. With surprising candor, vulnerability and even a touch of humor, *Read Me Differently* reveals the strain of misunderstood learning disabilities on family relationships. It is a unique film that will generate thoughtful discussion whether in a classroom setting, work environment or at home with family members and friends.

CHARACTERS

SYLVIA: Born in 1917 in Memphis, Tennessee, Sylvia is the eldest child of an affluent Jewish family. She enjoyed the attention and activities of her time and particularly liked to cavort with “the seven sillies”—a clique of Southern belles that partied hard, gossiped readily and tirelessly tried everything they could to fit in, even celebrating Christmas instead of Hanukkah. Raised in an era when socializing trumped academic expectations and learning disabilities went unrecognized, Sylvia’s Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and dyslexia never received proper attention. She struggled as a student. In fact, she dropped out of college because studying became too difficult. Now an 88-year-old great-grandmother, Sylvia reflects on a life of remarkable community service and embarrassing personal disorganization. With surprising insight, Sylvia talks about her life experiences and how processing information gets in the way of a healthy give-and-take relationship with her daughter.

JEAN: Born on the cusp of the baby boom generation in 1942, Jean was raised in Memphis, Tennessee, where the values of assimilation, beauty, and proper protocol influenced all aspects of her life. Her formative years were shaped by multiple cosmetic eye surgeries and doctor appointments. It was a time when *Father Knows Best* was a top TV show, Jim Crow laws ran rampant and anti-Semitic discrimination went unspoken. As a result, Jean learned to keep her feelings to herself. She stuttered as a child, but in time outgrew this disability. Her life as a student wasn’t always easy. For Jean, growing up with a mother who, for unexplained reasons was disorganized and a tangential speaker, exacerbated an already strained relationship. Feeling connected and accepted has felt like a life-long struggle.

SARAH: Born in New York in 1972, Sarah’s parents separated when she was just six months old. Six years later she moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts with her mother and her older sister Jennifer. Growing up in a progressive college town, Cambridge offered Sarah exposure to a diversity of people and ideas. It was the early 80’s when television talk shows like Phil Donahue and Oprah blossomed. And yet, within her own family, many topics were never discussed. When Sarah started first grade, reading proved to be very difficult. While school was an obvious challenge, home life was a confusing minefield. Sarah’s misunderstood learning disabilities with her high achieving mother and well-adjusted older sister made her home feel like a pressure cooker.

PRESS PHOTOS



Director/producer Sarah Entine discusses a scene with Fawn Yacker (cinematographer), Nathan Black (sound), Jean Entine and Sylvia Marks

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Fawn Yacker, cinematographer

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Re-creation Actors: Stephanie Cohen, Katie Christensen, Walt Opie and Joel Hagedorn



Vicente Franco (cinematographer) and Jennifer Chinlund (editor)



Sarah Entine, Director

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I'm often asked about my motivation to make *Read Me Differently*. My main goal is to bring awareness to the multi-generational aspect of misunderstood learning disabilities. It's my hope that the film will spark a dialogue for other families going through similar circumstances. Often times, the focus is on helping children "overcome" a learning difference. I want to shift the attention to interpersonal relationships, because my family's story transcends the simpler fact of one child's learning disability. *Read Me Differently* is a universal story about missed connections and the desire to be seen and accepted for who we are. Ideally, the film will also be utilized by educators and mental health professionals to enhance their knowledge of the ways in which learning disabilities can impact the entire family system.

CREW BIOGRAPHIES

Producer/Director: SARAH ENTINE is an award-winning documentary film director and producer. Originally diagnosed with dyslexia in 1978, she only fully comprehended her disability 23 years later, at age 29. In 2009, she completed her first documentary, *Read Me Differently*, a film that focuses on her experience growing up with misunderstood learning disabilities that spanned three generations in her family. Prior to making the film, Sarah earned a Master's degree in Social Work from Simmons College and has practiced vipassana (insight) meditation since 1998. Sarah has presented *Read Me Differently* at conferences across the country including twice at The International Dyslexia Association, The Learning Disability Association of America and The National Association of Social Workers in Massachusetts. Sarah has facilitated workshops and spoken to countless students, teachers, parents and service providers about her experience. Her message addresses the need to increase awareness on how learning disabilities impact family relationships. In 2010, *Read Me Differently* was selected for the prestigious CINE Golden Eagle Award (past winners include Steven Spielberg, Ken Burns, Spike Lee, and Martin Scorsese). In the same year, Simmons School of Social Work awarded Sarah with an Alumni Special Recognition Award. In 2011, *Read Me Differently* was chosen to screen at the Superfest International Disability Film Festival where the film received an Achievement Award. This fall, WGBH in Boston (a local PBS station) will broadcast the film.

Cinematographer: FAWN YACKER is a Producer/Director and a Director of Photography for film and video. Her cinematography credits include *Deadly Deception* (Academy Award® best short documentary, 1991); contributing cinematographer In the *Shadow of the Stars*, (Academy Award best feature length documentary, 1991); *Chuck Solomon: Coming of Age*, named “among the best documentaries dealing with AIDS;” and *Celebrity in the City*, a one-hour PBS documentary about mayor Jerry Brown and his Oakland California renaissance.

Yacker's directorial debut in the dramatic narrative form was as one of the twelve participants in the ninth cycle of the American Film Institute's Directing Workshop for Women. She completed *Bedtime Story*, a short film about making choices based on love rather than fear. Yacker's directing credits also include *Can You See Me Flying*, a documentary about dancer / choreographer Terry Sendraff; *A Leap Across the Bar Lines*, directed for the Women's Philharmonic (winner of the Bronze Apple, 1993); and *Ugly Ducklings*, a one-hour documentary about youth suicide and homophobia now in distribution to schools nationwide.

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Other films include *That's a Family*, which Yacker co-directed and co-produced with Academy Award recipient Debra Chasnoff (*Deadly Deception*), winner of the Master Cine Golden Eagle in 2000. Yacker was the principal cinematographer for *Training Rules*, which she co-wrote, co-produced and co-directed together with Dee Mosbacher.

Cinematographer: VICENTE FRANCO A native of Madrid Spain, Vicente Franco began his studies at the University of Journalism in Madrid. To avoid the draft during the military dictatorship in Spain, he relocated to the United States in 1975 where he earned his Film Studies bachelor's degree at the University of California in Santa Barbara, and his Masters Degree at San Francisco State University.

Franco has been shooting and producing award-winning documentary films since the 1980s, most notably the Academy-Award nominated *Daughter from Danang*, which won the Sundance Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary in 2002. He was nominated for a national Emmy® for his cinematography on that film.

As an independent filmmaker, Franco has produced, directed, shot or edited numerous documentaries: *Freedom on my Mind* (Academy Award Nomination 1994) about the Mississippi Voter Registration drive; *The Judge and The General*, *The Summer of Love*, *Thirst*, *The New Americans* and *Discovering Dominga*.

Editor: JENNIFER CHINLUND has edited many PBS productions in her 20-year career. Some of her recent credits include: *Butte, America* (Independent Lens 2009) *The Self-Made Man* (POV 2005); *Discovering Dominga* (POV 2003); *Secrets of Silicon Valley* (Independent Lens 2002); *Coming to Light: Edward Curtis and the North American Indian* (ITVS and American Masters); *Baby It's You* (POV 1998) and the Emmy Award-winning, *Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter* (POV 1995).

Composer: ALEX LU is an emerging composer of concert and film music living in Oakland, California. He has composed works for various ensembles including the San Francisco Conservatory Chorus, San Francisco Conservatory New Music Ensemble, China's Dalian University Youth Symphony, Pasadena Young Musicians Orchestra, and South Bay Children's Choir, among others. Since 2007 Alex has worked primarily in film music, assisting on scores for composer Todd Boekelheide in various roles as performer and conductor, as well as composing additional music. Lu has contributed original music to documentary films such as *Blessed is the Match*; *Butte, America*; *Hard Problems*, and others. Also active as a pianist, Lu

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has performed solo and with ensembles in the Los Angeles and Bay Areas. Since 2006, he has served as Assistant Director and Principal Accompanist of the Golden Gate Men's Chorus, under director Joseph Jennings.

Lu received a Master of Music degree in 2007 from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where he studied composition with David Conte and orchestration with Conrad Susa. During his time at the conservatory, Lu received the Composition Honors Award and was the winner of the 2006 SFCM Choral Composition Competition. He holds two Bachelors of Music degrees in piano performance and composition from the Biola University Conservatory of Music, and has studied at Roehampton University in London. He is an alumnus of the European American Musical Alliance composition program at the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris, where he studied with Michel Merlet of the Paris Conservatory and Philip Lasser of the Juilliard School.

Music Supervision: TODD BOEKELHEIDE is an Academy and Emmy Award winner who began his film career in 1974 as a staff member at American Zoetrope, Francis Ford Coppola's production company in San Francisco. In 1976 he left to work as an assistant editor on *Star Wars*, and he went on to edit picture and sound on *The Black Stallion*. After completing formal music studies, he continued his film career as a re-recording mixer and composer, winning an Oscar for Best Sound on *Amadeus* in 1984. He has scored several narrative feature films, including *Dim Sum* and *Nina Takes a Lover*, and numerous documentaries, notably *Hearts of Darkness: A Filmmaker's Apocalypse*. In 1999, Boekelheide won an Emmy Award for scoring the documentary *Kids of Survival: The Life and Art of Tim Rollins and the KOS*.

Writing Consultant: SUSAN STERN is a writer, director and producer. Her most recent film, *The Self-Made Man*, was nominated for two national Emmy awards. Her first film, *Barbie Nation: An Unauthorized Tour*, is taught in more than 1,000 universities. Stern has been a journalist—specializing in investigative reporting—for more than 20 years. Her articles have been published in the Boston Globe, Sacramento Bee, San Francisco Examiner and Oakland Tribune. The Wall Street Journal credited Stern's exposé of Navy base closures with "saving thousands of local jobs." Stern has also written and produced news for KPIX TV, San Francisco's CBS affiliate.

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Project Consultant: LORI HOPE has produced more than twenty social and environmental documentaries for television. Her most recent work was produced in association with KQED, and was featured on the Oprah show. Ms. Hope's honors include a CINE Golden Eagle, a National Society of Professional Journalist/Sigma Delta Chi Ward, and two regional Emmy Awards. Her first book, *Help Me Live: 20 Things People with Cancer Want You to Know*, was published in 2005.

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PRODUCTION CREDITS

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY

Sarah Entine

EDITOR

Jennifer Chinlund

CINEMATOGRAPHY

Fawn Yacker

Vicente Franco

WRITTEN BY

Jennifer Chinlund

Sarah Entine

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY

Alex Lu

MUSIC SUPERVISION

Todd Boekelheide

SOUND

Nathan Black

Fred Burnham

Ray Day

Jay Farrington

ONLINE EDITOR

Heather Lyon Weaver

ASSISTANT ONLINE EDITOR

Sarah Detera

SOUND EDIT & MIX

Philip Perkins

MOTION GRAPHICS

Monte Thompson

COLOR GRADING

Gary Coates

WRITING CONSULTANT

Susan Stern

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Kyung Lee
Eva Moss

ON-CAMERA FILM PARTICIPANTS

Mary Briggs
Alan Entine
Jean Entine
Sarah Entine
Sylvia Marks
Jennifer Entine Matz
Madeleine Matz
Tobias Matz
Len Solo

RE-CREATION ACTORS

Larissa Chernin
Katie Christensen
Stephanie Cohen
Joel Hagedorn
Angus Thynne
Walt Opie

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Will Drummond
Chad Yavarow

MUSICIANS

Jeremy Cohen - violin
Keith Lawrence - viola
Alex Lu - piano/synthesizer
Paul Psarras - guitar
Richard Worn- double bass

VOICE COACH

Elaine Clark

RECORDING STUDIO

Voice One
San Francisco, CA

STILL PHOTOGRAPHER

Walt Opie

HOME MOVIE FOOTAGE

Sarah Entine

TRAILER

Kyung Lee

LOCATIONS

Graham and Parks Alternative Public School, MA
Central High School, TN
Memphis Botanic Garden, TN
California Tomorrow, CA
Edgewood Family Center, CA
University of California, Berkeley, CA

TRANSFER FACILITY

Dub Express

TRANSCRIPTION

Linda Teixeira
Production Transcripts

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Susanne Wiehl

WEBSITE

Susanne Wehl
Patrick Hurley

DISTRIBUTION & OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Brittney Shepherd

LEGAL COUNSEL

Sandra Forman

PROJECT CONSULTANT

Lori Hope

FILM ADVISORS

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Mark Lipman
Dr. Nancy Cushen White

FUNDRAISING TRAILER

Leah Wolchok

FISCAL SPONSORS

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San Francisco Film Society

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Goldsmith Foundation

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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Janice Bihler
Lea Delacour
Penelope Dixon
Joann Eccher
Alan Entine
Edward & Janet Entine
Emily Entine
Jill Fisher
David Flink
David Friedman
Jerrold & Martha Graber
Steve Grand-Jean
Mary Guyett
Alice Hall
Boby List
Frinde Maher
Nancy Marks
Sylvia Marks
Eric Mayerson
Lynn Owen
John & Kathy Roberts
Steve & Honey Schnapp
Phil & Penny Weinstein

VERY SPECIAL THANKS

Mary Briggs
Alan Entine
Jean Entine
Sylvia Marks
Jennifer Entine Matz
Madeleine Matz
Tobias Matz
Walt Opie
Len Solo

THANKS

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Matt DeVries
Eastern Bus Co. Inc.

Jerry Egusa
Nina Ghiselli
Susan Hileman
Lynda Hornada
Nancy Kelly
Grace Kim
Kim Klein
Ana Lanuza & family
Judy Lazrus
John Lopez
Dan Matz
Amy Neil
Pop-Eye
Ken Perham
Melissa Regan
Pam Roberts
Ken Schneider
Jesus Solorio
Rachel Stamm
Johnny Symons
Kenji Yamamoto
Bill and Susan Zarchy

IN MEMORY
Ketan J. Chinlund



*****PRESS RELEASE*****

Local Filmmaker Wins Prestigious CINE Golden Eagle Award

**For Immediate Release
December 3, 2010**

**Contact: Sarah Entine
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510.647.8685**

Berkeley, California: We are pleased to announce that *Read Me Differently* has won the prestigious CINE Golden Eagle Award, which has been widely recognized as a symbol of excellence in professional, independent and student filmmaking for over 50 years. *Read Me Differently* was produced and directed by Sarah Entine and was awarded the CINE Golden Eagle for the Fall 2010 competition, one of two competitions conducted by CINE each year. Winners of the CINE competitions are chosen through a rigorous, tiered jury system, based on criteria reflecting storytelling, production value, artistry, purpose and overall excellence.

Since its founding in 1957, CINE has been dedicated to discovering, rewarding, educating, and supporting established and emerging talent in film and video. Among great talents whose first films were awarded CINE Golden Eagles are Steven Spielberg, Ken Burns and Ron Howard, and filmmakers such as Robert Zemeckis, Mike Nichols, Martin Scorsese, Mira Nair, Charles Guggenheim, Stanley Nelson, Albert Maysles, Frederick Wiseman have also been recipients of the Golden Eagle Award.

We are delighted that *Read Me Differently* has been recognized by CINE and will join the archive of CINE winners, which can be found at www.cine.org.

REVIEWS

“Sarah Entine has produced a remarkable and memorable film about the unique pressures that generational learning disabilities have on a family. By combining the perspectives of her grandmother, parents and sister with her own, she provides a poignant and insightful picture of the impact that “hidden disabilities” can have on relationships. Unlike similar films, Read Me Differently never becomes preachy, maudlin or self-pitying. She offers no false hope, instant cures or simple answers. Rather, she allows us to hear from three remarkably dynamic women discussing the shame, confusion, fear and bewilderment that often accompany undiagnosed learning problems.

This is a film to be viewed...and viewed again. It will undoubtedly stir the emotions of the viewer and will serve as a launch pad for discussion, understanding, empathy...and self-discovery.”

Richard D. Lavoie

Producer, *How Difficult Can This Be? The F.A.T. City Workshop*

Author, *It's So Much Work to Be Your Friend* and *The Motivation Breakthrough*

“Read Me Differently is a remarkable film. We found ourselves both tearing up and smiling as we watched this amazing young woman begin to discover who she is as a learner and then began to educate her family. In this process she not only educated her family about HER learning style, but helped family members begin to think more about how they learn and communicate. It was truly inspirational. As a viewer, you learn about the impact of learning disabilities on an individual, but more importantly you learn about the impact of these “hidden disabilities” on relationships. As therapists we talk about how hard it can be for families to communicate, especially when various members of the family have different ways of communicating and processing, but the film does a beautiful job of showing what it is like in reality.

This is a film that will benefit everyone, both because of what we learn about learning disabilities, but as importantly, what we learn about families. Please see it!”

Edward M. Hallowell, M.D. &

Sue George Hallowell, LICSW

Co-authors, *Married to Distraction*

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“Read Me Differently is a very powerful, informative documentary capturing the journey of Sarah Entine as she comes to understand the impact of her reading and learning problems on her self-esteem and development. It is a journey of discovery not only for herself, but for her grandmother, mother, sister, and father. The influence of learning differences in family relationships across generations is poignantly captured as is the capacity of the human spirit to become resilient in the face of adversity. I hope that this documentary will be viewed not only by children and adults with learning struggles, but by their families as well as professionals who work with these individuals. In addition, the documentary will prove very informative for those who do not have learning differences so that they might better appreciate the struggles faced by those who do.”

Robert Brooks, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychologist

Faculty, Harvard Medical School

Co-author, *Raising Resilient Children* and *The Power of Resilience: Achieving Balance, Confidence, and Personal Strength in Your Life*

“Sarah Entine’s Read Me Differently is a personal and poignant quest to piece together and understand the mystery of being different, and the pain of miscommunications and missed connections magnified by attentional, processing, and learning differences. This film is a brave, honest, illuminating, and compassionate attempt to bring awareness and inquiry to long-term and deeply frustrating family patterns. In the process, it offers family members and the viewer a degree of affirmation, understanding, and healing. Almost any family will see a bit of itself in this film.”

Jon Kabat-Zinn &

Myla Kabat-Zinn

Co-authors of *Everyday Blessings: The Inner Work of Mindful Parenting*

“Read Me Differently is a bold film that challenges conventional understandings which have alternatively silenced and stigmatized or over diagnosed learning disabilities in the United States. This film is an important resource for students in special education, counseling psychology, family therapy, and social work, among others.”

M. Brinton Lykes, Ph.D.

Chair, Counseling, Developmental and Educational Psychology Department

Lynch School of Education, Boston College

“The film, Read Me Differently provides a poignant and powerful account of the personal and interpersonal sequelae of learning difficulties across three generations of one family. Combining the relational understanding gained in her graduate studies in social work with her personal experience of “reading differently,” Sarah Entine has constructed a beautifully imagined and artistically satisfying film. It should be required viewing for teachers, students and all who work with people with learning issues.”

Ruth G. Dean, Professor
Simmons School of Social Work

“I just finished watching your documentary...and I am writing with my eyes glistening with tears. Read Me Differently...makes my heart ache...however, I relish its cadence and honesty...you deserve a hug and great admiration for this work of passion...pain is at the root of passion. You are an intuitive young woman and I hope that you have been a catalyst for discovery in your family...and others...”

Fran Thompson
Deciphering Dyslexia
Former president of The International Dyslexia Association, BC Branch, Vancouver, Canada

“Sarah, you really have a wonderful and important story to tell. So often, as a teacher, I hear even other teachers and administrators talking as though a learning disability was something that is cured once a child knows how to read. People totally don't understand how globally children and adults can be affected by the many aspects of learning disabilities and some of the accompanying challenges of ADD, motor planning issues, slow processing, tactile sensitivity, etc. I remember a parent asking if this could be why his LD son didn't know which way to run on the soccer field. Another parent wanted to know if this had something to do with why her child didn't pick up on social cues and consequently was picked on. A teacher wondered if a student might be clowning at circle time because she couldn't figure out where to sit on the circle. Of course, all these children most definitely were affected by these issues and adults typically were unsympathetic, not realizing how outside of the control of the child they were. What I loved about the movie was how it spoke to these challenges and how invisible they can be to others.

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The movie also validated my belief that children and their families benefit from an understanding of what it is that makes some aspects of learning hard for them. Labels help, not the usual labels of lazy, under-performing, not very smart... I have heard teachers and administrators say that they don't want to stigmatize children with labels. But from what I have seen, when we explain to children what their learning strengths and weaknesses are, and give them vocabulary to talk about it, it is as though a weight is lifted from their shoulders. They know they are carrying around a bunch of rocks that other children aren't. To name these burdens and to be sympathetic while also being encouraging, helps kids manage the extra weight and validates that what they think is hard, really is. Helping them to become more efficient, to use their cognitive tools, to compensate, is also important as is reminding them that we know from their block buildings, their poetry, their plays, that they are very smart.”

Judy Lazrus
First Grade Teacher

“Having been a reading teacher for 25 years in a private day school in Connecticut, I strongly recommend this touching and informative film to both educators and parents. Cinema verite at its best!”

Linda S. Lindquist
Cambridge, MA

“I saw your presentation at the NASW Symposium in Boston and was very moved. I’m a social worker at the Center for Children with Special Needs at Tufts Medical Center in Boston. I work with children and teens who have developmental disabilities (including various learning disabilities and ADHD) and their families. I have ADHD and so do my two adult sons. I think your documentary really captures so many interesting and poignant aspects of having these types of differences.

I think that you and your family are very courageous to make a film like this where you are all so open. I’m looking forward to watching it with my wife and sons to see their reactions.”

Jay Geyer, LICSW
Boston, MA

ARTICLES

CAMBRIDGE WOMAN COMPLETES PERSONAL DOCUMENTARY ON LEARNING DISABILITIES

Private Film Screening

Title: *Read Me Differently*

Date: Thursday, June 11, 2009

Time: 7:30pm

Place: Landmark Kendall Square Cinema (1 Kendall Square, Cambridge, MA)

Cambridge, MA “Sarah Entine is a first-time documentary film director and producer who worked on her film for five years before completing it in May of 2009. She graduated in 1990 from Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School (where she attended the Pilot School), and still has strong ties to the local community. Originally diagnosed with dyslexia in 1978 while attending elementary school in Cambridge, she only fully comprehended the scope of her disability at age 29 after revisiting Mary Briggs, her elementary school tutor.

Her film, *Read Me Differently*, highlights the caring yet strained relationships between three generations of women in the filmmaker’s family. Two are afflicted with different forms of disability—dyslexia and AD/HD and the other struggles to respond appropriately and with understanding to these challenges. With personal narration and a unique viewpoint, *Read Me Differently* shows the often ineffective attempts by a daughter, her mother and her grandmother to communicate with one another and understand their differing points of view.

Entine spent her formative years in Cambridge and now lives in Berkeley, CA. She will be in town to show her film on Thursday, June 11. She went to the Cambridge Alternative Public School (C.A.P.S.), now known as Graham & Parks Alternative Public School, and attended the King Open School for 7th and 8th grades. Despite her dyslexia, Entine was a member of the National Honor Society at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. She graduated from Grinnell College in Grinnell, IA and the Simmons College School of Social Work in Boston.

Mary Briggs, Entine’s elementary school tutor, will also be in attendance at the screening, along with several former teachers and classmates, as well as her mother, Jean Entine, a long-time Cambridge resident. Later this year Entine has been invited to show her film at several international conferences, including the 60th Annual Conference of the International Dyslexia Association (to be held in Orlando, FL).