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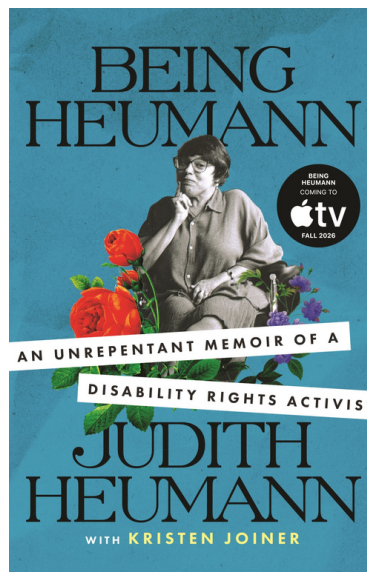
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Late Disability Rights Activist Judy Heumann's Landmark Memoir, *Being Heumann*, Coming to the Screen in New Film from CODA Director Sian Heder



BOSTON, Massachusetts— *Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist*, by the late disability rights pioneer Judith "Judy" Heumann, co-authored with Kristen Joiner and published by Beacon Press, has been adapted into a feature film. Directed by Academy Award–winning *CODA* filmmaker Sian Heder, the film has been selected to open the Toronto International Film Festival on September 10th, before debuting in select theaters November 6th and premiering on Apple TV+ November 13th. The memoir's cinematic adaptation will bring Heumann's extraordinary life and legacy to new audiences, furthering the mission of the authors and the publisher, who aim to help Heumann's message become accessible and available to all.

The announcement comes during this year's Disability Pride Month, which commemorates the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the landmark civil rights law that Heumann helped shape through her leadership in its drafting, advocacy, and eventual passage.

Since its publication in 2020, *Being Heumann* has become a landmark work on the disability rights movement. Celebrated by disability activists and allies, taught in universities, and embraced by advocacy organizations, the memoir has helped countless readers better understand the disability rights movement and the extraordinary work that Heumann and her fellow advocates undertook to advance disability justice and civil rights.

The memoir received widespread critical acclaim, including standout reviews from major trade and literary publications, as well as being featured in media including *The New York Times*, *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*, national and regional NPR programs, PBS *NewsHour*, and many other outlets. The book also earned praise from leaders and advocates such as Hillary Clinton, Gloria Steinem, Darren Walker, Sheryl Sandberg, and Haben Girma. Heumann was able to take part in an extensive range of activities related to the book, as well as for the documentary *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution*, which she also participated in, before passing away in 2023.

At the heart of the book is the collaboration between Judy Heumann and co-author Kristen Joiner, whose partnership captured Judy's unmistakable voice, humor, candor, and unwavering determination. Over more than five years of intensive work together, they created a memoir that is both an intimate personal story and a lasting record of the disability rights efforts, ensuring that Heumann's experiences and the movement she helped build continue to educate and inspire future generations.

Responding to the news of the film's distribution plan and reflecting on the impact her time with Heumann had on her, Joiner said, "When I started working with Judy, I expected to learn a lot. What I didn't anticipate was what it would feel like to spend five years inside the life of the woman who led one of the wildest protests in American history. I came out with my brain rearranged." Joiner is thrilled that more people will have the opportunity to have their mindsets shifted by learning about these hard-won victories.

Prior to the film, Beacon Press had already been dedicated to efforts that have expanded the reach of *Being Heumann* through multiple accessible and age-appropriate editions. The memoir has been made available in large print format, and the audiobook is narrated by Tony Award–winning actress Ali Stroker, who was inspired to participate after seeing aspects of her own experience reflected in Judy's story. Heumann and Joiner also collaborated on *Rolling Warrior: The Incredible, Sometimes Awkward, True Story of a Rebel Girl on Wheels Who Helped Spark a Revolution*, a critically acclaimed adaptation of the memoir written for young readers, which introduced Judy's story to a new generation.

"Judy Heumann changed the world, and *Being Heumann* is one of the most powerful personal accounts of social change that Beacon Press has had the privilege to publish," said Gayatri Patnaik, director of Beacon Press. "It has been a joy to see this book resonate with so many, and we can't wait for the film to carry her powerful message even further."

As anticipation builds for the film's release, the memoir remains a powerful and enduring call to action, inviting new readers to discover Heumann's vision for a more inclusive and equitable world. It also creates a timely opportunity for booksellers, librarians, educators, and readers to revisit the memoir and experience Judy Heumann's story as she and Joiner set out to tell it.



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