

# THE R-WORD

## Speaker Info Sheet

### **Amanda Lukoff** – Filmmaker

Amanda Lukoff was born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware, and grew up as part of a set of triplets and with her older sister who was born with Down syndrome. Amanda received her B.A. in English & Black American Studies from the University of Delaware and worked for many years in communications-related positions in the non-profit & private sector, as well as doing on-camera and voice-over work, before deciding to focus her energy & passion on film and TV production. In 2010 Amanda and her husband founded Thorough Productions, a full-service production company based out of the DC metro area. Amanda's scope of work includes directing, producing, and writing, for clients in television, business and non-profit, with a special focus on work highlighting marginalized communities. Amanda is excited to have just finished work on her feature film debut, *The R-Word*.

### **Loretta Claiborne** – Athlete, Advocate, Public Speaker

Loretta Claiborne is a woman of faith who shares her personal story to promote hope and tolerance for all people around the world. Claiborne is a world-class runner and accomplished public speaker, who also happens to be a Special Olympics Athlete and a person who has an intellectual disability. She has received two honorary doctorate degrees (Quinnipiac University in 1995 and Villanova University in 2003); completed 26 marathons, her best time being 3:03; received the 1996 ESPY Award-Arthur Ashe Award for Courage; Walt Disney Productions created "The Loretta Claiborne Story" about her inspiring life in 2000; has a 4th degree black belt in karate; communicates in 4 languages, including being fluent in American Sign Language; is an inductee into the Women in Sports Hall of Fame and into the Special Olympics Pennsylvania Hall of Fame.

### **Frank Stephens** – Actor, Author, Advocate

Frank Stephens lives with a thought from Mahatma Gandhi foremost in his mind, "My life is my message." That thought is at the heart of Frank's statement, "I am a man with Down syndrome, and my life is worth living." Frank describes himself as an Actor, Author, Advocate, and truly is all of those. He has appeared in feature films, work-shopped plays in New York, developed a recurring role in the Emmy-winning *Born This Way*, and appears in documentaries, like *The R-Word*, related to intellectual disabilities. He has written op-ed pieces published all over the world. He is an articulate advocate who logged over 70,000 miles, in 2018 alone, addressing audiences large and small.

### **David Egan** – Trailblazer, Advocate

David is an eager advocate for people with intellectual disabilities at the local, national and international level focusing and imagining the possibilities. He served as a Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Fellow from 2015 to 2016 on Capitol Hill at the Ways and Means Committee working with the Social Security Subcommittee and then with the National Down Syndrome Society. He is also a Special Olympics Shriver International Global Messenger serving as a spokesperson for people with intellectual disabilities and serves on several Boards to promote Abilities and collaborate with other advocacy groups. David has been working in a competitive job for the past 20 years, including Booz Allen Hamilton, CBRE, and currently as a Community Relations Specialist at Source America with the Government Affairs Team. David has received numerous awards and speaks at various conferences and fundraising events building awareness and promoting respect, inclusion, and dignity for all people.

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### **Contact Info**

For questions about this info sheet, please contact:

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