



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 25, 2025

## **Drexel Theatre Co-Presents Columbus Premiere of Documentary Film *Deaf Santa Claus***

*Deaf Santa Claus*, a new feature documentary film, will host its Columbus Premiere at the historic Drexel Theatre (2254 E. Main St.) on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 7 pm.

Set amid a national rollout to theaters across the country, *Deaf Santa Claus* brings together families, educators, advocates, and community leaders for an evening that blends storytelling and community dialogue. ASL interpreters will be available, and the film will screen with open captions to ensure full accessibility for all attendees.

In collaboration with the Deaf Santa Claus Foundation, a post-film conversation will feature Deaf Santa Claus Charles Graves and Executive Producer Evan Winegard, with moderator Megan Fitze, Executive Director of Arts Possible Ohio. Founded in 1986, Arts Possible Ohio works together with artists of all ages who have disabilities to advocate for accessibility and inclusivity, advance careers in the creative sector, build community, and improve the academic achievement of Ohio's students through arts integration.

A free pre-show networking event, co-hosted by the Ohio Deaf Association, will also be held, beginning at 6 pm.

Tickets are \$13.50/\$11.50 (\$9.50 for Drexel members) and are on-sale now at [Drexel.net](https://drexel.net).

With an uncanny resemblance to the iconic holiday figure, Charles Graves pursues his dream of becoming a professional Deaf Santa Claus. The filmmakers follow Charles and his family as he attends Santa school and gathers support along the way, striving to better provide for his loved ones. Co-directed by Ben Shelton and Anthony Mowl, the documentary connects Deaf and hearing worlds in a story rooted in access, identity, and community resilience.

*“Deaf Santa Claus* represents the deepest core of our work as an independent exhibitor: to welcome diverse communities to our theater centered around the cinematic arts. This documentary exemplifies our mission, and we're honored to share the joy, connectedness, and understanding the film brings,” said Drexel Theatre Director Mack Glasgow.

Central Ohio is home to a dynamic and growing Deaf and hard-of-hearing community supported by early childhood programs, educational institutions, advocacy organizations, interpreting services, and cultural groups that contribute to a vibrant regional ecosystem. This strong foundation of accessibility and community leadership makes Columbus a meaningful stop on the national *Deaf Santa Claus* tour.

### **About the Deaf Santa Claus Foundation**

The Deaf Santa Claus Foundation is a nonprofit dedicated to expanding inclusive holiday traditions through film, live events, and educational outreach. The Foundation supports the national rollout of *Deaf Santa Claus*, creating new lasting traditions for all children and their families by ensuring they are seen, valued, and fully included in the joy of the holiday season.

deafsantaclaus.org

# # #

### **About the Drexel Theatre**

For generations, the Drexel Theatre has been central Ohio's first source for independent film and the best of Hollywood and international cinema, striving to specialize in simply the best films from around the world. Support is provided by The Columbus Foundation's J. Allen and Ruth Maxwell Pyne Fund and Jame A. Flint Fund, with the assistance of the Ingram-White Castle Foundation.

### **About Friends of the Drexel, Inc.**

Established in late 2009 by a group of committed community leaders and arts patrons, Friends of the Drexel, Inc. is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to a more creative and prosperous future for the Drexel Theatre. Its mission is to secure and sustain the future of the historic Drexel Theatre as a distinctive cultural asset to Bexley and the greater Columbus community. It envisions the Drexel as a sustainable provider of unique arts content as well as a vibrant community meeting place that preserves the charm and eclectic, neighborhood film-going experience in a warm and inviting, yet technologically advanced, facility. The Friends of the Drexel, Inc. is grateful for the philanthropic support provided by individuals and corporations that make our work possible. For a full list of donors, please visit: <https://www.drexel.net/supporters/>.

### **Contact:**

Evan Winegard, *Deaf Santa Claus*  
[evan@deafsantaclaus.org](mailto:evan@deafsantaclaus.org)

Jim Fischer, CAPA/Drexel Theatre  
[jfischer@capa.com](mailto:jfischer@capa.com)