



# TRUSTED SOURCE

*presents*

## "Mr. Connolly Has ALS"

*"I truly believe that our public schools are the spaces where we have to be pushing for inclusion. That by pushing for inclusion in this space, it ripples out into our communities and into our world."*

- Gene Connolly



This month, Trusted Source spotlights filmmaker Dan Habib's documentary *Mr. Connolly Has ALS*. The film follows principal of Concord High Gene Connolly, an energetic and inspiring educator, as he comes to terms with losing his ability to speak and walk to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease). Much of the documentary features Connolly sitting down with the students of his high school in his final year as principal and answering their most personal questions about living with his disease.

We salute director Dan Habib, whose son has cerebral palsy and whose conversation with Connolly was the catalyst for this film, for making another intimate portrait of living positively with a disability.

## THREE REASONS TO WATCH

### INCLUSION

The film is about engaging in education and the difference it can make in a community. It shows that a great school is one that opens its doors and its minds to a variety of abilities.

### EMPATHY

We applaud Gene Connolly for allowing himself to appear vulnerable on film. By being brave and open, he allows the audience to understand the levels of complexity that come with living with ALS.

### OPTIMISM

Despite the film's tough subject, Connolly displays a remarkably positive attitude that has a clear effect on the people around him. He teaches us to celebrate life while we live it.

There is so much exciting and well-made media about disability. The challenge is knowing where to find it, and how to use it.

Trusted Source is a monthly media recommendation that you can use in your trainings and classrooms, and that you can share with your networks. We hope you find these pieces as insightful and inspiring as we do.

**GOT A MEDIA SUGGESTION? LET US KNOW!**

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