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Welcome
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Productions

TRUSTED SOURCE

presents

SPECIAL - A Streamable Triumph of Representation



This month, Trusted Source invites you to learn about Ryan O'Connell and his new show *Special* on Netflix. O'Connell, who lives with Cerebral Palsy, has heavy influence on the project. He serves as the creator, lead actor, writer, and executive producer (alongside *The Big Bang Theory's* Jim Parsons).

The show, based on O'Connell's memoir *I'm Special: And Other Lies we Tell Ourselves*, is a semi-autobiographical account of its creator's life with cerebral palsy and his

real-life decision to lie about his physical disability, claiming it was the result of a car accident.

The show also features his character's struggle as a disabled gay man, and how he must navigate his life proving that he is more than his identities. His relationship to his sexuality is explored from a fresh viewpoint, and encourages a healthy approach to sex and self-love.

THREE REASONS TO WATCH

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US

This is a story about a disabled person. It is written by a disabled person, and the character is played by a disabled person. This kind of representation is very rare in media, especially scripted television. Those watching will receive an honest, truthful point of view.

QUICK TO ABSORB

Special's extremely accessible, eight-episode season can be streamed with a Netflix subscription. With their easily digested, fifteen-minute run times, the episodes can be binge-watched in just about two hours.

SHOT FOR HUMOR

The topics of disability and queerness are often approached with an air of tragedy. In contrast, this show approaches the characters' day-to-day struggles with quick quips and influences of situational comedy. It has high contrast, bright colors, and bouncy music. The characters pop off the screen with bold personalities and extreme points -of-view.

There are many exciting films and well-made media featuring 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 revealing as we do.

Visit welcomechange.org for more info, and follow us on social media below!

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