



review

by Karen Bloomberg

Defiant Lives

written by Sarah Barton

*produced by Sarah Barton
and Liz Burke*

“**Defiant Lives**” is an ambitious documentary that tracks the history of the disability right movement in Australia, the UK and the USA. Written by Sarah Barton and produced by Sarah and Liz Burke, the film has archival footage that covers many of the key issues that have driven people with disability to fight for social change.

The documentary touches on topics such as deinstitutionalisation, charity and disability, the medical versus the social construct of disability and physical access. The emphasis is on people with a physical disability although the appalling conditions that people with an intellectual disability have endured is also covered.

The film is aimed at a general audience. It clearly highlights the importance of reframing our understanding of disability from a problem existing within individuals to a social problem. The barriers to full participation exist because of a lack of knowledge and negative attitudes about people with disability compounded by a built environment that often makes inclusion difficult, if not impossible. Access is one of the key themes and

the fight for physical access is seen with footage of protests about kerb cut-outs, ramps and user-friendly public transport.

To see the film check out the face book page

<https://www.facebook.com/defiantlives/>

See a short trailer on vimeo

<https://vimeo.com/159171642>

The battle is ongoing. People with disability have literally changed the world in which we live but there is still a long way to go. My physical disability and use of a mobility scooter changed my journey home after the film from a 20 minute train ride to an hour and half saga. Does it still have to be so hard??