

## **2018 Media Access Awards Honor Actor CJ Jones with SAG-AFTRA Harold Russell Award**

*Awards Celebrate Media & Entertainment Trailblazers Advancing Disability Awareness, Diversity & Inclusion*

**LOS ANGELES – Oct. 29, 2018** – The **Easterseals** will present this year's **Media Access Awards** gala breakfast, November 1 at The Beverly Hills Hotel. Co-hosts comedian Drew Lynch (*America's Got Talent*) and actor Logan Browning (Netflix's *Dear White People*) will be joined by presenters that include: Producer Jonathan Murray and the cast of *Born This Way*, Academy Award-winner Marlee Matlin (*Quantico*), and others. The annual ceremony steps into a new era, paying tribute to pioneers of the entertainment industry who have worked to advance public awareness and inclusion for people with disabilities.

One very special honoree at this year's awards is actor and deaf-advocate **CJ Jones**. Jones is being recognized for his role as *Joseph* in the 2017 summer hit "Baby Driver", directed by Edgar Wright and co-starring Ansel Elgort. This role made CJ the first black deaf actor in an international Blockbuster film.

*"I've never dreamt of success, it was my passion and determination to achieve" –CJ Jones*

In keeping with the Media Access Award's mission and the spirit of the **SAG-AFTRA Harold Russell Award**, CJ Jones' performance in "Baby Driver" as well as his body of work contribute to positive and accurate depictions of deaf individuals in media.

### **About CJ Jones**

CJ is a legend in the deaf world, acclaimed for his humor and inspiration. He has developed 3 one man shows that have toured the US, Japan, Sweden, Australia, Ecuador, and Canada. He co-wrote and directed 6 classic fairytales for children's television, a series called "Once Upon A Sign". CJ produced the International Sign Language Theater Festival, which hosted theater artists from all over the US, Russia, and Mexico. He continues to use his never-ending passion in acting, producing, and directing to give back to the deaf and sign language community.

### **About the Media Access Awards**

An estimated 61 million Americans live with disabilities. In recognition of this reality, the Media Access Awards was created in 1979 by the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities in conjunction with producer Fern Field and her late husband, Norman Brooks. Its goal remains enabling entertainment unions and guilds to recognize the social impact of films, television, and broadcasting emphasizing diversity and inclusion.

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