



of Southeast Los Angeles County

Since 1956...serving people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities

Stephen Guzman
President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Arc OF SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONDEMNS NEGATIVE
DEPICTION OF PEOPLE W/ INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES IN
FILM "TROPIC THUNDER"**

The Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County announces a local campaign to address the portrayal of an individual with an intellectual disability in the movie "Tropic Thunder" which opened nationwide this week. The Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County joins the efforts of The Arc of the United States and other national advocacy groups mobilizing around the use of hate-speech in referring to persons with intellectual disabilities. "Tropic Thunder" features Ben Stiller portraying "Simple Jack," a person with an intellectual disability; this character is repeatedly referred to as a "retard," "moron," and "imbecile."

The Arc is urging the general public not to spend their hard earned dollars on this film because of its deplorable and demeaning view of a person with intellectual disabilities. Arc President, Stephen Guzman said, "This is an opportunity to educate our neighbors about the rights of people with disabilities – most importantly to live with the same dignity afforded every ordinary American,"

The Arc is asking for a renewed level of respect for people with intellectual disabilities. Unfortunately, this movie sets us back many years, as we fight for the rights of people with disabilities. People with intellectual disabilities have the right to hold a job, to have friends, and to live in peace free from ridicule and the object of jokes. It is difficult enough living with a disability and we as a people of good conscience must move forward and not tolerate disability jokes as a norm in our society or in the movies we watch. The "R" word should not be used to make fun of over 7 million Americans with intellectual disabilities.

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