

# FILM LIST

## The Best of Men

Directed by Tim Whitby (2014)

Having fled from Nazi Germany to Buckinghamshire England, neurosurgeon Dr. Ludwig Guttman devotes himself to reforming the neglectful healthcare offered to soldiers returning from the frontlines with paralyzing spinal injuries. Committed to treating the whole person—mind, heart, and body—Guttman founds what has become the Paralympic Games to rehabilitate the young veterans' sense of self-worth and facilitate their reintegration into society. Guttman's creativity and commitment enable the young soldiers to recognize the value of their lives. Revived, "the best of men" reach for reconciliation with their families and begin to relieve their society of its crippling prejudices.

### Justification

*The Best of Men* offers an affirmation of the immeasurable value of every human person, whether abled or disabled. Themes of self-sacrifice, creativity, persevering courage and joyful hope in the face of defeatism and neglect inspire reflection on ways that we can foster a climate of respect for the human person and contribute to the authentic development of our society.

### Guide questions for discussion groups

- What are the different perceptions of the human person presented in this film?
- What distinguishes Dr. Guttman's from Dr. Cowan's practice of medicine? And what two understandings of the human person are revealed by their two approaches to healthcare?
- Discuss and compare the courage exemplified by three characters in the film.
- How are characters' perceptions of what is valuable transformed?

- What does the film reveal about the relationships between sport, the human person, and society?
- Who are “the best of men” and why?