

Tropic Thunder Statement

PRINT

PLEASE NOTE THAT DOCUMENTS MENTIONED IN THE BELOW STATEMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING LATER TODAY



TO: NDSS and NDSC Affiliate Groups

FROM: Jon Colman, President, National Down Syndrome Society
David Tolleson, Executive Director, National Down Syndrome Congress

RE: Tropic Thunder

August 12, 2008

Dear Affiliate Leaders,

As noted previously, DreamWorks Studios has indicated they will not edit their film, "Tropic Thunder". Therefore, a nationwide boycott has been announced by NDSS, NDSC, Special Olympics, The Arc of the United States, and many other disability rights groups.

Last night, at the film's premiere, the first protest was held in Hollywood. Down Syndrome Association of Los Angeles Executive Director, Gail Williamson, was among the leaders of a group of over 200 self advocates, parents, representatives from organizations, including NDSC and NDSS, and actors with physical and intellectual disabilities. They stood outside the theater with signs stating, "Call me by name, not by my label."

Last night's protest garnered significant national media coverage.

What can your group do?

~Attached is the Coalition's Statement of Support and Solidarity. NDSS and NDSC are asking that you sign on. We need as many signatures as possible. If your group is interested in signing on to, please send your name, group name, and contact information to Barbara Kornblau at Special Olympics, ASAP at bkornblau@specialolympics.org.

~Consider sending a note to your local public schools, warning principals to be on the lookout for offensive “Tropic Thunder” merchandise, which may disrupt the school setting. A letter drafted by the Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress is attached for your review.

~In Delaware, Georgia, Rhode Island and elsewhere, conference calls have been held to unify the efforts of local Down syndrome affiliates, ARC, and Special Olympics chapters. Together, you can take these steps for tomorrow’s nationwide opening of the film:

·Try to contact your local chapters of The Arc and/or Special Olympics to coordinate your efforts. “Many hands make light work.”

·Contact your local news media.

·Make sure to stay on public property (e.g. - a sidewalk), unless you’ve been given permission by the property owner to protest on their property.

·Review the “Media Action Kit” (see attached), provided by Special Olympics for tips, sample leaflets and talking points. You may want to use all, some, or none of it. The materials are attached to this email.

~Consider sharing this online petition with your members:

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/stopTropicThunder?e>

As acting members of the coalition, NDSC and NDSS will be part of an ad this Friday in the *New York Times* – please see the attached ad.

We need your help, we need your actions, and we need your voice.

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