

STAR

Photos capture their joy

Photos from page E1

Guidotti's portraits have been shown in museums and hospitals, featured in magazines and books. "Positive Exposure," an exhibit of his work, is on display now at Houston's Nicole Longnecker Gallery. And Asia's portrait — along with the other Houston photos — will be added to the exhibit next week, when Guidotti returns to talk about his work.

The exhibit is part of Reabilities: Houston Disabilities Film Festival, which opens Sunday for its second year in Houston with nine films that tell the stories of people with disabilities.

For years, Guidotti was a fashion photographer. His clients were Elle, GQ, L'Oréal, Yves Saint Laurent; his models were Cindy Crawford and Kate Moss, Christy Turlington and Claudia Schiffer. But Guidotti's career — and his life — changed abruptly one afternoon in 1997, when he left his New York studio and spotted a young girl with gorgeous white hair and pale skin waiting for a bus.

"She was beautiful," Guidotti said in an interview. "I'd never met a model that looked like this."

He didn't approach her; instead, he went to a bookstore and found everything he could read about the girl's condition, albinism. Soon he was digging up old medical textbooks and looking for photographs of people with albinism — and what he found was "horrific." Instead of the smiling girl he'd seen at the bus stop, he saw photographs of miserable-looking people lined up against walls as objects of study, some with black bars over their eyes to hide their identities.

"The more research I did, the more horrible things I dug up," Guidotti said. He couldn't find a single positive photo of a person with albinism. That's when he realized he needed to take those photos.

Guidotti contacted a national support group

for people with albinism and talked them into working with him on a photo project. He shot some glamorous photos of beautiful kids with albinism, and in 1998 those photos were featured in Life magazine. People started calling from all over the world, asking him to photograph kids with disabilities and genetic differences.

Since then, he has been on a mission: to show the world that kids with albinism, Down syndrome or cerebral palsy aren't ugly, instead, they're utterly gorgeous. His subjects are growing up in a world that tells them they should feel ashamed of being different. His camera shows that those differences don't prevent them from being total knockouts.

"It's still about beauty for me," Guidotti said. "It's not about trying to take all these kids that have a variety of differences and force them into the parameters of an existing beauty standard — but creating a new one, creating their very own beauty standard."

Guidotti travels constantly, speaking at medical schools, nursing schools, genetic counseling programs. He's producing a series of videos for medical students that feature kids with genetic differences — he wants them to replace those awful textbook photos by connecting a face, a voice and a winning personality to each condition or disorder.

Rachel Davis, chief development officer for festival presenter Jewish Family Service, first saw Guidotti's work at a conference in Tel Aviv. She knew immediately, that his photographs fit perfectly with the Reabilities mission.

"I was so impressed with how someone who has been in the world of fashion — where the definition of beauty is often airbrushed — would leave his very successful full profession to try to bring to life the beauty of children who have genetic differences," she said.

Guidotti's photographs make people look at dis-

abilities with a new eye, she said. And the parents of his subjects are thrilled that someone else has seen their children the way they do, Davis said.

The 34 photos made in Houston will remain in Houston, where they'll be shown at venues all over the city once the festival ends. (Look for "Positive Exposure" at City Hall in June.)

In jeans, a black pull-over and Pumas, Guidotti crawled on that Houston hotel floor and chased after runaway toddlers. He put his face up against his subjects', meeting them eye to eye. He stroked the cheek of Rachael Adaye, a 5-year-old who has Edwards syndrome.

"Did you put false eyelashes on her this morning?" he teased Rachael's mom, Sarah Adaye.

She beamed. "They're



Kuzzmin.com

Photographer Rick Guidotti sees beauty in every child. "It's not about trying to take all these kids that have a variety of differences and force them into the parameters of an existing beauty standard — but creating a new one, creating their very own beauty standard."

all hers." Guidotti peered back at Rachael. "It's impossible!" he teased. "I can't be!"

When Rachael was born, doctors didn't expect her to survive more

than six hours. Adaye said. She has multiple disabilities, but she's now a kindergarten who'll turn 6 in April.

Guidotti leaned against Rachael's wheelchair,

clicking away as she stared up at his lens, unblinking. He smiled as he clicked: "She's breathtaking."

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JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECURIT [PG13] 1141 215 900 1940
LABOR DAY [PG13] 1130 215 900
LEGEND OF HERCULES - REALD 3D [PG13] 1130 215 900
THE BUT JOB [PG13] 1200 450 700 940
RISE ALONG [PG13] 1125 210 450 700 940
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY [PG13] 1145 610
THE ANKWARD MOMENT [PG13] 1200 230 455 700 945
WOLF OF WALL STREET [PG13] 220 700

CINEMARK SPRING KLEIN AND XD
21440 Kuykendahl Rd.

LONE SURVIVOR - XD [PG13] 1225 340 855 955

L. FRANKENSTEIN - REALD 3D [PG13] 145 555 715 1100AM 40PM
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECURIT [PG13] 1141 215 900 1940
THE BUT JOB - REALD 3D [PG13] 1200 450 700 940
LABOR DAY [PG13] 1130 215 900
LEGEND OF HERCULES - REALD 3D [PG13] 1130AM
THE BUT JOB [PG13] 1200 450 700 940
RISE ALONG [PG13] 1125 210 450 700 940
12 YEARS A SLAVE [PG13] 20PM
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY [PG13] 1150 300 625 925
FROZEN [PG13] 1045 420 800
FROZEN SING-A-LONG [PG13] 1155 410 815

CINEMARK WEBSTER
45 - S. S. Neas Pkwy

LONE SURVIVOR - XD [PG13] 1100 200 500 800

FROZEN [PG13] 1015 805
HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE [PG13] 945PM
L. FRANKENSTEIN [PG13] 145 400
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECURIT [PG13] 103 445 715 945
LABOR DAY [PG13] 1105 100 345 730 1015
LEGEND OF HERCULES - REALD 3D [PG13] 1120 345 700 945
THE BUT JOB [PG13] 1200 450 700 945
RISE ALONG [PG13] 1110 145 425 700 940
WOLF OF WALL STREET [PG13] 1155 410 815
11:10 150 430 725
THAT ANKWARD MOMENT [PG13] 1105 145 425 700 940
GRONK DAY (1993) [PG13] 200 700

CINEMARK PEARLAND
3211 Silverlake Village Dr.

RISE ALONG - XD [PG13] 1250 340 620 850

L. FRANKENSTEIN - REALD 3D [PG13] 1130 445 715 950
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECURIT [PG13] 1130 215 900 1940
LABOR DAY [PG13] 1135 220 450 700 940
LEGEND OF HERCULES - REALD 3D [PG13] 1135 220 450 700 940
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AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY [PG13] 1145 610
THE ANKWARD MOMENT [PG13] 1200 230 455 700 945
WOLF OF WALL STREET [PG13] 220 700

TINSLETOWN 290
Hwy 290 Between Pinnacott & Hollister

RISE ALONG - XD [PG13] 1035 125 415 710 1000

L. FRANKENSTEIN - REALD 3D [PG13] 1240 200 500 730 845
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECURIT [PG13] 1141 215 900 1940
THE BUT JOB - REALD 3D [PG13] 1200 450 700 940
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AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY [PG13] 1145 610
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WOLF OF WALL STREET [PG13] 220 700

CINEMARK KATY
140 Grand Parkway

RISE ALONG - XD [PG13] 1135 210 445 700 855

L. FRANKENSTEIN - REALD 3D [PG13] 1215 345 520 835 750
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECURIT [PG13] 1130 215 900 1940
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CINEMARK ROSENBERG
59 S. W. Freeway @ Beading Road

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L. FRANKENSTEIN [PG13] 1130 215 900
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECURIT [PG13] 1130 215 900 1940
LABOR DAY [PG13] 1135 215 900 1940
LEGEND OF HERCULES - REALD 3D [PG13] 1135 215 900 1940
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THE ANKWARD MOMENT [PG13] 1200 230 455 700 945
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HOLLYWOOD 20 PASADENA
S. Sherry & Pasadena Blvd.

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L. FRANKENSTEIN [PG13] 1130 215 900
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECURIT [PG13] 1130 215 900 1940
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RISE ALONG [PG13] 1125 210 450 700 940
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY [PG13] 1145 610
THE ANKWARD MOMENT [PG13] 1200 230 455 700 945
WOLF OF WALL STREET [PG13] 220 700

CINEMARK MARKET STREET
515 Rhea Road @ Lake Robbins

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JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECURIT [PG13] 1130 215 900 1940
LABOR DAY [PG13] 1130 215 900
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