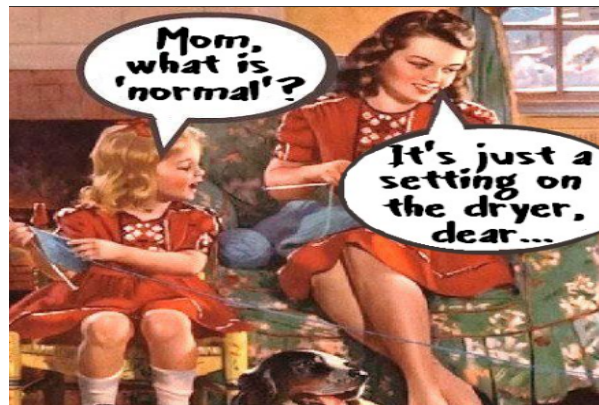


NEWS RELEASE
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Everyone has a different normal. Award-winning documentary filmmaker Krys Kornmeier has captured the unique challenges and strategies that four adults with learning disabilities and/or ADHD have developed to create their “normal” path to success. The 72-minute documentary **NORMAL ISN'T REAL: Succeeding with Learning Disabilities & ADHD** does not prescribe a one size fits all approach; rather, it showcases the talents, insights and tools four individuals from diverse backgrounds utilize to successfully navigate both their personal and professional lives.

*“The seeds for **NORMAL ISN'T REAL** were sewn over 20 years ago when our son Jack, a child who loved books and stories, was identified with learning disabilities (LD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)”, explains Director Kornmeier. “This was a stunning revelation that launched us on a journey for which we had no experience or road map.”*

NORMAL ISN'T REAL was produced to inspire educators, parents, students, employers, and others who care about LD and ADHD issues and the people who live with them. The documentary offers real-life experiences about the frustrations and insights of the four individuals featured in the film as they struggled to manage their challenges and make a future where their learning differences often contribute to their success.

“Delving into the world of LD and ADHD, I learned that Jack's challenges are shared by at least 1 in 5 people,” comments Kornmeier. *“Many are very bright and often highly creative. They include some of our most successful leaders in every field.”* But these same issues can result in early school failures that spiral into a loss of self-esteem and derail a bright future. A disproportionate number of youths in correctional facilities have been diagnosed with LD and ADHD issues.

The goal of **NORMAL ISN'T REAL** is not to illuminate the latest research or brain science around LD and ADHD, but to share the experiences of successful people with these issues in the hope of inspiring young people like them, their families, and teachers and others to persevere, accept and celebrate their differences, and give them tools to apply to their own lives.

In Kornmeier's film, **NORMAL ISN'T REAL: Succeeding with Learning Disabilities & ADHD** four successful young adults share the ups and downs of their journeys to becoming experts on themselves and what they need to succeed. They agreed to be featured in this film with the hope of helping others like them figure out not only how to survive, but to thrive. They understand that the stigma attached to learning and attention issues can be the biggest obstacle to success.

NORMAL ISN'T REAL is already receiving acclaim. The film was referenced in **Forbes**, in two articles on diversity in the workplace by journalist Denise Brodey.

[What Does A Diverse Workplace Really Look Like? You May Be Surprised](#) and [Let's Talk Disability](#)

Brodey wrote this about one of the film subjects: *Nicole Vaiani, a master colorist who owns her own salon in Massachusetts, says: "I learn differently. I learn by seeing and doing and it turns out I am better at my job than a lot of other people." Her differences are her strength and when she talks about it, she isn't bragging. She's starting a crucial conversation about her ability, not her disability, which is the key to becoming an effective role model, advocate or mentor. Even if your colleagues don't recognize it now, the evidence is clear, say economists, that a diverse workforce performs better.*

Since its premiere, **NIR** has been viewed at community screenings throughout the country, both in-person and virtual. Based on requests from viewers, an extensive **Toolkit** that expands on the messages in the film has been developed in partnership with **Landmark College Institute for Research and Training**. Lesson Plans, Learning Projects and a Resource Guide to Neurodiversity enable educators to help students apply some of the wisdom and strategies from the film to their own lives.

Krys Kornmeier has been a producer/director for over twenty-five years. Kornmeier's work has taken her to Africa, Borneo, China, and Jordan. She has produced nonfiction programs on a variety of topics for Discovery, Animal Planet, Global View Productions, Turner Broadcasting, and The Smithsonian Networks HD Channel. *EarthScope*, a thirteen-part environmental series for which she served as Executive in Charge of Production, was honored with a **Cable Ace Award**. *CritterQuest*, a three-part nature series for children she produced and directed for The Smithsonian Network, won a **2008 Golden Eagle Cine Award** for Non-Fiction Children's Programs. Kornmeier produced and directed *Zoo Vets*, a one-hour film about the National Zoo's veterinary team that aired on The Smithsonian Network's HD Channel. She directed two seasons of *Hoarding: Buried Alive!* for Discovery's TLC and has field directed stories on a range of subjects including addiction and voting rights.

For more information, visit www.normalisntreal.com.