

A DOCUMENTARY

UNSEEN SPECTRUM

GLOBAL STORIES OF AUTISM IN COLOR

MEDIA DECK

Every story matters.



Visuals

Watch the official trailer first

The official trailer for *Unseen Spectrum: Global Stories of Autism in Color* — the single documentary film, produced by Dr. Natasha Weems, DNP, AGPCNP-BC.

 [WATCH THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTARY TRAILER](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F51FbrVDLM)

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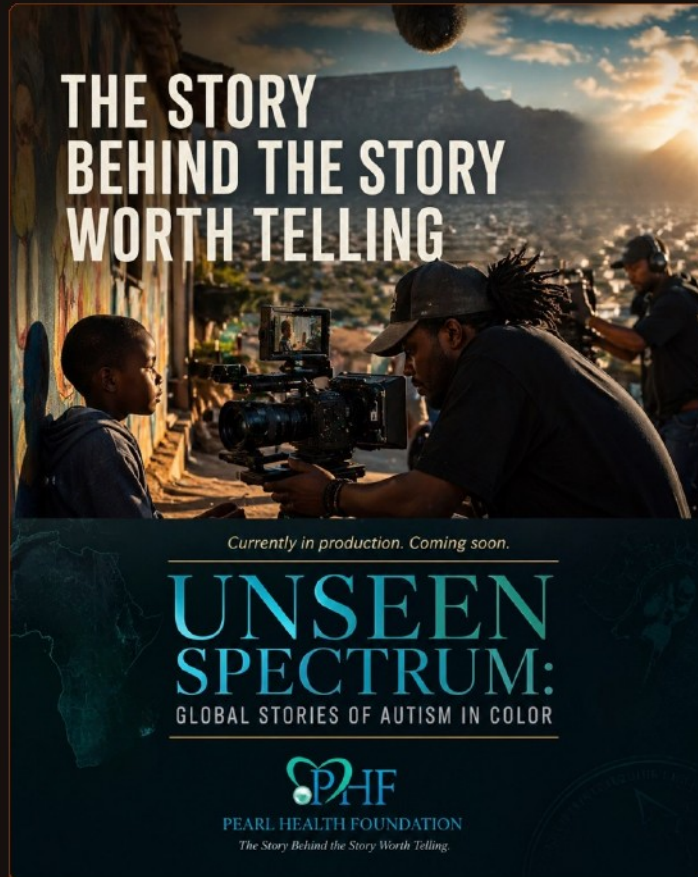
Currently in production. April 2027 is the target launch, contingent on completion.

Beyond the Diagnosis. Beyond the Stigma.



Logline

Diverse families belong at the center of the autism story



“Where autism is hidden, misread or diagnosed too late, a nurse practitioner and mother of an autistic daughter travels across Africa and the United States to meet the families, educators and clinicians working to make every child seen.”

Produced by Dr. Natasha Weems, DNP, AGPCNP-BC · Feature documentary · In production

Unseen Spectrum follows families across cultures and continents as they seek understanding, support, and acceptance for their autistic children — told in their own voices, not as background to someone else’s narrative.

“Every child deserves to be seen fully, early and with dignity.”

That is the film’s guiding conviction. The full treatment is available separately on request.

Beyond the Diagnosis. Beyond the Stigma.

Why Now

Diagnosis is rising — but care still arrives late for diverse families

The 2025 CDC ADDM report confirms autism rates among Black and Hispanic children now exceed those among White children. Higher diagnosis numbers have not translated into better services, earlier intervention, or culturally responsive care — the gap between the data and what families actually experience is what this film addresses.

1 in 31

U.S. children identified with autism — up from 1 in 150 in 2000 (CDC ADDM Network, 2025)

1 in 27

Black children diagnosed with autism, compared to 1 in 36 White children (CDC ADDM Network, 2025)

50%

of autistic children are not identified before age 3, with delays concentrated in minority communities (Autism Society of America, 2025)

Why Now

Globally, autism is under-counted, under-researched, and under-served

Africa is home to over 1.4 billion people, yet accounts for a fraction of global autism research. The data gap is not evidence of low prevalence — it is evidence of a system that has never prioritized looking. Stigma, a shortage of trained specialists, and assessment tools that do not translate across languages and cultures keep children unseen.

95%

of autistic individuals worldwide are estimated to live in low- and middle-income countries, where services are most scarce

0.5%

of all global autism research has been conducted in sub-Saharan Africa, a region of nearly one billion people

1% vs 4%

clinically confirmed prevalence in Africa sits near 1%, while high-risk screening studies suggest it may be as high as 4% — pointing to massive under-diagnosis

Story Arc

Four movements, from first questions to a way forward

1

Early diagnosis stories

Real stories from caregivers from diverse backgrounds navigating early diagnosis — the first signs, the first questions, and the search for answers.

2

Culture, barriers, and caregiver stress

Cultural beliefs, access barriers, and the stress caregivers carry when systems were not built for their families.

3

Expert voices

Interviews with therapists, pediatricians, and advocates on bias, cultural gaps, and what responsive care looks like.

4

Resources and empowerment

The film closes with resources, empowerment, and the way forward — emotional, raw, affirming, and educational in tone.

Team

Led by Pearl Health Foundation and Dr. Natasha Weems

“As a nurse practitioner and autism mom, I’ve lived this journey. This film is a personal and professional mission — to help families feel seen, to reduce caregiver shame, and to inspire systemic change in how autism is understood and supported.”

Dr. Natasha Weems, DNP, AGPCNP-BC brings clinical experience, community trust, and a public voice in health equity and autism acceptance. Her own daughter was nonverbal until age five and gained her voice through Kaufman Children’s Center in West Bloomfield, Michigan — proof that access to the right services at the right time changes a child’s entire trajectory.

Through Pearl Health Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the film is paired with community conversation — screenings, panels, and partnerships that continue after the credits.

That foundation gives sponsors a credible, mission-aligned partner, not just a logo placement.

Featured voice Melanie Soloway, Founder of Humanitarian Travel Group and International Speaker — Pearl Health Foundation joined her group for the February 2026 South Africa mission.



Production Status

In February 2026, the story went to South Africa

Pearl Health Foundation joined Melanie Soloway's Humanitarian Travel Group for the February 2026 South Africa mission trip to Johannesburg and Cape Town — humanitarian service, community health education, school outreach, and documentary field production. The barriers Dr. Weems witnessed confirmed the film's core message: they are not a uniquely American problem.

Johannesburg — field production

On-the-ground filming with community participants, capturing firsthand accounts of autism advocacy and family experience for the film.

A school for children on the spectrum

At a South African school specializing in children on the spectrum and neurodivergent children, Dr. Weems interviewed community educators and administrators about the support their children need.

Humanitarian Travel Group — partnership

Pearl Health Foundation joined the Humanitarian Travel Group, founded by Melanie Soloway, for this mission — youth empowerment and community service across Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Brought home to U.S. audiences

The South Africa mission story anchors the film's global arc — from Detroit and Temecula to Johannesburg and Cape Town, and back to American families.

Audience

Real families, clinicians, and advocates — in their own voices

Diverse families

Diverse families raising autistic children, telling their stories on screen — including featured voice Melanie Soloway, Founder of Humanitarian Travel Group.

Parents carrying it alone, and together

Single parents and veteran families navigating diagnosis, services, and advocacy.

Caregivers from diverse communities

Caregivers from African, Caribbean, and Hispanic communities, whose cultural beliefs and faith shape the journey to support.

Providers and advocacy leaders

Therapists and providers discussing bias and cultural gaps, alongside leaders in mental health advocacy.

Team

The team behind the film

1

Kerron Andrews — filmmaker, TriniMan Films

Kerron Andrews is a Trinidadian American director, writer and TEDx speaker, the founder of TriniMan Films, and Director of Media for Military Mutual. After 13 years of service in the U.S. Navy, he followed his passion for filmmaking and earned a Bachelor of Science in Digital Filmmaking from the Los Angeles Film School, graduating magna cum laude. He has written and directed short films including the award-winning Deploy (2020) and It Watches (2021), along with Reveel & Chill and Guilty. He has directed commercials for the streaming service Reveel Entertainment and three episodes of Hearts of Stars with Hallmark Channel actors Andrew Walker and Cindy Busby. Kerron is a filmmaker on Unseen Spectrum: Global Stories of Autism in Color.

2

Dr. Natasha Weems — Producer

Dr. Natasha Weems, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, is the producer of Unseen Spectrum: Global Stories of Autism in Color. She is a board-certified nurse practitioner, global caregiver, medical media correspondent, and founder and executive director of the Pearl Health Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit focused on health equity, autism advocacy, caregiver support and mental health. As the mother of a daughter on the autism spectrum, she brings both a clinical lens and lived experience to the film. She has appeared on camera as a medical expert on CBS News Detroit and WDIV-TV Local 4 Detroit, and serves as a media correspondent for The Hype Magazine. She is a member of the African-American Film Critics Association (AAFCA) and NABJLA. She hosts the Unboxed and Fearless podcast and wrote the award-winning book The Unbreakable Woman. She has spoken to schools, churches and community leaders in Africa on autism acceptance and mental health. Her honors include the 2024 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, California State Senate Woman of Achievement recognition, the 2025 AMARÉ Magazine Heroes of Change Award, a 2025 DigiFest Temecula Film Festival People's Choice Award, and 2026 honoree status with 100 Women of Excellence at the U.S. Capitol.

[READ DR. NATASHA'S BIO](#)

3

Pearl Health Foundation — production home

A Pearl Health Foundation Production, filmed across Africa and the United States. The Foundation pairs the film with community conversation — screenings, panels, and partnerships that continue after the credits.

Team

The team behind the film

Producer & Filmmaker — Behind the camera



Dr. Natasha Weems

DNP, AGPCNP-BC

Producer; nurse practitioner, media correspondent
and founder of Pearl Health Foundation



Kerron Andrews

Filmmaker, TriniMan Films

Director of Media for Military Mutual

Trinidadian-American filmmaker, writer, TEDx speaker and U.S. Navy veteran

Featured Voices

Featured voices sponsors can stand behind

Clinical and professional perspectives



Nancy R. Kaufman

MA, CCC-SLP

Speech-Language Pathologist; Founder,
Kaufman Children's Center



Amanda Prater

MA, BCBA, LBA

Autism Behavioral Specialist; Clinical
Director, Kaufman Children's Center



Lindsay Muncey

MA, BCBA, LBA

Behavior Analyst; Autism Clinical Director,
Kaufman Children's Center



Kimatha Spratling

LMSW-C

Interview Contributor

Featured Voices

Featured voices — global, education, and caregiver perspectives

Global and education perspectives



Melanie Soloway

Founder, Humanitarian Travel Group

Humanitarian and international speaker. Pearl Health Foundation joined her Humanitarian Travel Group for the February 2026 South Africa mission trip.



Dr. Carlson Jackson

Special Education Teacher

Education and community perspective



Nicole Powers

PMHNP-BC

Board-certified Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner —
Founder, Powerful Minds Psychiatry

Featured Voices

Featured voices — global, education, and caregiver perspectives

Global and education perspectives — South Africa school staff



South Africa school staff

Autism school, South Africa

School staff perspective from the autism school in South Africa



South Africa school staff

Autism school, South Africa

School staff perspective from the autism school in South Africa

Featured Voices

Featured voices — global, education, and caregiver perspectives

Caregiver perspectives



Elizabeth Brown

Parent & Caregiver

Mother of a son on the autism spectrum

Documentary artwork — illustrative, not real coverage



Morgan Woods

Parent & Caregiver

Mother of a daughter on the autism spectrum

Documentary artwork — illustrative, not real coverage



Ms. Te'Nay Thomas

Parent & Caregiver

A parent perspective on caregiving and support

Photos with children on this slide are documentary artwork — illustrative, not real coverage.

Pearl Framework

The PEARL Framework, woven through the film

Dr. Weems's PEARL Framework — shared in youth empowerment speeches on the South Africa mission — gives families and audiences a language for the journey this film follows.

P Purpose

E Empowerment

A Advocacy

R Resilience

L Legacy

Audience

Built for the audiences sponsors want to reach — and serve

Families

Parents raising autistic children who rarely see themselves on screen.

Caregivers

Relatives and support workers looking for community and relief.

Educators

Teachers and special education staff in classrooms worldwide.

Healthcare providers

Clinicians working toward earlier, fairer diagnosis.

Universities

Schools of health, education and social work using film to teach.

Community partners

Corporate and community impact teams seeking real reach — and values-aligned brands who want authentic association with inclusion, family wellbeing, and health equity.

Distribution targets include Tubi, ALLBLK, and BET+, and the Pan African Film Festival, Sundance, and BlackStar Film Festival — alongside community screenings, panels, and a screening tour. These are targets only; no distribution deal is confirmed.

Press

Already in the conversation — watch the trailer

Rolling Out — March 30, 2026

Autism awareness goes global with Dr. Natasha Weems

By Vera Emoghene

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)

<https://rollingout.com/2026/03/30/dr-natasha-weems-autism-documentary/>

[▶ WATCH THE INTERVIEW](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvaJSIOObvw>

[▶ WATCH THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTARY TRAILER](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_F51FbrVDLM

Produced by Dr. Natasha Weems, DNP, AGPCNP-BC

Beyond the Diagnosis. Beyond the Stigma.

Currently in production. Field production includes the February 2026 South Africa mission to Johannesburg and Cape Town. April 2027 is the target launch, contingent on completion.

The producer has also been featured in: Sheen Magazine · The Hype Magazine · Billboard Lifestyle Magazine · Los Angeles Magazine



WDIV Local 4 News — Live in the D
— April 14, 2026 — Autism
Acceptance Month — 13 min 47 sec
segment: 'Autism Advocate Dr.
Natasha Weems on Live In The D'

Production Status

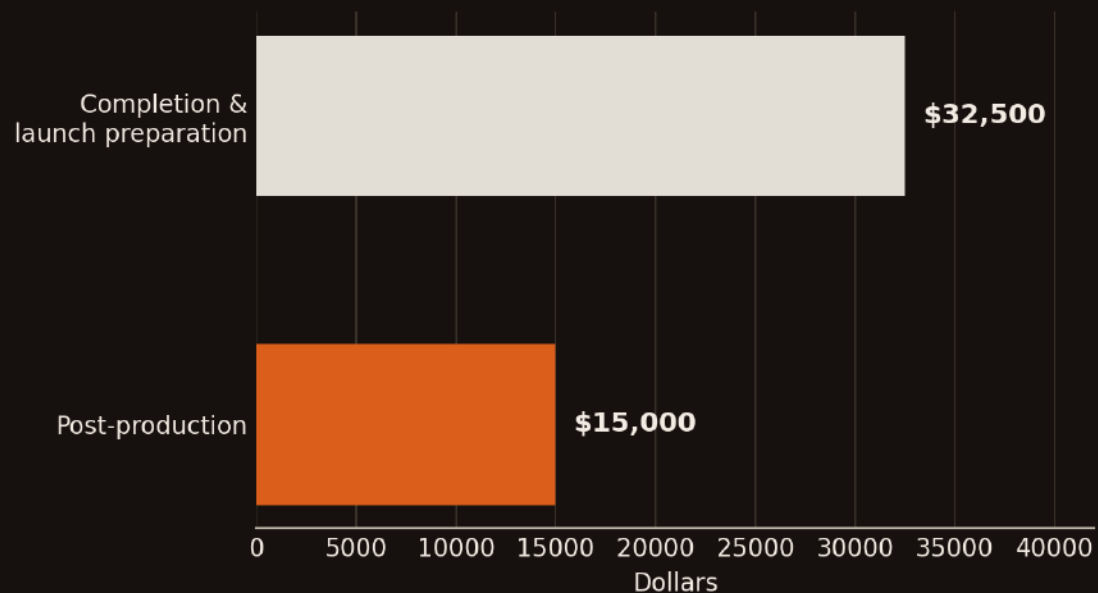
In production, targeting April 2027

- 1 Feb 2026 — filming began across the United States**
Done. Production opened with filming across the United States.
- 2 Feb—Mar 2026 — Africa Impact Tour filming, with school workshops**
Done. Filming in South Africa with the Humanitarian Travel Group mission, including school workshops.
- 3 Dec 2026 — production resumes with new expert interviews**
Next. The December 2026 shoot adds new expert interviews to complete the story.
- 4 Apr 2027 — film completion, during Autism Acceptance Month**
Target. Completion is planned for Autism Acceptance Month, April 2027.

Completion depends on funding. No premiere date or broadcaster is confirmed yet; screening and distribution partners are welcome.

Funding Need

\$45,000–\$50,000 brings the film to its April 2027 launch



Illustrative split at the \$47,500 midpoint. Final allocation is confirmed as completion milestones are locked.

Post-production — about \$15,000 — editing, color and sound, plus captions, accessibility, and final mastering.

December 2026 shoot — production resumes with new expert interviews, funded as part of the remaining need.

Music and licensing — clearing the music and materials the finished film needs.

Community screenings and impact — screening materials and community launch readiness.

Sponsorship now closes the gap between a powerful story filmed and a finished film audiences can experience.

Pearl Health Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit — sponsorships through the Foundation may be tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Sponsorship Tiers

Sponsorship tiers for the April 2027 launch

Bronze

\$650

- Website feature and link
- 30-second video promo
- 4 social media posts
- Podcast and radio mention for 2 months

Silver

\$1,800

- Logo and description on website
- 1-minute video promo
- Bi-weekly social ads for 90 days
- 4 email blasts
- Company name in foundation video

Gold

\$3,600

- Weekly social ads on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn
- 8 email blasts
- 90-day podcast promo
- 6-month Facebook and Instagram Live feature
- Speaking opportunity at the launch
- Logo on step and repeat

Platinum

\$6,000

- 2 social ads per week
- Monthly email blasts
- Custom marketing landing page
- 2-minute video promo
- 10-minute speaking slot at the launch
- Celebrity photo opportunity
- Live broadcast name mention

Custom packages are available. In-kind partners — venues, hospitality, production support and donated services — are also welcome.

Sponsorship Tiers

Producer sponsorships put your brand in the film

Contributions of \$10,000 or more include logo placement inside the documentary, visible across festival screenings and distribution. Both tiers receive an award at the April 2027 launch.

Associate Producer

\$10,000

- Screen credit as Associate Producer
- Logo placement inside the documentary
- Logo in documentary end credits
- Launch VIP table for 4 seats
- Social media recognition campaign
- Award presented at the launch

Executive Producer

\$15,000

- Screen credit as Executive Producer
- Logo in opening and closing credits
- Logo placement inside the documentary
- Launch VIP table for 8 seats
- Speaking slot at the launch
- Featured in press release
- Award presented at the launch

Screen credits are permanent — your brand stays part of this story wherever the film is shown. Pearl Health Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit; sponsorships through the Foundation may be tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Partner With Us

Help bring these unseen stories to the screen in April 2027

Join Pearl Health Foundation and Dr. Natasha Weems as a sponsor or community partner for *Unseen Spectrum: Global Stories of Autism in Color*.

Sponsor — choose a tier and invest in finishing the film.

Screen — host a screening for your school, clinic or community.

Partner — join as an expert, distributor or impact partner.

info@unseenspectrumdocumentary.com

info@thepearlhealthfoundation.com

unseenspectrumdocumentary.com

Instagram: [@unseenspectrumglobal](https://www.instagram.com/unseenspectrumglobal) · [@drnatasha_](https://www.instagram.com/drnatasha_)

A Pearl Health Foundation Production

April 2027 is the target launch, contingent on completion.

Scan to explore **Unseen Spectrum**



Scan for the documentary website
unseenspectrumdocumentary.com

Learn more about **Pearl Health Foundation**



thepearlhealthfoundation.com