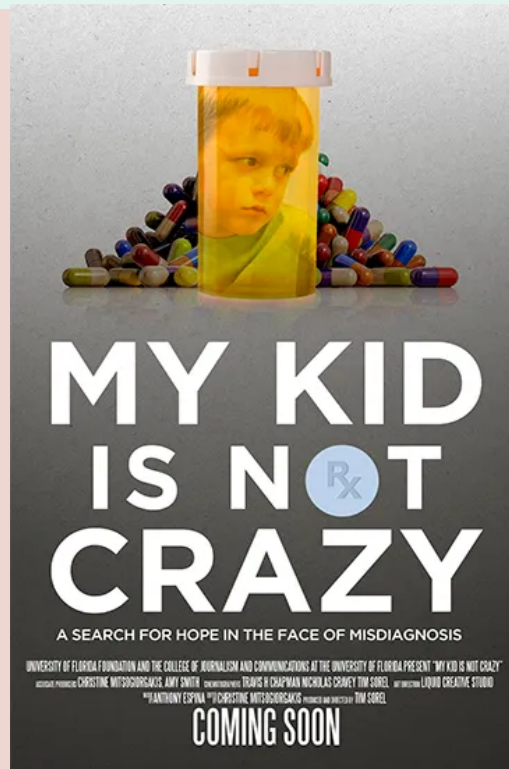


DOCUMENTARY: MY KID IS NOT CRAZY: A SEARCH FOR HOPE IN THE FACE OF MISDIAGNOSIS

DIRECTOR: TIM SOREL

REVIEW BY: SAMAY SURATWALA



“IMAGINE WATCHING YOUR NORMAL, HEALTHY CHILD MELT AWAY IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES AND REALIZING THAT YOU CAN NO LONGER TURN TO EVEN A HOSPITAL FOR MEDICAL CARE BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER YOU.”

My Kid is Not Crazy, a documentary film produced by Emmy-nominated director Tim Sorel, follows the lives of six children and their families as they become tangled in the nightmare of Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS), which is an infection that targets the basal ganglia region of the brain. Based on PANDAS Network Research, PANDAS is estimated to affect 1 out of every 200 children alone in the U.S. but it most often goes undiagnosed.

My Kid is Not Crazy shows the frustration of children and parents as the medical system continues to fail to recognize PANDAS. A child is happy and healthy one day and all of a sudden, in a matter of days, the child becomes mentally ill and disabled. Many of these children are hospitalized for weeks, put in psychiatric wards, separated from family, and are given dozens of psychiatric medications. The egos and self interests of the medical systems were preventing these children from getting the help they needed. Even health insurance companies failed to provide coverage for children with PANDAS. The film features interviews with experts in the Neuroscience field including Dr. Susan Swedo, who 30 years ago began linking cases of strep infections with PANDAS, and from there, a theory bloomed that undiagnosed strep causes an autoimmune reaction and inflammation of the brain, resulting in mental disorder symptoms. Towards the end of the documentary, most patients and families suffering found hope and better treatment options, leading to a better quality of life.

The documentary portrayed various emotions and real life experiences. Families did a wonderful job describing their emotional turmoil with this very significant disease. It is hard to believe how a simple undiagnosed strep throat can have such a debilitating impact on the pediatric population. This documentary informs viewers and brings awareness to this controversial, yet important, medical topic.

REFERENCES:

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