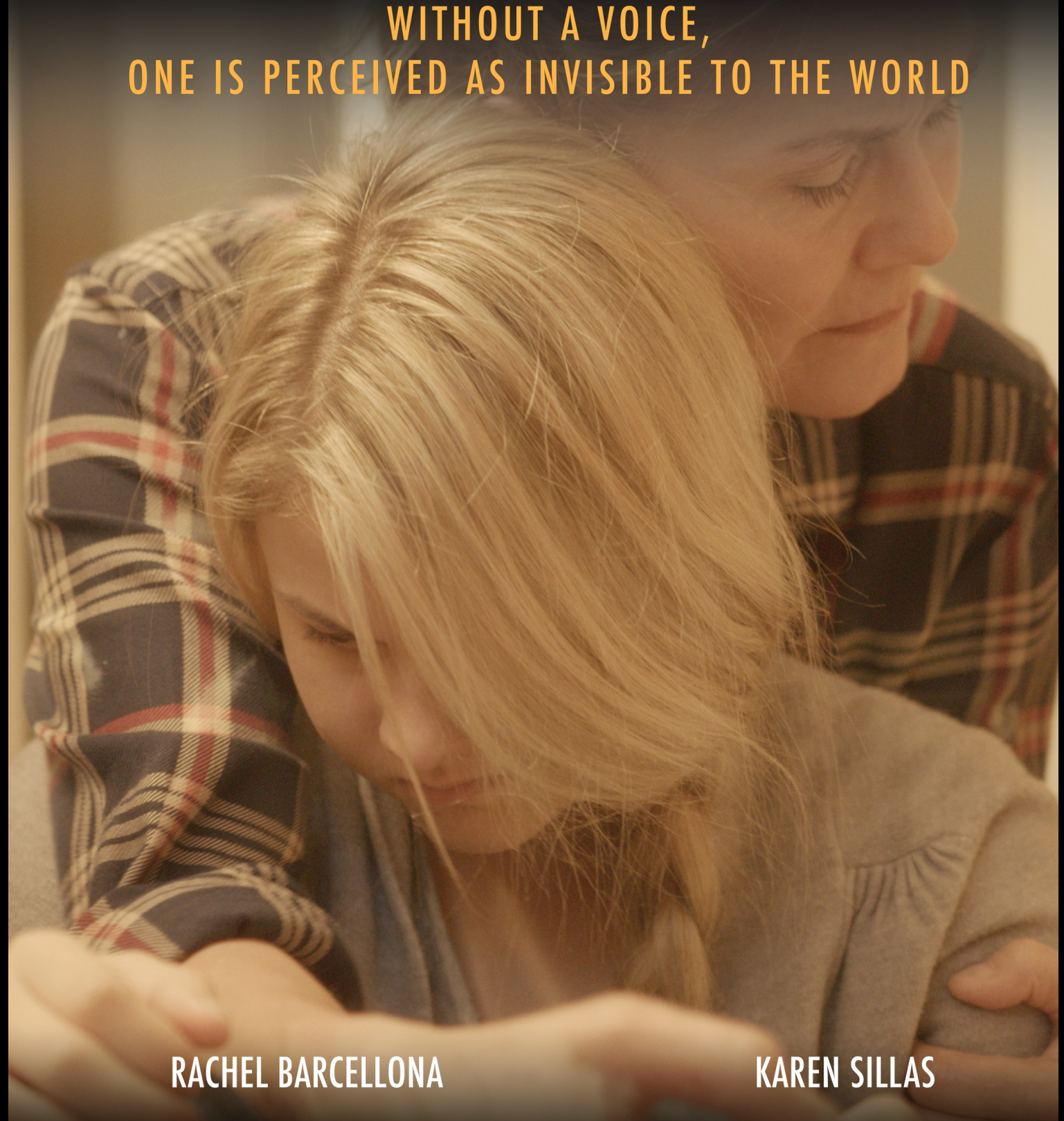


WITHOUT A VOICE,
ONE IS PERCEIVED AS INVISIBLE TO THE WORLD



RACHEL BARCELLONA

KAREN SILLAS

MANDY'S VOICE

inspired by true life experiences

A curious and intelligent nonspeaking teen on the spectrum struggles to communicate. Her only family, her single mother, is desperate to provide the necessary tools for survival in a world where if one is without a voice ~ one is perceived as invisible.

BIRDMAN FILMWORKS AND ROXXIEDANZ PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RUNNING MAN PRESENTS MANDY'S VOICE
KAREN SILLAS RACHEL BARCELLONA CRYSTAL THOMPSON AMY AND BARCLAY NIELSEN
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOSH HANSBROUGH PRODUCTION DESIGNER CHLOE WALKER
PRODUCED BY MONIQUE MADRID WRITTEN BY SHARON Y. COBB COMPOSED BY DAMIEN STARKEY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY ROXANNA LEWIS JOSH HANSBROUGH RYAN CUNNINGHAM TROY THOMPSON
BY SHARON Y. COBB JIM HOGAN HELEN LANE RANDY HANSBROUGH
DIRECTED BY ROXANNA LEWIS



Synopsis

MANDY'S VOICE is a narrative fictional short film about Mandy, a 17 year old teen with autism who's mom, Liz, searches for ways to communicate with her nonspeaking daughter. When Liz hits rock bottom, she begrudgingly turns to a controversial therapy, Facilitated Communication, which can give Mandy the ability to express herself by typing words on a keyboard, if she is able. A new world opens up to both daughter and mother once Mandy is capable of independently owning her own voice for the very first time.

Director's vision

Roxanna Lewis



(L to R) Stuart Bicknell, Roxanna Lewis, Keaton Bicknell and Josh Hansbrough on camera.

There has never been a more relevant time to make MANDY'S VOICE and launch it into the world. The idea for this special film came to be after my film-partner and DP, Josh Hansbrough, made a short doc about the nonprofit organization, Peace Of Heart. MANDY'S VOICE is a fictional narrative inspired by the true life events of a few exceptional nonspeaking teens with autism residing at the Peace of Heart community in Florida. It has taken a lot of sweat and many years to bring this POC to completion. Until now, the topic of nonspeaking autism was simply taboo.

As a filmmaker, I am driven to share remarkable stories of real people working through adversity. Essential to my vision is answering the call of under-represented and misunderstood people and to highlight those who identify as disabled. I'm also the daughter of one who was diagnosed with ASD late in life and a mother of one diagnosed with epilepsy as an infant - the material speaks to my soul on numerous levels. In my 20+ year career as director and choreographer, I've worked with passionate, talented individuals who are also paraplegic, amputees, D/deaf, blind, neurodivergent and neurotypical. I have always seen the human being as *exactly who they are*.

In my desire to entertain audiences, I bring an open-heart fueled with a love of humanity, an unshakable drive and skilled leadership to propel understanding through the landscape of film, producing an awe-inspiring story in an engaging, substantive manner. My mission is to ensure a professional work environment based on truth, trust, courageous choices and robust collaboration to produce exceptional work. Our team is rich with individuals who are on the spectrum on camera, on the crew and on the production team.

Individuals on the spectrum, and parents of loved ones on the spectrum have reached out to me from all over the world supporting this film, even asking me for advice on parenting and "getting help"...I am humbled, and reminded again and again, that remarkable efforts like this film matters. MANDY'S VOICE is a vehicle designed to open doors and incite conversation in homes and throughout the entertainment industry. This POC is created to fill a void in the 21st Century.



(L to R) Crystal Thompson, Rachel Barcellona, Karen Sillas, Roxanna Lewis and Josh Hansbrough on camera.

Roxanna Lewis

www.roxannalewis.com



**Typed by Michell with a facilitator
at Henderson Haven, Inc. when
she heard about our film
MANDY'S VOICE.**



Meet the cast



Rachel Barcellona

MANDY

Rachel Barcellona is an International Autism spokesperson, actress, author, model and holds the coveted title of Miss Florida 2022!

"I'm very passionate about advocating for autism because I was diagnosed with autism at the age of 3, non-verbal until the age of 5. I created my platform - "Ability Beyond Disability" to help encourage those with disabilities that they can accomplish anything. However, I am very passionate about helping people on a larger scale one day, so I'm studying to work at the United Nations."
~Rachel Barcellona

Seen on...NBC, People, CNN, Forbes, Miss America, American Autism Association, MSN, Refinery 29 & Super Model Unlimited.

www.rachelbarcellona.com



Karen Sillas

LIZ/Mandy's Mom

Karen Sillas, starred in off-Broadway shows *Rasputin*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Modigliani & The Light Outside*, among others. She's collaborated with writer/director Hal Hartley, appearing in the critically acclaimed films: *Trust*, *Flirt & Simple Men*. (Independent Spirit Award nomination - Best Actress) and most recently, *Ned Rifle*.

Karen's role in the film adaptation of *What Happened Was...* earned her another Best Actress nomination and caught the attention of network executives, landing her the starring role in the CBS drama, *Under Suspicion*. Karen has appeared in numerous TV movies and series and recently the indie film, *T-11 Incomplete*.

www.karensillas.com



Crystal Thompson

RAQUEL/Mandy's therapist

Crystal Thompson, MS, BCBA, is the founder and Clinical Director of BELIEVE AUTISM in Jacksonville, FL. She has worked with toddlers to teens to elders with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) since 2005.

For fun Crystal is a passionate competitive Salsa dancer and she rocks the floor! Taking on the role of "Raquel" in Mandy's Voice is her *very first time acting - in any form*. Crystal brings her true-to-life experiences to the screen in real-time throughout the pre-production and production process.

www.believeautism.com



Amy & Barclay Nielsen

TESSA/parent advocate

COLE/ Mandy's friend

After Amy Nielsen's fourth child was diagnosed with ADHD and Autism Spectrum Disorder, she left her career in education as a Media Specialist and Television Production Teacher to focus full-time on this new-to-her exceptional needs parenting role.

Since then, she has started the Big Abilities blog and podcast, authored several books about Autism Spectrum Disorder, and joined the nonprofit organization, Collaborative Corner for Exceptional Children, where she serves as parent advocate. MANDY'S VOICE is Amy's acting debut!

www.bigabilities.com

Additional Cast

Cole
Braylon
Dario
Zale
Cole ADR

Barclay Nielsen
Maxwell Lewis
Jack McKay
Martin Thomas
Keaton Hansbrough

Crew

Directed by
Written by
Produced by
Director of Photography
Production Design by
Original Artwork by
Edited by
Music Composer
Casting Director

Roxanna Lewis
Sharon Y. Cobb
Monique Madrid
Josh Hansbrough
Chloe Walker
Gentry Groshell
Josh Hansbrough
Damien Starkey
Ally Cloversettle

Crew

Assistant Directors
“A” Camera Operator
“A” Camera First Assistant
“B” Camera Operator
Gaffer
Grip
Script Supervisor
Sound Recordist
Location Sound Assistant
ADR recording
Make-Up & Hair Stylist
Production Assistants
Autism Resource Consultants
Covid Safety Officers

Justen Mann
Ithiell Yisrael
Josh Hansbrough
Alexa Wint
Aakash Bakshi
Alexa Wint
Justen Mann
Stuart Bicknell
Keaton Bicknell
Jade Hunn
Thom Amason
Cliff Stoner
The Shop Recordings
Casie Ellison
Ashlyn Astorga
Bear Green
Morgan Tyner
Crystal Thompson
Ivana Barnes
Kimberly Love

Press & Articles

Articles

[BroadwayWorld.com](#)

[Interview w/Roxanna Lewis](#)

Exceptional Needs Today
Authentic Casting by
Roxanna Lewis

News

[NBC First Coast Connect](#)

[Fox News 13](#)

[Space Coast Daily](#)

Radio/Podcast

[NPR/WJCT Melissa Ross w/Roxanna Lewis](#)

[GovsComedyClubRadio with cast & Roxanna Lewis](#)

Our fiscal sponsor, From the Heart Productions Inc., enthusiastically endorses MANDY'S VOICE and is dedicated to bring this film to fruition.

VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO

**The Community Foundation's Art Ventures Grant
Peace of Heart
Illumination Lighting & Grip
Give 2 Get Music**

**Gentry Gudal * Lanier Weed
Amy Devoe Groshell * Leslie Weed * Morgan Tyner
Barbara & Frank Barcellona * Brent Nielsen**

**JFD Eagle Fund * Gareth Holmes * Carl Burak * Carol Szczepanski
* Carole Robey-Miner * Tom Janowski * Nicole Spiegel-Gotsch * Michael Legrand**

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**Melina Regan Photography * Steph Giera with Kismet Creative Co
Grace Mahony * Madison Kaylor
Murray Hill Theatre * Tony Nasrallah * Jack Bohanan
The city of Jacksonville, FL**

Opening inner monologue / poem by Gentry Gudal

**If you'd like to purchase a piece of Gentry Gudal's art
Please visit: artlifting.com/collections/gentry-gudal**



**for
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Artwork by Gentry Grunel