



A Documentary Film Directed, Produced & Written by **Gail Freedman** Run time 96 minutes

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With a fusion of intimate storytelling and broad reportage, ***No One Cares About Crazy People*** is an immersive deep dive into the crisis and chaos of severe mental illness (SMI). The documentary humanizes the face of SMI and follows, over several years, the riveting stories of a small cast of individuals who grapple with schizophrenia, bipolar and related disorders, as they -- and also their *families* -- navigate a system that too often seems to conspire against them. And it goes a step further, to explore a burgeoning grassroots movement to do something about it.

The film was inspired by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and New York Times bestselling author Ron Powers's acclaimed book of the same name, a hybrid narrative of heartbreaking family memoir and searing social history. Powers is father to two schizophrenic sons, the younger of whom -- a musical prodigy -- took his own life in the family's Vermont basement a week before his 21st birthday. The documentary also chronicles the unfolding story of the Burgos clan in Connecticut, where husband and father Carmelo lives with severe bipolar disorder, which impacts -- upends -- the entire family. And it plunges into the almost inconceivable life of Mark Rippee, floridly psychotic, blind and, for 16 years, unhoused on the streets of Vacaville, California, despite his sisters' fierce support. The film documents an evolving advocacy crusade, exemplified by people like Taun Hall, whose son Miles, a young black man, was shot and killed by police in 2019 outside his northern California home during a mental health emergency. The historic roots of this national crisis are traced, as well as the emergence of bold but controversial activism that seeks to reinvent those failed policies. With narration by actor Bob Odenkirk and original music by Wilco frontman Jeff Tweedy.

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