



makes you think

## media release

### **TVO ASKS: HOW DOES ADHD AFFECT KIDS' LIVES WHEN THEY'RE GROWN?**

#### **Live, interactive TV-Web event explores ADHD and adulthood, and connects viewers to experts**

Toronto, September 8, 2009 – Do kids with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) ever outgrow the condition? We often associate ADHD with children, and while overt symptoms may dissipate as they age, the challenges that ADHD presents evolve as kids make the transition into adulthood. What obstacles do young adults with ADHD face? How does ADHD impact their lives at school, home and work?

On Wednesday September 30, TVO explores ADHD and adulthood in an interactive TV-Web event starting with the world premiere of the documentary, *A Mind like Mine*, at 10 pm, followed immediately by a live webcast discussion with experts at [tvo.org](http://tvo.org).

#### ***A Mind like Mine* – World premiere**

Wednesday September 30 2009 at 10 pm ET

60 minutes

Written, directed and produced by Karen O'Donnell

In her 2002 documentary *Odd Kid Out*, filmmaker Karen O'Donnell followed three kids with ADHD – her own son Kail, 12, and Daniel Desjardins, 15, among them – as they and their families dealt with the scope of the pervasive interruptions and frustrations ADHD brought to daily life.

Seven years later in *A Mind like Mine*, O'Donnell turns her lens back on the now-grown Kail and Daniel to create an intimate portrait of how ADHD affects them as young adults. Chronicling a year in the lives of the young men, the film captures their triumphs and challenges as they work toward their educational goals. Daniel, who has had to cope with depression following devastating losses in his personal life, is attending his first year of college and struggling with classes, homework and fitting in. Meanwhile, Kail is striving to get into university: he and his mother consult with his teachers to ensure strategies are in place to help him meet admission requirements, and he takes the decision about medication into his own hands. No matter the issues that ADHD brings – the struggle to concentrate and to inhibit and regulate behaviour, time management, organization – both men are intent on achieving success.

Along the way, the story takes a powerful twist as O'Donnell herself comes face to face with an intriguing turn of events. What begins as an intimate observation develops into a deeply personal journey.

#### **Webcast discussion at [tvo.org](http://tvo.org) – LIVE AND INTERACTIVE!**

Wednesday September 30 2009 starting at approximately 10:55 pm ET at [tvo.org](http://tvo.org)

Immediately following *A Mind like Mine*, viewers can further explore and discuss issues raised in the film in a special LIVE, interactive webcast at [tvo.org](http://tvo.org).

What happens when kids with ADHD grow up? Do they need medications for life? Are they able to attend postsecondary school, live independently and work? What accommodations, if any, are available to them? What determines who will succeed? Join TVO's Cheryl Jackson and experts who offer their insight on these questions and more, and take viewer questions.

Guests include:

- Filmmaker Karen O'Donnell. *A Mind like Mine* is O'Donnell's third exploration of ADHD. In addition to this film and *Odd Kid Out*, O'Donnell's *My Different Life* brought to light the challenges of a single mom desperately trying to get the proper education for her three kids, two of whom cope with a learning disability and the third with ADHD.
- Kail O'Donnell and Daniel Desjardins, the subjects of *A Mind like Mine*
- Dr. Attila Turgay, a leading ADHD specialist and director of the ADHD Clinic at The Scarborough Hospital

Viewers can send in their questions to be answered by the panel by phone toll free at 1.888.891.1195. They can also submit questions in advance at [tvo.org](http://tvo.org) starting Wednesday September 23, or during the live webcast.

### **About TVO**

TVO is Ontario's public educational media organization and a trusted source of interactive educational content that informs, inspires and stimulates curiosity and thought. TVO's vision is to empower people to be engaged citizens of Ontario through educational media. For more information, visit [tvo.org](http://tvo.org).

### **Where to find TVO**

Cable channel 2 (channel may vary in some areas), Bell TV channel 265, Star Choice channel 353.

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