



## **Dysconnected Backgrounder**

### **About Don Johnson, Producer & Director of *Dysconnected***

Don Johnson is a filmmaker author, and speaker. He is the founder of Don Johnson Media and Runaway Planet Pictures, and has produced three feature length documentaries: *Convinced* (2015), *Unprotected* (2018), and his latest, *Dysconnected* (2022)

### **What is *Dysconnected* about?**

*Dysconnected* is about exposing the truth behind the gender ideology industry, one that allows children to make life-altering decisions for themselves without any parental consent, explores why there is an explosion of young girls identifying as transgender, seeking to understand why the medical and counseling industries are not pushing back on gender ideology, and highlighting stories of people who have detransitioned.

### **Why did a film like *Dysconnected* need to be made?**

In the 1980s and 90s, it was mostly middle-aged men who decided to dress like women or obtain gender reassignment surgery. Today, the demographic of people seeking gender altering surgery, demanding puberty blockers and identifying as transgender is completely different: it is adolescent girls and young women.

A transgender tsunami has swept this country over the past several years and, in many ways, has changed the medical, educational and counseling industries in ways no one would have ever expected while permanently altering the lives and bodies of hundreds of thousands of individuals, mostly young women. *Dysconnected* needed to be made in order to find out what caused this tsunami, who is behind it, and what is coming next.

### **People interviewed in *Dysconnected***

#### *Daisy Strongin*

Daisy's story is the centerpiece of the film. She started transitioning to a boy when she was

15-years-old and many previous vlogs of her time doing so are shown throughout the film. She is now married and a new mother.

*Billboard Chris Elston*

Father of two girls who decided to publicly take a stand against gender ideology. His website is [here](#).

*Ryan T. Anderson*

President of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, John Paul II Teaching Fellow at the University of Dallas, the founding editor of the Public Discourse and author of *When Harry Became Sally*.

*Abigail Favale*

Writer and professor in the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame. A Catholic convert with an academic background in gender studies, Abigail writes and speaks regularly on topics related to women and gender from a Catholic perspective. She is author of *The Genesis of Gender*.

*Walt Heyer*

Walt Heyer lived as a transgender woman for eight years. Through effective psychotherapy and faith in God, Walt was restored to his male gender over 30 years ago, and now uses his unique platform as an insider to help others who regret so-called “gender change” and to advocate for protecting children from irreversible medical interventions. He is the author of *A Transgendered Faith*.

*Maria Keffler*

Co-founder of Advocates Protecting Children, which helps individuals, families, churches and organizations navigate gender ideology. Author of *Desist, Detrans & Detox: Getting Your Child Out of the Gender Cult*.

*Erin Brewer*

Author of *Gender Confusion : A Personal Story of Childhood Gender Dysphoria and the Case Against Affirming a Gender Confused Child*.

*Christopher West*

Renowned educator, bestselling author, cultural commentator and popular theologian who specializes in making the dense scholarship of the late Pope John Paul II’s *Theology of the Body* accessible to a wide audience.

*Patrick Lappert*

Dr. Patrick Lappert has been practicing in the field of Plastic Surgery for over 25 years. He has extensive experience in cosmetic surgery, particularly in the area of minimally invasive body contouring and facial aesthetic surgery.

*Pamela Garfield-Jaeger*

Pamela Garfield-Jaeger is a licensed clinical social worker with over 20 years of experience.

*Carl Trueman*

He is professor of biblical and religious studies at Grove City College in Grove City, Pennsylvania and co-author of *Strange New World: How Thinkers and Activists Redefined Identity and Sparked the Sexual Revolution*.

*Carl Olson*

He is the editor of Catholic World Report and Ignatius Insight, both operated by Ignatius Press. He is also the author or co-author of several books and hundreds of articles on theology, Scripture, apologetics, culture and current events for a variety of print and online publications.

*Billy Burleigh*

Billy is a man who transitioned twice and now speaks out against “gender-affirming” surgery.

*Gary Michuta*

Gary Michuta is a nationally known Catholic speaker, author, and apologist. He was the director of *Thy Faith, Inc.*, a non-profit lay-run Catholic apologetics apostolate and editor of its magazine *Hands On Apologetics*.

*Margaret McCarthy*

Dr. McCarthy is a leading neuroscientist who has made significant discoveries related to gender differences and the brain. Her seminal research focuses on the influence of steroid hormones on the developing brain with a special emphasis on understanding the cellular mechanisms that establish sex differences — that is, the numerous, novel mechanisms (including roles for prostaglandins, endocannabinoids, amino acid transmitters, and multiple enzymes) by which steroids permanently organize the developing brain differently in males and females.

*Branda Lebsack*

Brenda Lebsack has been in public education for 25 years. She has a Bachelor of Science in Human Services from Cal State Fullerton University, a Teaching Credential from San Jose State University, MA in Special Education from Chapman University Calif, and an Adapted PE Authorization from Azusa Pacific University.

*Michael Hanby*

Michael Hanby is an Associate Professor of Religion and Philosophy of Science at the John Paul II Institute at the Catholic University of America.

*Benjamin Wiker*

He is a Roman Catholic ethicist and professor of political science and Human Life studies at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

### **Distribution of *Dysconnected***

*Dysconnected* is distributed by Catholic publisher Ignatius Press. The film is available by [DVD](#) and also [to stream](#).

[Resource packages](#) with books by several of the people featured in the film are available on the *Dysconnected* website as well.