

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE****CONTACT**

Braden Jefferson, 42 West
301-919-7114
braden.jefferson@42west.com

Aisha Almada, ITVS
415-356-8383
aisha.almada@itvs.org

For downloadable images,
visit our [press page](#).

“THE TALLEST DWARF,” A DEEPLY PERSONAL AND PLAYFUL JOURNEY INTO BELONGING, BODY ACCEPTANCE, AND IDENTITY, PREMIERES ON PBS’S INDEPENDENT LENS

*A Filmmaker Seeks Belonging in the Little People Community and
Explores Life Amid Shifting Disability Landscapes*

(San Francisco, CA) February 17, 2026— A deeply personal film examining connection within the little people community through a thoughtful and playful lens, “The Tallest Dwarf” premieres Monday, April 6, 2026, on PBS’s INDEPENDENT LENS. Directed by Julie Forrest Wyman (“STRONG! (2012)”), the feature documentary examines how dwarf identity is being reshaped by culture, technology, and healthcare and explores the diverse experiences of little people through both in-depth character studies, historic vignettes, and movement-based workshops.

A selection in the 2026 Slamdance Unstoppable Features program, which spotlights filmmakers with disabilities, “The Tallest Dwarf” follows Wyman’s quest to unpack rumors of dwarfism in her family and ultimately find her place within the little people community. After a lifelong sense of feeling different, Wyman explores attitudes toward normality and highlights little people who tell their stories of growing up, navigating pregnancy, and finding agency within a health system that offers hope to some and poses challenges to others. Through intimate portraits, creative collaborations, and archival history, the film delves into identity and medicine, asking whether society should change people or the structures that limit them.

“I’ve always felt a sense of isolation, of being different, which fueled my becoming an artist,” said Wyman, an award-winning documentary filmmaker, writer, and associate professor of Cinema and Digital Media at UC Davis, whose work addresses issues of body image and the media. “Through this film, I wanted to confront how the little people community has been seen, while searching for ways to reinvent that narrative and reclaim our own story.”

In search of community and belonging, Wyman connects with other little people, each with their own relationship to dwarf identity and medicine. She partners with a group of little people artists in a creative process, developing

a collaborative workshop that confronts their lived experience and explores the cost of conformity, as well as their insights into the historical and ongoing reality of being put on display and gawked at. Through archival footage, the film offers further context, highlighting the legacy of eugenics and a history of “correcting” dwarf and disabled bodies.

“The Tallest Dwarf” asks us to think about what it’s like to live in a community that is both invisible but always on display,” said Lois Vossen, founding executive producer of INDEPENDENT LENS. “By exploring the depiction of little people and what is deemed ‘normal’ in media and entertainment, it encourages us to reconsider why society tries to ‘fix bodies’ rather than refocus how we perceive and portray physical differences.”

“The Tallest Dwarf” will premiere on PBS’s INDEPENDENT LENS on April 6, 2026 (check local listings) and will be available to stream on the [PBS app](#) and PBS YouTube Channel.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Julie Forrest Wyman, Director/Producer

Julie Forrest Wyman’s films engage embodiment, body image, and media spectatorship—informed by living with hypochondroplasia dwarfism. Her 2012 film “Strong!” aired on INDEPENDENT LENS. Her work has been supported by Sundance, Sandbox, IDA, SF Film Society, Points North, Creative Capital, Princess Grace Foundation, Logan Nonfiction, CalHumanities, and NEH.

CREDITS

Director	Julie Forrest Wyman
Producers	Julie Forrest Wyman Jonna McKone Lindsey Dryden Shaleece Haas
Executive Producers	Carrie Lozano Lois Vossen



ABOUT INDEPENDENT LENS

INDEPENDENT LENS is an award-winning documentary series that fosters understanding, seeks to build empathy, and encourages a more united society. Produced by ITVS, INDEPENDENT LENS documentaries have premiered on PBS for 25 years and streamed on YouTube, helping Americans foster deeper connections between communities and themselves. From the Oscar-nominated "I Am Not Your Negro" to the Peabody-acclaimed docuseries "Philly D.A." and the Emmy® Award-winning "The Invisible War," INDEPENDENT LENS provides viewers with in-depth, nuanced storytelling reflecting the experiences of people from a variety of voices and communities. INDEPENDENT LENS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting: a private corporation funded by the American People, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, Acton Family Giving, Park Foundation, and Wyncote Foundation.

Stream anytime on the PBS app or YouTube. Learn more at pbs.org/independentlens.

ABOUT ITVS

Independent Television Service (ITVS) is the largest co-producer of independent documentaries in the United States. For more than 30 years the San Francisco nonprofit has funded and partnered with documentary filmmakers to produce and distribute untold stories. ITVS incubates and co-produces these award-winning titles and premieres them on our Emmy Award-winning PBS series, INDEPENDENT LENS. ITVS titles appear on PBS, WORLD, NETA, and can be streamed on various digital platforms including the PBS app. ITVS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Acton Family Giving, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, Park Foundation, and Wyncote Foundation. For more information, visit itvs.org.

###



1435 FOLSOM STREET
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94103
T. 415 356 8383
F. 415 356 8391
[PBS.ORG/INDEPENDENTLENS](https://pbs.org/independentlens)