



# CRAZYWISE

A Feature Documentary Film  
by **Phil Borges**  
and **Kevin Tomlinson**

Principal Photography Completed.  
Now Raising Finishing Funds.

The documentary **CRAZYWISE** explores what we can learn from traditional cultures and from people who have turned their psychological crisis into a positive transformative experience.

During two decades of documenting indigenous cultures, human-rights photographer and filmmaker Phil Borges, repeatedly witnessed how a young person's psychotic symptom is identified as having shamanic potential. He is struck by how differently psychosis is defined and treated in traditional societies versus our Western culture.



**Adam**

Along his journey, Phil follows the personal stories of two young Americans who struggle with their mental health. Adam, 27, suffers four years of devastating side effects from his medications before embracing meditation. Ekhaya, 32, is a survivor of childhood molestation and several suicide attempts. Community health support ignites her healing, but it is her spiritual training to become a traditional African healer that gives her suffering meaning and brings purpose to her life.



**Ekhaya**

Through interviews with renowned mental health professionals, Phil realizes the severity of the mental health crisis in America, dominated by biomedical psychiatry. At the same time he learns of a growing movement of professionals and psychiatric survivors who are demanding alternative treatments that focus on recovery, nurturing social connections, and finding meaning.

Phil becomes convinced that many solutions needed for mental health can be found within the traditional values of indigenous communities. **CRAZYWISE** contributes to the ongoing conversation to humanize the stigmatized and misunderstood experience of a psychological crisis.

**Featuring more than 35 expert interviews including:**



**Phil Borges**

Robert Whitaker  
Gabor Mate, M.D.  
Alberto Villoldo, Ph.D.

Roshi Joan Halifax, Ph.D.  
Sandra Ingerman, M.A.  
Dan Siegel, M.D.

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**Kevin Tomlinson**