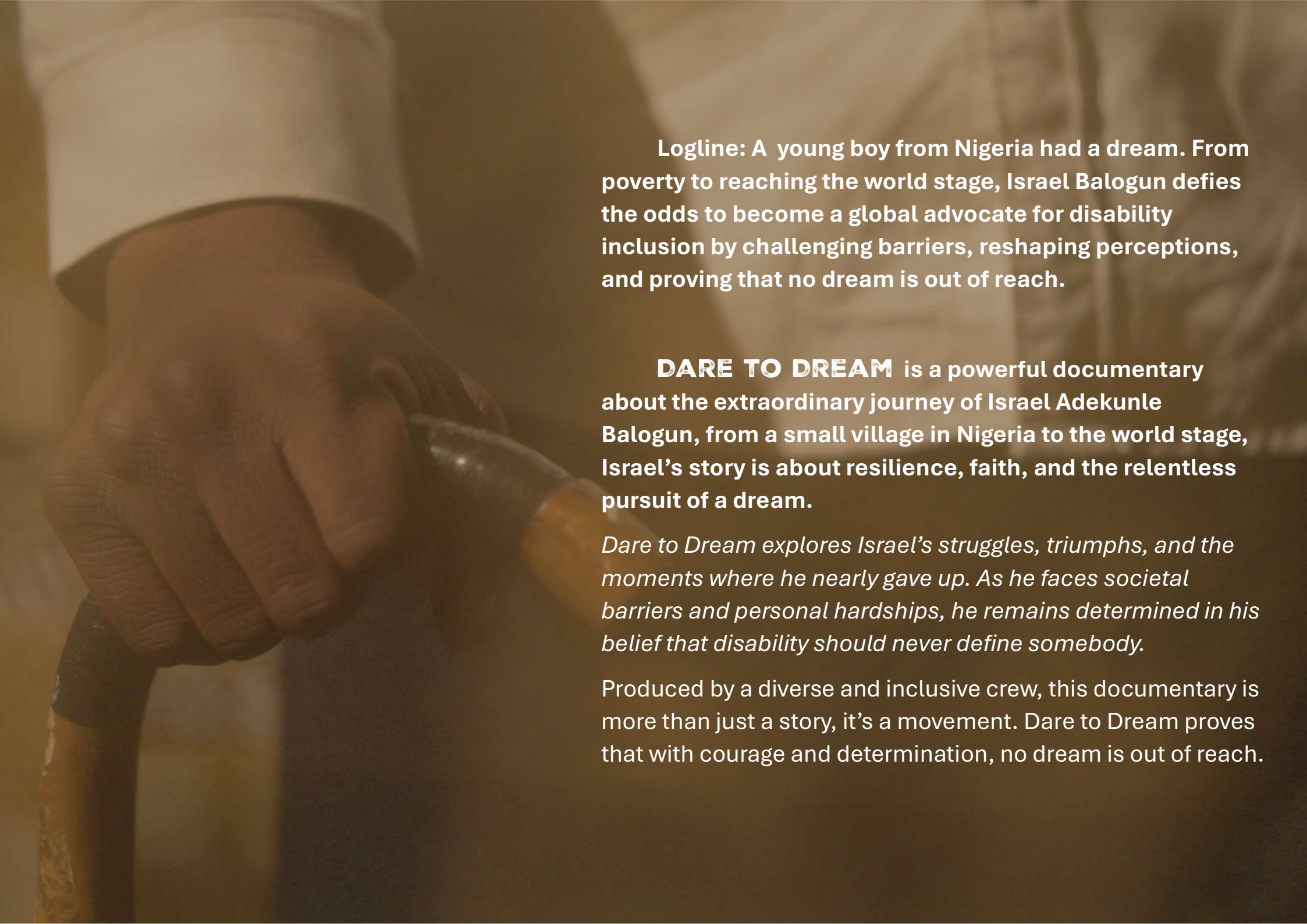


# DARE TO DREAM



**BLIND MAN**  
MEDIA



**Logline:** A young boy from Nigeria had a dream. From poverty to reaching the world stage, Israel Balogun defies the odds to become a global advocate for disability inclusion by challenging barriers, reshaping perceptions, and proving that no dream is out of reach.

**DARE TO DREAM** is a powerful documentary about the extraordinary journey of Israel Adekunle Balogun, from a small village in Nigeria to the world stage, Israel's story is about resilience, faith, and the relentless pursuit of a dream.

*Dare to Dream explores Israel's struggles, triumphs, and the moments where he nearly gave up. As he faces societal barriers and personal hardships, he remains determined in his belief that disability should never define somebody.*

Produced by a diverse and inclusive crew, this documentary is more than just a story, it's a movement. Dare to Dream proves that with courage and determination, no dream is out of reach.



A man with short dark hair, wearing a dark jacket, is shown in profile from the chest up, looking towards the right. In the background, a city skyline with several tall buildings is visible under a hazy, overcast sky. The overall tone is muted and cinematic.

Title: **DARE TO DREAM**

Genre: Documentary

Country: United Kingdom Production

Year: 2025

Language: English

Duration: 10:03

Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1


Frame Rate: 25 fps

Shooting Format: Sony FX6 CineEi 4k

Exhibition Format: 2k DCP, 4k DCP  
(FLAT container), 2k Prores, 4k Prores

Sound: 5.1, stereo



A man with a cane is standing in front of a building. He is wearing a blue sweater and a lanyard with a badge. He is smiling and looking to his right. The building behind him has a satellite dish on the wall and a window. The ground is covered with green grass and some fallen leaves.

# ISRAEL BALOGUN

Growing up in a poverty-stricken village with a disability, he has come on leaps and bounds to now advising on disability inclusion on a world stage.

Now, a recipient of the British Council Study in the UK Global Award, Israel Balogun is committed to advancing health development, disability-inclusive initiatives, humanitarian efforts, health system enhancement, leadership, advocacy, and human rights through a rights-based approach. Israel has extensively worked on issues related to health, inclusive governance, and education.

Israel is a big advocate for disability rights, possessing the ability to craft legislation and policies in areas such as Education, Eye health, disability, neglected tropical diseases, and reproductive health. He is said to become a world leading researcher for his subject.



A close-up portrait of Callum Kettlewell, a man with curly brown hair, a beard, and round glasses, smiling. He is wearing a white shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

# CALLUM KETTLEWELL

Callum Kettlewell is a director and producer passionate about telling powerful, engaging stories. As the driving force behind *Dare to Dream*, he brings to life the inspiring journey of disability rights advocate Israel Balogun, capturing his resilience and determination.

With a strong foundation in documentary filmmaking, Callum has previously directed *Freedom of a Butterfly* and *A SECOND HOME*. He has also worked on corporate projects and started his own production company Blind Man Media, showcasing his versatility behind the camera.

As the founder of Blind Man Media, Callum has honed his skills as an all-rounder filmmaker from directing, producing, cinematography, editing and sound recording, he is comfortable in most roles. His experience spans from independent films, corporate videography, and on-set production roles, demonstrating his adaptability, leadership, and commitment to storytelling.






# ADEOLA OLUWASEUN

Adeola Oluwaseun is the cinematographer of *Dare to Dream*, bringing a keen visual style to the project. A final-year Film and TV Production student, he has built experience across multiple roles, including sound design and gaffing, showcasing his adaptability on set.

Beyond university, Adeola runs a startup production company and has worked as a videographer and editor for weddings, birthdays, and photoshoots. His industry experience includes working as a runner on *Macbeth*, starring David Tennant and Cush Jumbo. Currently, he serves as a videographer and editor for Winners Chapel International Sheffield, a charity organization, further refining his craft.





# OLLIE GILL

From a young age, I've been drawn to the emotional power of visual storytelling. As a cinematographer and cameraman in training, I'm passionate about creating compelling images that speak without words. While studying film at university, I've worked on a range of student projects, developing my skills in lighting, composition, and storytelling.

Industry experience with the BBC and Gold Dust Media, on productions like *Strictly Come Dancing* and McFly's O2 Arena concert has deepened my understanding of high-pressure environments and the collaborative nature of filmmaking. I'm excited to keep pushing creative boundaries and using the



A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark cap and a plaid shirt, is sitting in a chair. He is in a dimly lit room with a blue light source in the background. The text 'AIDAN GIBLIN' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# AIDAN GIBLIN

Aidan Giblin is an editor and writer who has done work on a variety of documentaries and Drama films, even having work on experimental pieces. With a keen interest in film he has watched a variety of films and documentaries and has deep connections in the industry.

With a main interest in editing, he has worked on several projects as an editor, working as both the head editor and assistant on large scale documentaries with the University, such as the Bilbao BTS and Urban Farming COIL. Having experience in Avid and Premier Pro he is well versed and has a deep knowledge of both editing software.





# MATTHEW TOWNEND

Matthew Townend, the sound designer and Disability Access Coordinator for Dare to Dream. He gives his unique perspectives and experience to the project. He is a final year Film and TV Production student.

Through many solo projects, he has gained skills in multiple areas of production but is currently focusing on sound design. He is a documentary filmmaker dedicated to giving a voice to those who wish to share their stories. He does so through his production company, Townend Docs on YouTube and LinkedIn, started in 2023, where he shares short documentaries on subjects of importance, such as disability, mental health, and well-being. He gained his passion for advocating and voicing disability and mental health from a young age, going through the CAMHS System, volunteering at the mental health charity CHILLYPEP, and speaking at events such as the NHS Mental Health Summits. Also living with his personal experiences of disability, such as Autism and Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.



# DIRECTORS STATEMENT

*Dare to Dream* is a story that means a lot to me, not just as a filmmaker, but as a person. I've grown up around disability. Some of my closest family members live with disabilities, so I've always had a deep awareness of the barriers people face and the strength it takes to push through them. That understanding is part of what made me want to tell this story the right way.

When I was struggling with ideas for my final year project, trying to come up with something that really meant something, I ended up taking photos at a friend's mum's wedding anniversary, Elizabeth Tresnan and Jim Tresnan's celebration. After the event, I got chatting to Elizabeth about my course and what I was hoping to do for my film. She mentioned someone she knew, Israel Adekunle Balogun. From that one conversation, everything changed.

When I met Israel, I knew straight away that this was the story I wanted to tell. His journey from a small Nigerian village to becoming a leading disability rights advocate is genuinely powerful. But what really stood out to me wasn't just the achievements, it was the moments of struggle and his philosophy. There's a point in the film where Israel is ready to give up. Everything feels too heavy. But the feeling of injustice and hope keeps him going.

We made sure this production reflected the values at the heart of the story. Our crew included people with disabilities, and we took extra steps to make the process inclusive and accessible for everyone. It was important to create a space where everyone felt supported and valued.

To me, *Dare to Dream* is about hope, faith, and refusing to give in when it gets tough. It's about believing in something bigger and choosing to keep going, even when the world tells you to stop. I'm proud to have directed and produced this film, and I hope it encourages others to keep chasing their dreams, no matter how far away they might seem.

- Callum Kettlewell





Contributor: Israel Adekunle Balogun

Other Features: Prof. Nora Ellen Groce, Sara Rotenberg

Young Israel: Jason Morgan

Teen Israel: Khalid Amadou

Grandmother: Pbabe Morgan

Producer: Callum Kettlewell

Director: Callum Kettlewell

Director of Photography: Adeola Oluwaseun, Oliver Gill, Callum Kettlewell

Sound Recordist: Billy Healy, Callum Kettlewell

Sound Design: Matthew Townend

DIT: Aidan Giblin, Callum Kettlewell

Editor: Aidan Giblin

Access Coordinator: Matthew Townend

Archive Footage: Bertil Westin

Thanks to: Michelle Balogun, Dave Balogun, Jason Balogun, Temp Esther Balogun-Ayegbsui, Trevor Liffchak, Leke Sanusi, Maria Kett, Camilla Westin, Elizabeth Tresnan, St Marie Cathedral Sheffield, Creative Media Centre, The Commonwealth Scholarship, Dr Victoria Austin, Saskia Wilson, Susannah Gent, Christopher Hall, Ben Taylor, Neil Webb, Jim Wraith, Sheffield Hallam University, Study UK, The British Council

Donators: Adebayo Esan, Louise Gillatt, Leo Kuf, Antonia Walsh