

NEWS RELEASE



MARYLAND
PUBLIC
TELEVISION

ANNAPOLIS
HAGERSTOWN
SALISBURY

FREDERICK
OAKLAND
OWINGS MILLS

11767 Owings Mills Blvd. | Owings Mills, MD 21117-1499 | mpt.org

May 3, 2023

For immediate release

Contacts:

Tom Williams, APR | tomwilliams@mpt.org | 410-581-4031

Emily Greco | egreco@nevinspr.com | 443-686-1331

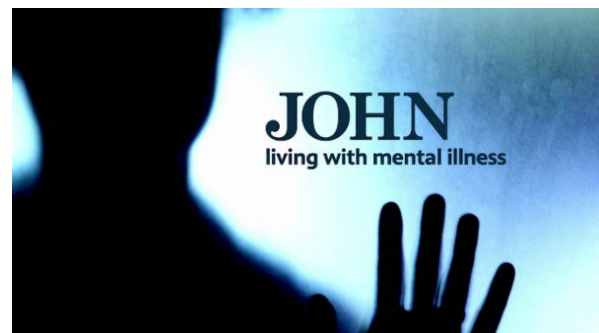
Note: The title graphic and photos from production of the film are available at this [LINK](#).

***John – Living With Mental Illness* has MPT premiere on May 13**

***Documentary about Cecil County, Maryland resident airs during
Mental Health Awareness Month***

OWINGS MILLS, MD – *John – Living With Mental illness* will have its public TV premiere on Maryland Public Television (MPT) and on the [MPT live stream](#) at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 13. The one-hour film brings attention to the challenges faced by individuals living with mental illness and the importance of addressing the stigma and misconceptions surrounding mental health. A trailer is available to view at <https://vimeo.com/821329964>.

The film follows the journey of John Smith, a 53-year-old Elkton, Maryland man who lives with schizophrenia and uses rapping and entertainment to cope with his mental illness. The documentary draws on John's story to dive into the complexities of schizophrenia and ways in which it can impact a person's life. It also explores treatments and approaches to managing this condition, and illustrates the importance of understanding and acceptance in supporting those living with mental illness.



John – Living With Mental illness features interviews with mental health experts, including therapists and psychiatrists, who shed light on the complex nature of mental illness. Viewers also hear from public officials and activists who are working to improve the lives of people living with mental illness.

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), more than one in five adults in the United States live with a mental illness, and about one in 25 U.S. adults lives with a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression.

An encore showing of the film will be offered on Monday, May 15 at 9 p.m. on MPT2/Create®. It also will also be available for viewing on MPT's video player soon after the broadcast at <https://video.mpt.tv/>.

The MPT broadcast of *John – Living With Mental illness* comes as the nation observes [Mental Health Awareness Month](#).

Mental Health Awareness Month was established in 1949 by what is now called Mental Health America (originally known as the National Association for Mental Health). The goal of the observance is to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness in Americans' lives, and to celebrate recovery from mental illness. The theme for Mental Health Awareness Month 2023 is "How our physical surroundings impact our mental health."

The 2022 documentary was produced by Joseph Piner, Sr. and Elkton, Maryland-based [CineFocus & Media Productions](#). More information about the film is available at johnlivingwithmentalillness.com/.

###

About Maryland Public Television

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) affiliate, offering entertaining, informative, educational, and inspiring content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices. A state agency, it operates under the auspices of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission. MPT creates and distributes local, regional, and national content and is a frequent winner of regional Emmy® Awards. MPT's commitment to educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through instructional events and Thinkport.org. MPT's year-round community engagement activities connect viewers with resources on a wide range of topics. For more information visit mpt.org.