



Temple Grandin

Animal Scientist & Autism Self-Advocate

Temple Grandin, Ph.D., is the most accomplished and well-known adult with autism in the world. Now her fascinating life, with all its challenges and successes, has been brought to the screen with the HBO full-length film *Temple Grandin*, starring Claire Danes.

Dr. Grandin is a speaker who inspires and motivates others through her story. She didn't talk until she was three-and-a-half years old, communicating her frustration instead by screaming, peeping, and humming. In 1950, she was diagnosed with autism and her parents were told she should be institutionalized. She recounts "groping her way from the far side of darkness" in her book *Emergence: Labeled Autistic*, a book that stunned the world because until its publication, most professionals and parents assumed that an autism diagnosis was virtually a death sentence to achievement or productivity in life.

Even though she was considered "weird" in her young school years, she eventually found a mentor who recognized her interests and abilities. Dr. Grandin later developed her talents into a successful career as a livestock-handling equipment designer, one of very few in the world. She has now designed the facilities in which half the cattle are handled in the United States, consulting for firms such as Burger King, McDonald's, Swift, and others.

Dr. Temple Grandin currently works as a professor of animal science at Colorado State University and speaks around the world on both autism and cattle handling.

Dr. Grandin has been featured on NPR and major television programs, including the BBC special *The Woman Who Thinks Like a Cow*, ABC's *Primetime Live*, *The Today Show*, *Larry King Live*, *48 Hours*, and *20/20* and has been written about in many national publications, including *Time* (she was included in the magazine's annual "2010 *Time* 100" List of the world's most influential people), *People*, *Forbes*, *US News and World Report*, and *The New York Times*. Among numerous other recognitions by the media, Bravo did a half-hour show on her life and she was featured in the best-selling book *Anthropologist from Mars*.

Dr. Grandin's current best-selling book on autism is *The Way I See It: A Personal Look at Autism and Asperger's*. She also authored *Unwritten Rules of Social Relationships*; *Animals Make Us Human*; *Animals in Translation*; *Thinking in Pictures*; and *Emergence: Labeled Autistic*. She has also produced several DVDs.

Topics:

- Animals Make Us Human
- Different Kinds of Minds Contribute to Society