

DR SAMANTHA PILLAY OAM

Surgeon. AI Filmmaker. Advocate.



BIO

Dr Samantha Pillay was the first woman to train as a urological surgeon in South Australia. Since 2002 she has run a specialist continence practice, treating conditions people would rather not talk about. She taught herself AI filmmaking to give those conditions a voice, and founded AIFilm4Good, the world's first AI film studio for social impact. Her films have won awards in Paris, New York, London and California. She is the 2026 AMA Women's Health Award winner.

AI for Good: The Power of Story in the Age of Intelligent Machines

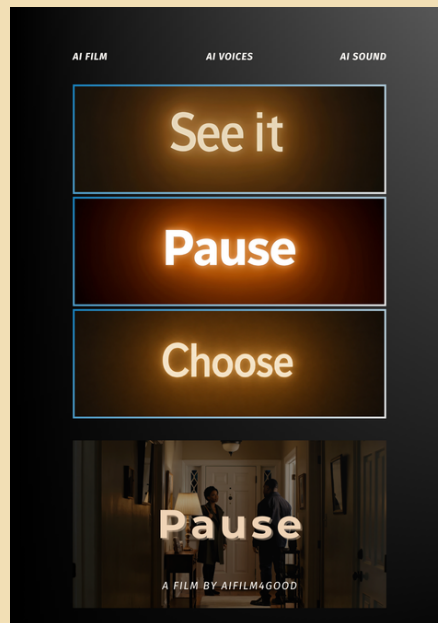
For a hundred years, film belonged to whoever could afford a studio. In 2024 that changed. Dr Pillay made her first AI video not knowing what a timeline was. Her first documentary won Best AI Documentary in Paris. Pause shows seven moments at home that could turn violent and don't. It took six days, one desk and about two hundred dollars. Everyone has a cause, and a story nobody else can tell.

The Goals Nobody Saw

Films, books, a film studio, international awards. Those are the goals people see. This talk is about the other kind. Dr Pillay started school in a wheelchair, and for more than half a century the goals that have run her life are the ones nobody counted: get up the stairs, get off the floor, and every year do a little more than the year before. Written for people who lead.

Patients are asking AI first

Dr Pillay's patients arrive having asked a chatbot before they ask her. Hundreds of millions of health questions a week now go to a machine first. Medicine already has rules for anything that can harm a patient: consent, testing, responsibility, a regulator who can look inside. She asks why AI is the exception.



"Her presentation was witty, informative, and genuine. She is a pioneer of her profession and gender, and we hope to have her back again soon."

Peta Forwood, RACS

"Dr Pillay not only engaged but inspired a room of over 500 business leaders, highly regarded by guests as the highlight of our International Women's Day event. More than just a pleasure to work with, Dr Pillay's actions reflected in her commitment to our event, valuing it as if it was her own."

Mia Hamilton, Event Organizer, Showcase SA

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