

[Name of your organization and contact information here:]

ANNOUNCING A COMMUNITY SCREENING OF [give date, location, time]

ADOPTED: FOR THE LIFE OF ME

TIE IN TO LOCAL STORY. Is there legislative action in your state or area? Is there a person's story that would supply a human interest hook for a member of the press – someone who's elderly and been denied access, someone who has medical need and has been denied access, someone who has been trying for many years to know their background? Focus on the lack of access to information, not upon reunion stories. Access legislation is not about reunion – its about the ability of all citizens to have equal access to records that are being kept by the state.

Background on your organization and/or legislative action.

Issue background

To date, adopted citizens have no ability to receive their original birth records in forty states. Adoption laws are determined state-by-state. If a person is adopted in Kansas City, Kansas, they are allowed access to all their records at age 18. If they are adopted across the street in Kansas City, Missouri, they will NEVER have access to their birth record. More specific information can be found at: www.americanadoptioncongress.org/

Film Synopsis

What if you had to live your whole life without ever knowing your own name at birth, your medical history, your ancestry - and what if you were told you had no right to ever know these things?

Most adopted citizens - even those who are elderly - are denied the ability to know their origins. *For the Life of Me* follows Dave (52) as he embarks on a journey to reclaim his past. Along with short stories of other adoptees from across the country, Dave's quest, with its unexpected and touching conclusion, illuminates the impact of secrets imposed for an entire lifetime.

DOCUMENTARY CAST:

David Kiley, 52, an adoptee from Western Massachusetts
Joe DeGironimo, 67, an adoptee from New Jersey
Robert O'Connor, 43, an adoptee from Wisconsin and Minnesota
Betty Weaver, 88, an adoptee from Iowa
Ruth Wilson, 92, an adoptee from California
Pam Hasegawa, 67, an adoptee from New York
Pam O'Toole, 50, an adoptee from Kansas
Ina Lewis, 75, an adoptee from Missouri

Filmmaker Bio

Jean Strauss is a New York Times best-selling author, legislative activist, and documentary filmmaker. With **FOR THE LIFE OF ME**, she marries her twin passions of adoption reform and filmmaking.

A graduate of UC Berkeley and USC, wife of a former college president and mother of two grown sons, she began making documentary films at the age of 50. Her short films won numerous award and accolades, including the prestigious American Cinematheque's list of top women directors in "Women in Shorts" and the San Diego Cinema Society's 'top eight shorts' list two years in a row. Her books include Penguin's *Birthright: the Guide to Search and Reunion*, and the NYTimes bestseller, *Forever Liesl: a memoir of The Sound of Music*. To contact the filmmaker: adoptedforthelifeofme@gmail.com or 909-261-2012

She currently lives in Lubbock, Texas, where her husband in the interim dean of engineering at Texas Tech University. **FOR THE LIFE OF ME** is her first feature film.