

PRESS KIT

Silver Tandem Productions

Jean A. S. Strauss

ADOPTED:

for the life of me

Producer/Director/Editor

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Film Synopsis

What if you had to live your whole life without ever knowing your own name at birth, your medical history, your own 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. **ADOPTED: for the life of me** follows Dave (52) and Joe (67) as they embark on journeys to reclaim their pasts. The unexpected and touching conclusions to their stories, illuminates the impact of secrets can have when imposed for an entire lifetime.

DOCUMENTARY CAST:

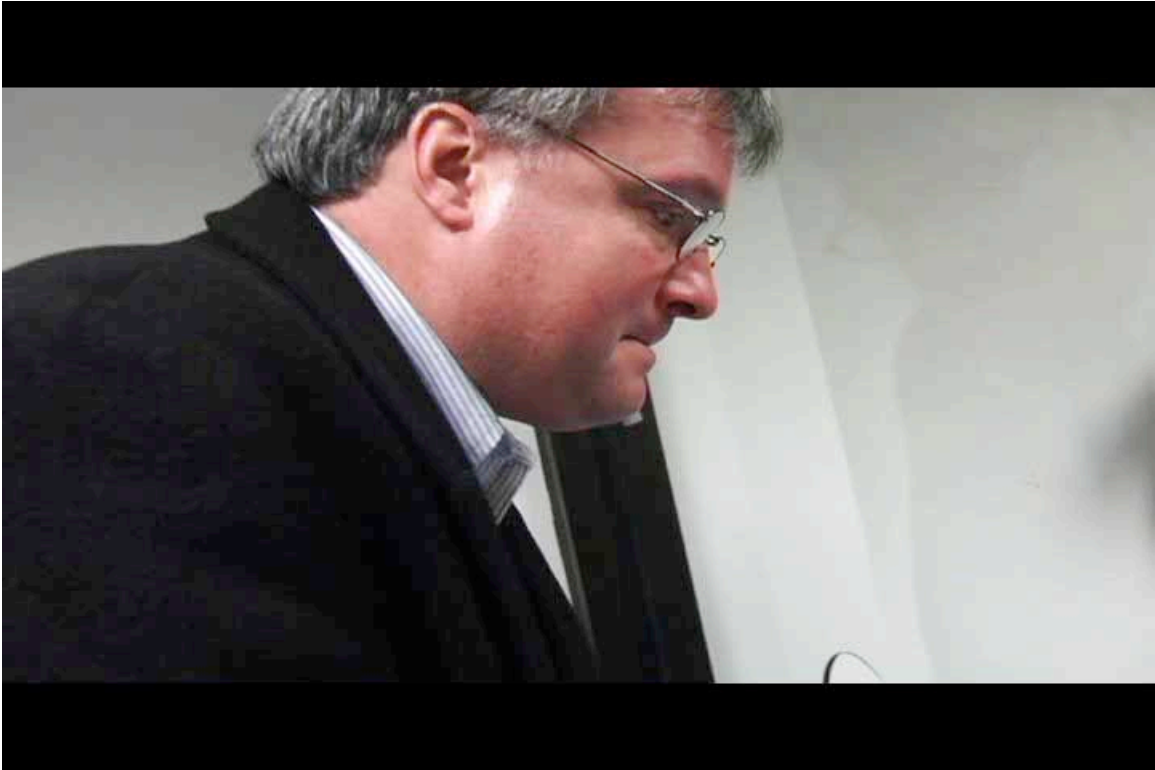
David Kiley, 52, an adoptee from Western Massachusetts
Joe DeGironimo, 67, an adoptee from New Jersey
Ruth Wilson, 92, an adoptee from California
Pam Hasegawa, 70, an adoptee from New York
Daryll McDaniels, (from RUN DMC), 43, an adoptee from New York
Betty Weaver, 88, an adoptee from Iowa
Pam O'Toole, 50, an adoptee from Kansas
Ina Lewis, 75, an adoptee from Missouri
Tabby, a 12 year old Brittany Spaniel, from Maine

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 college president and mother of two grown sons, she began making documentary films at the age of 50. Her short films have won numerous awards and were included in prestigious screenings from American Cinematheque's annual "Women in Shorts" which highlights emerging women directors to twice being named to the San Diego Cinema Society's '8 best shorts' lists in 2005 and 2007. Her books include Penguin's *Birthright: the Guide to Search and Reunion*, and the NYTimes bestseller, *Forever Lies! a memoir of The Sound of Music*.

FOR THE LIFE OF ME is her first feature film and will be broadcast on PBS beginning in November 2010.



Dave Kiley – Seeing his name at birth for the very first time...



Joe DeGironimo – at 67, still considered an 'adopted child'...