

International Adoptee Congress (IAC) Film Project
Call for Participants: “Voices of Adoption” (working title)
A Rainbow World Production

To all domestic and internationally adopted individuals, fellow members of the adoption community are creating a feature length documentary, “Voices of Adoption” (working title) that will serve as a springboard for introducing your numerous, rich, and compelling voices to the world. The time is right for the general public, as well as rest of the adoption community, to hear about “what adoptees think” from those who have been adopted, rather than from celebrities, adoption professionals, pseudo-psychologists on television, scholars, and the like.

The documentary will be entered into mainstream film festivals and public exhibition forums. Ultimately, our aspiration is to have it picked up for wide distribution. Indeed, our goals for the project are ambitious, but our optimism is not unfounded – we believe in the power of our vast community and we are committed to having your perspectives, insights and voices heard.

To create the documentary, we, of course, need you. There are two ways for you to participate.

I. Option One: Offer a Personal Submission

We encourage all interested persons to consider submitting a short video journal. You can submit something that just features you. You can submit something that features your friends and family. You can submit something that showcases your artistic propensities toward performance, art, music, and literature. In short, the sky is the limit. We simply ask that you bear in mind the footage you send to us could potentially be seen by *anyone*, so be sure not to disclose anything that you do not wish for others to see.

Contacts – If you interested, please e-mail our project liaisons:

- Adam “AJ” Bryant (ajs1979@gmail.com) – Adopted from India; Board Member, International Adoptee Congress (IAC).

- Kate Ingalls-Mahloney (katchmedia@earthlink.net) – Adopted within the United States; Adoption professional.

- Michelle Johnson (meeshahjaye@yahoo.com) – African American adopted person; Founding Member, Minnesota Coalition For Adoption Reform; Featured in groundbreaking *Struggle For Identity* and the upcoming follow up to the film.

- Jennifer Jue-Steuk (jenniferjuesteuk@gmail.com) – Adopted from China; Founder, Chinese Adoptees Links (CAL); Board Member, IAC.

- Mary Martin Mason (mmason@mnadopt.org) – Adopted in an open adoption after an orphanage experience; Board Member, American Adoption Congress.

- Kevin Ost-Vollmers (kostvollmers@fastem.com) – Adopted from Korea in 1984 after living with birth mother for 6 and a half years and spending time in orphanages and foster care; Board Member, IAC.

- Anna Petrillo (aepetrillo@yahoo.com) – Adopted from Korea; Board Member, DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival; Advisory Board Member, IAC.

- John Raible (jraible3@unl.edu) – Bi-racial African American adopted person; Featured in groundbreaking *Struggle For Identity* and the upcoming follow up to the film; Assistant Professor of Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

- Laura Romano (Bogota21@comcast.net) – Adopted from Bogota, Colombia in 1976 with her twin sister Joanna from La Casa de La Madre y El Nino; reunited with her birth family in 1997; Member, IAC. (Note: Laura will be without e-mail from March 30-April 10, 2007.)

- Adam Theodor (chau.thang@gmail.com) – Adopted from Vietnam; Board Member, Vietnamese Adoptee Network (VAN).

In your e-mail, please include: full name, age, country of origin, and the ideas you have for your submission.
Important Note: Submission deadline is August 31, 2007.

FORMATS – The following video formats are acceptable for submission: Hi-8, Mini-DV, DV-cam.

LENGTH – Please limit your submission to 15 minutes.

Please mail your submission, video release form and/or parental release form (if you are under the age of 18) to the project's editor, Jennifer Arndt-Johns:

Rainbow World
Jennifer Arndt-Johns
1920 S. 1st Sreet, #2206
Minneapolis, MN 55454

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to Jennifer at Jenrainbow@aol.com.

Important Notes – We strongly encourage adopted persons living in countries outside of the US to submit. Members of the project committee are hoping to connect with adopted persons who were born in the US and adopted into European countries, Korean adopted persons living in Korea, adopted persons living in Australia, and other adopted persons living in Europe. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Arndt-Johns.

II. Option Two: Filmmaker visit

If you are not comfortable with a camera, we are in the process of contacting filmmakers whom we to donate their time to interview/tape participants. In the coming months, we will announce dates, times, and locations for shoots in the following cities: Los Angeles, CA; Minneapolis, MN; New York City, NY; San Francisco, CA; Washington, DC.

Again, if you are interested, please e-mail our previously mentioned project liaisons and include your full name, age, and country of origin.

Topics of Interest

Regardless of how you wish to participate, please consider one or more of the following topics as a reference point to begin your “conversation”:

Adoption

- What does adoption mean to you?
- What does it mean to be an adopted person?
- Are you pro-adoption, anti-adoption, or somewhere in between?

- Does the practice of adoption interest you at all?

Family

- What does the word “family” mean to you?
- What do the words “mother” and “father” mean to you?
- What do the words “sister” and “brother” mean to you?
- What is your relationship like with your adoptive family?
- Do you know your birth family? If not, do you have a desire to connect with them? If yes, what is your relationship with your birth family like and is it what you imagined it to be?

Self

- What have you always wanted to say, but never felt as though you could or had the opportunity?
- What drives and motivates you?
- Do you feel loss in your life? Do you grieve?
- What makes you happy? What excites you?
- Do you feel misunderstood?
- What is the one thing that you would like everybody to know?

Advice

- What is the one piece of advice that you would like to give other adopted persons?
- What is the one piece of advice that you would like to give to adoptive parents?
- What is the one piece of advice you would like to give to adoption agencies, adoption professionals, therapists, psychologists, etc.?

Miscellaneous

- What are your thoughts about celebrity adoption?
- What are your thoughts about world politics?
- What’s fun? What’s not fun?
- What do you do on a regular day?
- What are your personal interests?

Important Documents

E-mail Jennifer Arndt-Johns (jenrainbow@aol.com) for the video/photo release (to be filled out by all) and parent release (to be filled out by participants under the age of 18).

Support the Project

Everyone on the project committee is donating valuable time and energy to this project because we believe in it. That goes for the filmmakers who are helping as well. With that said, there are a few funding needs, in particular the costs to the filmmakers for purchasing tape stock, camera rentals and potential travel to administer interviews. Also, funds are necessary to cover post production costs such as editing, distribution and marketing/publicity. And please let us know if you have equipment you would like to share.

If you are interested in helping to support the project, please contact Kevin Ost-Vollmers at kostvollmers@fastem.com. Also, if you live anywhere near the Washington, DC area, please send an e-mail to committee member AJ Bryant to get on the RSVP list for the fundraiser at his home in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood.