

# FOR THE LIFE OF ME

Directed by Jean Strauss

## LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION STEPS!

34th cleveland international film festival

march 18–28, 2010 tower city cinemas let's go.

We believe that films like the one you just saw can change the world. At the CIFF, we present these films and the accompanying FilmForums to provoke thought, inspire dialogue, and spark ideas. Now we're taking it one step further by encouraging you to take action steps to address the issues you've learned about today. Get involved! Make change happen!

**Generous support for Lights! Camera! Action Steps! is provided by Chuck and Char Fowler.**

## Speak Up

- Talk to five people about the film you saw today.
- Start a conversation at the dinner table about what your identity means to you.
- Share your personal story—publish a story; blog about it; make art; talk to a friend, a class or a community group.
- Write a letter to the editor regarding an issue that you are passionate about. Go to [www.nancyschwartz.com/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor.html](http://www.nancyschwartz.com/letters_to_the_editor.html) for tips on writing your letter and send it to the local daily papers, such as [forum@plaind.com](mailto:forum@plaind.com) and [vop@thebeaconjournal.com](mailto:vop@thebeaconjournal.com).
- Contact your state representative and state senator and urge them to support adoptees' right to access their original birth certificate. Visit [www.adoptionequityohio.org](http://www.adoptionequityohio.org) to learn more about contacting your legislators.

## Get Involved

- To begin a search and reunion effort visit the Adoption Network Cleveland's website at [www.adoptionnetwork.org](http://www.adoptionnetwork.org). To conduct a genealogy search, go to [www.newberry.org](http://www.newberry.org) and click on the Genealogy tab. To begin an international search, visit Holt International at [www.holtinternational.org](http://www.holtinternational.org) and click on the Adult Adoptee Outreach – Adoptee Resources tab.
- For a deeper understanding of what identity means, consider exploring an exercise with a group of friends. Go to <http://sun.menloschool.org/~sportman/westernstudies/first/introduction/> and click on the Identity Chart link.
- Host a screening of FOR THE LIFE OF ME, or a panel presentation and discussion about the issues presented in the film, at a local community organization or place of worship. Email [robin.ott@adoptionnetwork.org](mailto:robin.ott@adoptionnetwork.org) or call 216.325.1000 for more information or to schedule a program with Adoption Network Cleveland.
- Consider volunteering for the Speaker's Bureau or Public Policy Committee at the Adoption Network Cleveland by calling 216.325.1000, or visiting their site at [www.adoptionnetwork.org](http://www.adoptionnetwork.org).



clevelandfilm.org

more on back



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... continued from other side



- Register yourself or a team for the 2010 Adoption Network Cleveland's Lanes For Change fundraiser event. The event takes place in early August. Keep checking the site for date and registration information at [www.adoptionnetwork.org](http://www.adoptionnetwork.org). Or email Robin at [robin.ott@adoptionnetwork.org](mailto:robin.ott@adoptionnetwork.org).

## Stay Informed

- Visit the filmmaker's website at [www.jeanstrauss.com/films/for-the-life-of-me](http://www.jeanstrauss.com/films/for-the-life-of-me) to learn more about the film and to become a screening sponsor.
- Join Adoption Equity Ohio on Facebook and Twitter to get the latest updates on legislation to provide adoptees' access to their own birth certificates. Visit [www.adoptionequityohio.org](http://www.adoptionequityohio.org) for more information.
- Visit [www.americanadoptioncongress.org](http://www.americanadoptioncongress.org) to find out about pending legislation in other states. In Ohio, visit [www.adoptionequityohio.org](http://www.adoptionequityohio.org) or [www.americanadoptioncongress.org/state.php#OH](http://www.americanadoptioncongress.org/state.php#OH).
- To learn about current public policy efforts in the Cleveland area, visit [www.adoptionnetwork.org](http://www.adoptionnetwork.org) and sign up for HB7 updates.

## Make a Donation

- Consider an online donation to support the policy work of the Adoption Network Cleveland. Individual donations are encouraged as it is difficult to obtain grants to fund the much needed policy work. Your donation will ensure that work to provide adoptee access to a birth certificate will continue. Visit [www.adoptionnetwork.org](http://www.adoptionnetwork.org) and click on the Donate Now tab for more information.
- Consider a donation through the workplace giving campaign offered by Community Shares. For more information, visit their site at [www.communityshares.org](http://www.communityshares.org).
- Start a Giving Circle. Join with others who share your passion for this issue to raise money and awareness. Giving Circles decide jointly which projects to support and make a more significant impact by pooling resources. Find out how to start your Giving Circle at [www.thegivingcircle.org](http://www.thegivingcircle.org).

LET THE CIFF KNOW ABOUT THE ACTION STEPS YOU TAKE. Email us at [action@clevelandfilm.org](mailto:action@clevelandfilm.org).

