

Adoption on Film: Families Lost and Found

September 16 -17, 2011

Frick Fine Arts Auditorium

University of Pittsburgh



Friday, September 16

7:30 pm

Wo Ai Ni Mommy (Stephanie Wang-Breal, 2007)

This compelling documentary follows the journey of an eight-year-old girl taken from a foster home in China to live with her new parents on Long Island, from first moments together through their first year and a half as a family. The film won the Silverdocs Medal for Best American Feature of 2010.

Director Stephanie Wang-Breal will present and discuss.



Saturday, September 17

1:00 pm

Adopted: For the Life of Me (Jean Strauss, 2010)

Documentarist Jean Strauss follows two older men in search of their first families. Shown on PBS stations in 2010, **Adopted: For the Life of Me** is especially timely given pending Pennsylvania state legislation addressing closed birth records.



3:00 pm

To Each His Own (Mitchell Leisen, 1946)

Olivia de Havilland stars in an Academy-Award winning performance as Jody, a mother managing the complexities of a life with and without her son Griggysy, whom she shares with his adoptive mother and her friend Corinne. A sublime women's film of the studio era, **To Each His Own** reveals a sophisticated sense of a birth parent's loss while demonstrating the sensibilities of its era and genre.



7:30 pm

Secrets and Lies (Mike Leigh, 1996)

Mike Leigh's spare **Secrets and Lies** provides a lovely and lively contrast to high dramatic representations of adoption and loss. The film asks: What happens after a successful adopted woman, who is black, contacts her birthmother, who is white (played by Brenda Blethyn)? Nominated for 5 Oscars, **Secrets and Lies** won 29 other awards, including the Palme d'Or.

Presented by
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