



FIRST WAVER

A DOCUMENTARY FILM

A wide, desaturated landscape of a beach and ocean under a cloudy sky. The foreground shows a sandy beach with some dark spots, possibly rocks or debris. The middle ground is dominated by the ocean, with white foam from waves breaking onto the shore. In the background, a range of blue mountains stretches across the horizon under a pale, overcast sky. The overall tone is muted and atmospheric.

**AFTER DECADES LIVING A LIE, A KOREAN-AMERICAN ADOPTEE IN HER 60S GOES ON
A GLOBAL QUEST FOR MEANING AND BELONGING TO DISCOVER HER TRUE IDENTITY.**



SUNNA BOSWELL
IN HER OWN WORDS

GROWING UP AS A CHILD AMONG PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T LOOK LIKE ME, I LONGED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MYSELF. THE LONELINESS AND SADNESS I FACED GROWING UP IN A WHITE FAMILY IN THE MIDWEST STILL HAUNT ME TODAY. NOW THAT MY PARENTS HAVE PASSED, I FEEL THE FREEDOM TO GO ON THIS JOURNEY.

I BELIEVE OUR TIME AS TRANSRACIAL ADOPTEES IS NO LONGER IN THE DARK. I WANT TO BE A BEACON FOR MY GENERATION TO FINALLY GET THE ANSWERS WE DESERVE.

WE ARE DYING. I HAVE LIVED ALL MY LIFE IN A LIE. IT'S MY TURN TO TELL MY STORY. OUR STORY.

STORY

SUNNI BOSWELL WAS BORN SEPTEMBER, 1960 IN SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA. OR SO SHE WAS TOLD.

FOUND ON THE STAIRS OF A HOSPITAL IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE KOREAN WAR, SUNNI WAS ADOPTED INTO THE BOSWELL FAMILY 6,000 MILES AWAY FROM HOME.

"FIRST WAYER" GIVES VOICE TO A LOST GENERATION WITH INTERVIEWS FROM FELLOW PASSENGERS ON THAT FATEFUL FLIGHT TO AMERICA, ACCESS TO WITNESSES OF THE ADOPTIONS, AND AN EMOTIONAL PERSONAL QUEST FOR THE TRUTH 60 YEARS LATER.

THE FILM EXPLORES ISSUES OF IDENTITY, HOW TRANSRACIAL ADOPTEES ARE CONSIDERED FOREIGNERS BOTH AT HOME AND IN THEIR NATIVE COUNTRY, AND SUNNI'S INTIMATE SEARCH FOR MEANING AND BELONGING AS SHE FACES HER GOLDEN YEARS.



A woman with dark hair and pink flower earrings is shown in profile, looking thoughtfully to the right. She is wearing a light-colored, textured jacket over a pink shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus outdoor scene with trees and a sky.

WHY NOW?

THE WORLDWIDE INTEREST IN THE QUESTIONABLE TACTICS USED BY INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION AGENCIES IS GROWING. ADOPTEES AND ADVOCATES ARE AMASSING A MOVEMENT TO PRESSURE THE GOVERNMENT FOR ANSWERS. WITH OUR UNIQUE ACCESS AND PERSONAL STORY THAT STANDS FOR A WHOLE GENERATION, THIS IS A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO DOCUMENT THE FIRST WAVE DURING A MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY.

"FIRST WAVE" WILL CONNECT WITH AUDIENCES ON AN EMOTIONAL LEVEL, CERTAIN TO SPARK ENLIGHTENING CONVERSATION, AND RESONATE WITH VIEWERS EVERYWHERE.



THOMAS PALLIER

THOMAS PALLIER IS AN AWARD-WINNING GERMAN FILMMAKER, SCREENWRITER, AND PRODUCER BASED IN LOS ANGELES. HE HOLDS AN MFA IN FILM DIRECTING FROM CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY, WHERE HE WAS MENTORED BY TWO-TIME ACADEMY AWARD WINNING DIRECTOR ASGHAR FARHADI.

WITH EXTENSIVE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN DOCUMENTARIES FOR NETWORK TV, THOMAS BRINGS A UNIQUE BLEND OF EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN SENSIBILITIES THAT TOUCH AUDIENCES WITH MEANINGFUL YET ENTERTAINING STORYTELLING. HIS WORK REFLECTS A COMMITMENT TO BRIDGING CULTURAL GAPS AND CRAFTING NARRATIVES THAT RESONATE UNIVERSALLY.

AFTER DIRECTING SUNNI IN THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED SHORT TOP DOGS, SUNNI APPROACHED THOMAS WITH HER VERY PERSONAL STORY AND THEY BEGAN DEVELOPING THIS FILM.

SHELBY BALDOCK

BETWEEN BEING GAY, SOUTHERN, AND AN ORGAN TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT, I'VE HAD TO LEARN TO NAVIGATE THE MYRIAD IDENTITIES THAT OTHER FOLKS PROJECT ONTO ME ON A DAILY BASIS.

GROWING UP IN MEMPHIS, TN, MY CAREER BEGAN WITH THE GRAMMYS AND THE RENOWNED BAND NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALLSTARS, GAINING OVER 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE EDITING AND DIRECTING DOCUMENTARIES, NARRATIVE FILM, VIRTUAL REALITY AND MUSIC VIDEOS. MY WORK HAS APPEARED IN NATIONAL TELEVISION CAMPAIGNS WITH MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL, THE EMMY-WINNING "THE MESSY TRUTH VR WITH VAN JONES," THE FEATURE DOCUMENTARY "BOMBIE," AND THE BOWERY AWARD-WINNING ANIMATED FILM "WE GOT A PROBLEM WITH GROUNDWATER." COLLABORATORS HAVE INCLUDED GIBSON GUITARS, THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS, AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

AFTER YEARS WORKING IN DOCUMENTARIES, THOMAS APPROACHED ME WITH SUNNI'S STORY. I'M VERY EXCITING TO BRING THIS STORY TO LIFE.



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