

Delve Deeper into "Big Enough"

A film by Jan Krawitz

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Penny Talbert of the Ephrata Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Big Enough" that premieres on June 28th, 2005 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings www.pbs.org/pov/).

In this intimate portrait, Jan Krawitz revisits some of the subjects who appeared in her 1982 award-winning film *Little People*. Through a prism of "then and now," she contrasts the youth of these individuals affected with dwarfism with their lives 20 years later. From navigating everyday life to dating and marrying, they confront physical and emotional challenges with humor, grace and sometimes, frustration. "Big Enough" provides a unique perspective on a proud and active community that many people know only from cultural stereotypes.

ADULT NONFICTION

Ablon, Joan. *Living with Difference: Families with Dwarf Children*. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 1988. *Living with Difference* explores the medical and social issues unique to parents of dwarf children.

Ablon, Joan. *Little People in America: The Social Dimension of Dwarfism*. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 1984. Recommended for genetic counselors, this book discusses a variety of issues, including the social difficulties faced by little people.

Adelson, Betty. *The Lives of Dwarfs: Their Journey from Public Curiosity Towards Social Liberation*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2005. A social history of dwarfism.

Barty, Billy and Steven Cox. *The Munchkins of Oz*. Nashville, TN: Cumberland House Publishing, 2001. A behind the scenes look at the little people who played the munchkins in *The Wizard of Oz* –

where they came from and what happened to them after the movie and its success.

Copeland, Michael, and Debra Copeland. *Within Reach: An Inspirational Journey into the Life, Legacy and Influence of Billy Barty*. Longwood, FL: Xulon Press, 2002. With stories from Art Linkletter, George Lucas and many more, this book looks at the life of Billy Barty, founder of Little People of America.

***Dwarfism: A Medical Dictionary, Bibliography, and Annotated Research Guide to Internet References*. San Diego, CA: Icon Health Publications, 2004.** Provides thorough answers to many questions about dwarfism.

Kennedy, Dan. *Little People: Learning to See the World Through My Daughter's Eyes*. New York: Rodale Books, 2003. Kennedy explores the exploitation of little people and myths related to dwarfism by looking at his daughter's life, and his own.

Koren, Yehuda and Eliat Negev. *In Our Hearts We Were Giants: The Remarkable Story of the Lilliput Troupe--A Dwarf Family's Survival of the Holocaust*. New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 2004. Shimshon Eizik Ovitz's family was one of very few that survived Auschwitz. The book exposes the relationship Ovitz had with Josef Mengele, and the torture the family underwent through medical testing.

Page, Nick. *Lord Minimus: The Extraordinary Life of Britain's Smallest Man*. New York: St Martin's Press, 2002. The story of Jeffrey Hudson, an 18-inch tall man, who was made Queen Henrietta Maria and Charles I's "official dwarf" in the 17th century.

Raabe, Meinhardt and Daniel Kinske. *Memories of a Munchkin: An Illustrated Walk Down the Yellow Brick Road*. New York: Backstage Books, 2005. A treasure trove of Oz stories and memorabilia.

Richardson, John H. *In the Little World: A True Story of Dwarfs, Love, and Trouble*. New York:

Perennial, 2002. A fascinating look at people the author met at the Little People of America convention.

Roloff, Matt and Tracy Sumner. *Against Tall Odds: Being a David in a Goliath World*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 1999. Roloff, a dwarf, shares the story of his life and family.

Scott, Charles I. et al. *Dwarfism: The Family & Professional Guide*. Irvine, CA: Short Stature Foundation Press, 1994. An excellent source for parents and professionals.

Simons, Robin. *After The Tears: Parents Talk About Raising A Child With A Disability*. New York: Harvest Books, 1987. Simons presents personal accounts from parents who have children with disabilities.

Slomanson, Joan Kanel. *A Short History: Thumbnail Sketches of 50 Little Giants*. New York: Abbeville Press, 1998. Highlights the lives and accomplishments of 50 dwarves throughout history.

ADULT FICTION

Bunch, Chris. *The Empire Stone*. New York: Warner Aspect, 2000. *The Empire Stone* is the story of Peirol, a dwarf, and his quest for the Empire Stone.

Hegi, Ursula. *Stones from the River*. New York: Touchstone, 1997 (Reprint edition). *Stones from the River* is the story of Trudi Montag, a dwarf living through the world wars.

Irving, John. *A Prayer for Owen Meany*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1997. The story of Owen Meany, a dwarf with a very unique voice. Through the book's unique characters, the story looks at martyrdom and predestination.

Maupin, Armistead. *Maybe the Moon*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1993. The story, told through a journal, of Cadence Roth, a small woman with a big personality.

Mawer, Simon. *Mendel's Dwarf*. New York: Penguin Books, 1999.

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The story of Dr. Benedict Lambert, a geneticist and dwarf, and his research into dwarfism and its cause.

Raymo, Chet. *The Dork of a Cork*. New York: Warner Books, 1994. The story of Frank Bois, a 43-year-old dwarf in Cork, Ireland, who lacks human contact and is overcome with self pity.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Landau, Elaine. *Short Stature: From Folklore to Fact (First Book)*. Danbury, CT: Franklin Watts, 1997. Landau presents both the facts and misconceptions associated with conjoined twins and dwarfism.

Riggs, Stephanie and Bill Youmans. *Never Sell Yourself Short*. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Company, 2001. Looks at the life of a little person and his community's reactions to his disability.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Bliss, Corinne Demas and Nancy Poydar. *The Shortest Kid in the World*. New York: Random House Books for Younger Readers, 1995. The story of Emily, who was the shortest kid in the class, that is, until Marietta comes along.

Chevalier, Chrisa. *Spence is Small*. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Co., 1987. Spence is small. He has troubles doing things other people do easily, but he learns that being small is sometimes good, too.

Hegi, Ursula and, Gisell Potter. *Trudi & Pia*. New York: Atheneum/Anne Schwartz Books, 2003. Until Trudi, a dwarf, meets Pia, another little person, she is lonely and spends her day dreaming of being tall. Pia teaches Trudi about other dwarves and how to be happy with who she is.

O'Neill, Peggy. *Little Squarehead*. Bellevue, WA: Illumination Arts Publishing

Company, 2001. Taunted by children at school, a sad little girl retreats to the comfort of the forest. There, guided by a mystical voice, she discovers the importance of courage, confidence and compassion.

Philbrick, Rodman. *Freak the Mighty*. New York: Scholastic, Inc, 1993. Max lives with his grandparents after his father is put in prison for murdering his mother. He meets Freak, a disabled boy, with whom a great friendship begins. As Freak's illness gets worse, Max is faced with serious questions about life and dying.

VIDEOS/DOCUMENTARIES

"4 Foot Ten." Directed by Peter Mauro, 1999. (26 minutes.) Follows three little people attending the Little People of America national convention.

"Dwarf: Standing Tall." A film by Yves and Laurie Isseibert. Discovery Channel, 1999. (53 mins). This Discovery Channel video shows viewers the social and physical obstacles that people of short stature face every day.

"Dwarfism: A Little Difference." Directed by Brian Stone and produced by Shirley Woika. AVS Collection, 1994. (19 mins). Profiles a young boy who is a dwarf, following his daily routine and comparing him to another boy of similar age who is average-sized.

"Dwarfs: Not a Fairy Tale." A film by Lisa Hedley. HBO, 2001. (52 mins). Explores the realities of dwarfism through four personal stories that prove being a little person does not preclude happiness or success.

"Little People." A film by Jan Krawitz and Thomas Ott. Distributed by Jan Krawitz. 1984. (58 min). This film depicts the changes in attitude occurring among dwarfs as they struggle towards equal opportunity and enhanced self-esteem. It provides insight into the dwarf experience and offers a unique and sometimes disturbing perspective on the average-sized world.

FEATURE FILMS

"Frankie Starlight." Directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg. New Line Studios, 1997. (101 min.) Based on the novel "The Dork of Cork" by Chet Raymo. The story of Frankie "Starlight," (Corbin Walker), a little person who writes an autobiography and suddenly becomes an acclaimed writer, and the center of Ireland's literary circle. <http://www.finelinefeatures.com/frankie/>

"I Don't Want to Talk About It." Directed and written by Maria Luisa Bemberg. Columbia/Tristar Studios, 1994. (102 min.) In Spanish with English subtitles. About a woman in denial that her child is a dwarf. She attempts to eradicate all reminders that dwarfism exists.

"Simon Birch." A film by Mark Steven Johnson. 1998. (112 min). Simon Birch and his best friend Joe Wentworth are both outcasts in their tiny New England town: Joe is the illegitimate son of the town beauty, and Simon, at age 12, is so small that he still plays the infant Jesus in the church Christmas pageant. Together, they try to find out who Joe's father is. Just as they succeed, the time comes for Simon to fulfill the destiny he believes in. A situation arises that demands a hero - a very small hero. <http://www.simon-birch.com/>

"Tip Toes." Directed by Matthew Bright. Columbia TriStar Home Video, 2003. (90 min). Normal-sized Steven (Matthew McConaughey) has a dwarf brother, Rolfe (Gary Oldman). When Steven begins a serious romance with Carol (Kate Beckinsale), he neglects to tell her about both Rolfe, and the fact that his parents are little people, too. But when she gets pregnant, he feels that it's his duty to inform her that their child could be born with the condition. Meanwhile, Rolfe's French friend, Maurice (Peter Dinklage)--who is also a little person--embarks on an affair with a pretty, normal-sized hitchhiker (Patricia Arquette).

"The Station Agent" Directed by Thomas McCarthy. Miramax Films. 2003. (88 min). Finbar McBride (Peter Dinklage) is a little person

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trying to live life on his own terms. Looking only to be left alone, he takes up residence in a rural town's old train depot. But much like the station agents that occupied small town depots before him, he finds himself reluctantly becoming enmeshed in the lives of his neighbors. The STATION AGENT is about three people with nothing in common, except their shared solitude, until chance circumstances bring their lives together. Before long, from this forgotten depot, this mismatched threesome forges an unlikely bond, which ultimately reveals that even isolation is better shared

<http://www.thestationagent.com/>

WEB SITES

www.littlepeoplemeet.com

LittlePeopleMeet.com creates a simple and fun atmosphere for singles around the world to meet. Whether it is for a long-term relationship or just pen pals.

www.shortsupport.org

The mission of Short Persons Support is to support and provide reference material to persons of short stature, raise awareness of the social and economic issues facing short people, and offer inspiration to short people to help better their lives and attitudes.

www.dwarfism.org

An online community of individuals interested in and/or affected by dwarfism. A hub for the exchange of related information.

www.lprf.org

Little People of America Research Foundation is the only health organization in the world supporting the research for the special medical needs of Little People - people affected with skeletal dysphasia.

www.lpaonline.org

Little People of America, Inc., is a nonprofit organization that provides support and information to people of short stature and their families.

www.vh.org/navigation/vh/topics/pediatric_provider_dwarfism.html

Virtual Hospital offers medical reference materials for parents raising little people.

www.geneticalliance.org

Genetic Alliance increases the capacity of genetic advocacy groups to achieve their missions and leverages the voices of millions of individuals and families living with genetic conditions.

www.nsgc.org

National Society of Genetics Counselors is the leading voice, authority and advocate for the genetic counseling profession.

www.tolerance.org

Tolerance.org promotes and supports anti-bias activism in every venue of life.

www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/hslibs.html

Medical health sciences libraries on the web.

www.hls.mlanet.org

Index and access to hospital libraries.

www.mlanet.org

The Medical Library Association

dept.kent.edu/sociology/asamedsoc/

The Medical Sociology Section brings together social and behavioral scientists from a variety of backgrounds who share an interest in the social contexts of health, illness, and health care.

www.pbs.org/fredfriendly/ourgenes/index.html

Fred Friendly Seminar: Our Genes, Our Choices. Find out more about the history of genetics, the ethical dilemmas involved with genetic screening, cloning and transplanting, and real-life scenarios in which difficult choices have to be made.

www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/scienocenow/3209/01.html

PBS' NOVA series' "Little People of Flores" web site. The remains of three-foot-tall humans are discovered on a remote Indonesian island.

www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/week453/cover.html

Religion & Ethics Newsweekly: "The Ethics of Genetic Testing." As a result of the Human Genome Project, we are now able to locate genetic mutations and know much more about a person's medical future than ever before. And this new knowledge has given rise to many medical, legal, and ethical questions.

www.pbs.org/wgbh/evolution/humans/

"Evolution: The Mind's Big Bang." Learn more about Darwin and about the earliest humans. Participate in a poll by weighing in on the question, "Should we create babies by design?"

www.pbs.org/faithandreason/

Find out more about genetic screening, evolution and ethics at *Faith & Reason*, an older PBS website.

www.pbs.org/race/000_About/002_04-background-01-03.htm

An interview with Pilar Ossorio, a legal scholar, microbiologist and bioethicist who teaches at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. She is a leading expert on the ethical implications of genetic research.

www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/genome/manipulate.html

PBS' NOVA series' "Cracking the Code of Life: Manipulating Genes: How Much is Too Much?" In this interview, Dr. Philip Kitcher, professor of philosophy at Columbia University and the author of *The Lives to Come: The Genetic Revolution and Human Possibilities* (Simon & Schuster, 1996) speaks his mind on some of the controversial issues now under discussion with regard to genetic testing, therapy and enhancement.