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


ADULT FICTION


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


NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


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/Ane 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.


Company, 2001. Taunted by children at school, a sad little girl retreats to the comforts 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 Issemberg. 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


“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 McConaughhey) 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 feel 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
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.ipfr.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 dysplasia.

www.ipaonline.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/hslib.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

dep.t.kent.edu/sociology/asampascoc/

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/scienow/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.