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POV's Thanksgiving Day Broadcast, 'Listening Is an Act of Love: A StoryCorps Special,' Reveals the Power of Conversation, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2013 at 9 p.m. on PBS

StoryCorps' First Animated Television Special, Drawn from Its Oral History Archives, Unveils Dramatic Personal Stories from Everyday People. All You Have to Do Is Ask—And Listen.

Produced in Association with American Documentary | POV. Funded by CPB.

"StoryCorps on PBS: Must-See, Can't-Miss, Your-Life-Depends-on-It TV." —Richard Corliss, *TIME.com*

MEDIA ALERT – FACT SHEET

National Dates: **Listening Is an Act of Love: A StoryCorps Special** premieres on Thanksgiving Day (also the first day of Hanukkah), **Thursday, Nov. 28, 2013**, at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings). The half-hour program is a special presentation of **POV (Point of View)**, American television's longest-running independent documentary series.

This broadcast takes place the day before the National Day of Listening, a holiday created by StoryCorps to encourage people take the time to record conversations with loved ones the day after Thanksgiving, traditionally known as Black Friday. **Listening Is an Act of Love** will stream on POV's website, www.pbs.org/pov/storycorpsspecial, from **Nov. 29-Dec. 29**, 2013.

To coincide with the POV broadcast, The Penguin Press has released a new book, *Ties That Bind: Stories of Love and Gratitude from the First Ten Years of StoryCorps*, and re-released *Listening Is an Act of Love: A Celebration of American Life from the StoryCorps Project*.

The Program: The first-ever animated special from StoryCorps celebrates the transformative power of listening. **Listening Is an Act of Love** features six stories from 10 years of the innovative oral history project, where everyday people sit down together to share memories and tackle life's important questions. Framing these intimate conversations from across the country is an interview between StoryCorps founder Dave Isay and his inquisitive 9-year-old nephew, Benji, animated in the inimitable visual style of the Rauch Brothers. The stories:

- **Making It:** Noe Rueda grew up poor on Chicago's West Side. At the age of 8, he already relied on his entrepreneurial talents to help his mom and three siblings make ends meet. Noe tells his high school teacher Alex Fernandez about his childhood.
- **Marking the Distance:** When Gweneviere Mann, a San Francisco native living in New York, lost her short-term memory following surgery to remove a brain tumor, she was forced to navigate life in a new way. But she wasn't alone. With the support of her boyfriend, Yasir Salem, she found she could tackle the challenges her condition threw her way—and a few more.

- **The Road Home:** Eddie Lanier ignored his father’s warning about the family’s disposition to alcoholism and struggled for over 40 years, until his 28th stint in rehab finally led to sobriety. Homeless and hungry, he roamed the streets of Chapel Hill, N.C., and found a friend in David Wright, a passerby. The two friends discuss Eddie’s remarkable journey.
- **Me & You:** In New York, 73-year-old Jackie Miller talks to her adopted son, Scott, revealing something about her early life that sheds new light on his adoption. As they express their profound love for one another, Scott touchingly recalls how he came out to her and expresses his trepidation about the future.
- **Miss Devine** (encore): In Bradenton, Fla., cousins James Ransom and Cherie Johnson hilariously recall their fearsome Sunday school teacher, Miss Lizzie Devine. In Miss Devine’s world, there was no earthly excuse to miss Sunday school, even if it meant arriving in your pajamas and tennis shoes, as James personally attests.
- **No More Questions!** (encore): Kay Wang was a strong-willed grandmother who was reluctantly taken to a StoryCorps booth in San Francisco by her son Cheng and granddaughter Chen. Though Kay resisted, she still had stories to tell—from disobeying her mother and rebuffing suitors in China to her adventures as a Bloomingdale’s store detective. Kay passed away just weeks after that interview.

Embed a trailer, download press materials and learn more at www.pbs.org/pressroom.

Online:

POV’s website for **Listening Is an Act of Love: A StoryCorps Special** – <http://www.pbs.org/pov/storycorpsspecial/> – offers a broad range of exclusive online content to enhance the PBS broadcast. Watch the program online for free starting Nov. 29, 2013, along with all of the StoryCorps animated shorts from the past three seasons of POV; view video interviews with the founder of StoryCorps and the directors of the animated series, and read an excerpt from the new StoryCorps book, *Ties That Bind*.

StoryCorps’ website – www.storycorps.org – features audio and animated video stories and podcasts, a history of the StoryCorps project and information about StoryCorps’ books, initiatives, recording locations, anniversary celebrations and how to record your story.

Filmmakers:

Dave Isay, StoryCorps Founder and President/Executive Producer

Dave Isay is the founder of StoryCorps and the recipient of numerous broadcasting honors, including six Peabody Awards and a MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship. He is the author/editor of numerous books that grew out of his public radio documentary work, including three StoryCorps books: *Listening Is an Act of Love* (2007), *Mom: A Celebration of Mothers from StoryCorps* (2010) and *All There Is: Love Stories from StoryCorps* (2012)—all *New York Times* bestsellers. *Ties That Bind: Stories of Love and Gratitude from the First Ten Years of StoryCorps* was published by The Penguin Press in October 2013.

Mike Rauch, Producer/Director

Mike Rauch first became fascinated with the triumphs, trials, and life stories of everyday Americans while working as a door-to-door book salesman. He joined StoryCorps in 2007 and worked as an intern and facilitator before taking on his current role as a producer and director on the StoryCorps animated series. He also works with his brother Tim to produce independent animation through their studio Rauch Brothers Animation, and he is developing a film featuring 1950s recordings made by Puerto Rican migrants in New York City.

Tim Rauch, Animator/Director

Tim Rauch has been drawing ever since he was old enough to hold a crayon. His career in animation began on *The Wonder Pets!*, an Emmy Award-winning preschool show, for which he was an animator and designer. Since then, he has created animation for clients as diverse as Sesame Workshop and Mountain Dew. Through Rauch Brothers Animation, he has directed and animated two award-winning independent films that have screened in more than 50 film festivals worldwide.

Related Stories: “All Jokes Aside, Stephen Colbert Genuinely Loves StoryCorps,” by Cara Bloomgarden-Smoke, *New York Observer*, Nov. 1, 2013. <http://observer.com/2013/11/stephen-colbert-genuinely-loves-storycorps/>

“When the Listening Trumps the Tale,” by Brian Stelter, *The New York Times*, Oct. 23, 2013. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/27/arts/television/storycorps-marks-its-10th-anniversary.html>

“Air the StoryCorps Theme, Cue the Tears,” *Morning Edition*, NPR, Oct. 21, 2013. <http://www.npr.org/2013/10/21/236383017/air-the-storycorps-theme-cue-the-tears>

Credits: Directors/Producers: Mike and Tim Rauch
Animation and Design: Tim Rauch
Executive Producers: Dave Isay, Donna Galeno
Producers: Lizzie Jacobs, Mike Rauch
Co-producer: Maya Millet
Original Music: Nick Yulman

POV Series Credits:

Executive Producer: Simon Kilmurry
Co-Executive Producer: Cynthia López
VP, Programming & Production: Chris White
Series Producer: Andrew Catauro

Outreach: POV works with educators, public television stations and community organizations to present over 600 free screenings across the country. For a list of upcoming screening events, visit to www.pbs.org/pov/outreach. Join POV’s [Community Network](#) to borrow **Listening Is an Act of Love: A StoryCorps Special** from our free Lending Library. See our [Partner Toolkit](#) for additional resources, including a DIY toolkit designed by StoryCorps to support public media stations and StoryCorps fans wishing to record stories for the National Day of Listening on Nov.29.

Pressroom: Visit POV’s pressroom, www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom, for press releases, downloadable art, filmmaker biographies, transcripts and special features.

POV: Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and now in its 26th season on PBS, the award-winning POV is the longest-running showcase on American television to feature the work of today’s best independent documentary filmmakers. POV has brought more than 365 acclaimed documentaries to millions nationwide. POV films have won every major film and broadcasting award, including 32 Emmys, 15 George Foster Peabody Awards, 11 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards, three Academy Awards® and the Prix Italia. In 2012, POV achieved a new milestone, winning five News & Documentary Emmy® Awards. Since 1988, POV has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation about today’s most pressing social issues. Visit www.pbs.org/pov.

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