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StoryCorps Launches Animation Series on POV

Renowned Oral-History Project Brings Stories to Visual Life in Six Documentary Shorts
Beginning Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2010, on PBS

"[StoryCorps interviews] form shimmering threads in the American tapestry." – *USA Today*

Since 2003, StoryCorps has been recording and preserving the voices of everyday people, one conversation at a time. For the past five years, the producers have shared one of these stories each week on NPR. Now, StoryCorps brings its Peabody Award-winning storytelling to public television in collaboration with **POV (Point of View)**. StoryCorps' new animated shorts feature some of the series' best-loved radio stories.

Animated by Mike and Tim Rauch and using original StoryCorps audio recordings, these short films capture the intimate and emotionally resonant conversations that have become renowned as NPR's quintessential "driveway moments." The series of six documentary shorts will take viewers from an intimate conversation between a boy with Asperger's syndrome and his mom, to a Brooklyn couple remembering how they fell in love and recognizing that they now must learn to let go, and to several other memorable places in between.

The StoryCorps documentary animations will air this summer with selected feature-length films starting on **Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2010**. Additional StoryCorps films will be presented on POV in 2011, as well as being presented as standalone films in partnership with PBA 30 (Public Broadcasting Atlanta). The StoryCorps collection is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

POV, now in its 23rd season, airs Tuesdays at 10 p.m. on PBS. (Check local listings.) POV continues weekly through Sept. 21 and concludes with a special broadcast on Oct. 5. American television's longest-running independent documentary series, POV is the recipient of a Special Emmy for Excellence in Television Documentary Filmmaking and the International Documentary Association's IDA Award for Continuing Series.

StoryCorps animated shorts on POV:

Tuesday, Aug. 17, airing with "SALT":

- **Danny and Annie, Part I** – Brooklyn natives Danny and Annie Perasa reminisce about their 27-year love affair. Though he may not look the part, when Danny talks about his love for Annie, it's obvious that he is one of the world's great romantics.
- **Danny and Annie, Part II** – After nearly three decades of marriage, fatal illness dashed Danny and Annie's hopes for a long life together. In an intimate and heartbreaking glimpse into a marriage, this animated short witnesses true love as it braves the finality of loss.

Tuesday, Aug. 24, airing with "The Edge of Dreaming":

- **Q&A** – Joshua Littman, a 12-year-old boy with Asperger's syndrome, interviews his mother, Sarah. Joshua's unique questions and Sarah's loving, unguarded answers reveal a

relationship that reminds us of the best — and the most challenging — parts of being a mother.

Tuesday, Aug. 31, airing with “Wo Ai Ni (I Love You) Mommy”:

- **Germans in the Woods** – Joseph Robertson was an infantryman in the U.S. Army during World War II, and he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. The stark black and white images in this short haunt the viewer — just as Robertson is haunted still by his memories of that battle.

Tuesday, Sept. 7, airing with “Off and Running”:

- **The Human Voice** – The great oral historian Studs Terkel was an inspiration to StoryCorps and he was also an early participant in the project. He speaks out about what has been lost in modern life and where he sees hope for our future.
- **The Icing on the Cake** – Blanca Alvarez and her husband risked crossing the border to immigrate to the United States, and then struggled to make ends meet. They hoped to shelter their children from these harsh realities, but Blanca’s daughter Connie reveals how much children can really see of their parents’ lives — and the inspiration they draw from their parents’ struggles.

About StoryCorps:

The first StoryBooth opened on Oct. 23, 2003, in New York City’s Grand Central Terminal. In May 2008 the new flagship StoryBooth opened in Lower Manhattan’s Foley Square. StoryCorps currently operates StoryBooths in New York City, San Francisco and Atlanta. Two StoryCorps MobileBooths travel across the country, partnering with local public radio stations in various cities for one month at a time. StoryCorps’ first two MobileBooths hit the road on May 19, 2005.

With the permission of the participants, edited stories from each booth are broadcast on a partner public radio station. One story is broadcast nationally on NPR’s *Morning Edition* each week on Friday. Recorded interviews are added to the StoryCorps Archive, housed at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

Dave Isay, StoryCorps Founder and President

Dave Isay is the founder of StoryCorps and the recipient of numerous broadcasting honors, including five Peabody Awards and a MacArthur Fellowship (also known as a “genius grant.”) He is the author/editor of numerous books that grew out of his public radio documentary work, including two StoryCorps books, *Listening Is an Act of Love* (2007) and *Mom: A Celebration of Mothers from StoryCorps* (2010), both *New York Times* bestsellers.

About the StoryCorps Filmmakers:

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 currently 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!*, the 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 also directed and animated two award-winning independent films screening in over 50 film festivals worldwide.

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StoryCorps® StoryCorps' mission is to provide Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, preserve and share their stories. Each week, millions of Americans listen to StoryCorps' award-winning broadcasts on NPR's "Morning Edition" and podcasts. In June 2007 StoryCorps received a rare institutional Peabody Award — one of the highest honors in broadcast journalism. Currently StoryCorps has recorded interviews with more than 60,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information or to listen to stories online visit www.storycorps.org.



Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and now in its 23rd season on PBS, the award-winning POV series is the longest-running showcase on American television to feature the work of today's best independent documentary filmmakers. Airing June through September, with primetime specials during the year, POV has brought more than 300 acclaimed documentaries to millions nationwide and has a Webby Award-winning online series, *POV's Borders*. 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. More information is available at www.pbs.org/pov.

POV Interactive (www.pbs.org/pov)

POV's award-winning Web department produces special features for every POV presentation, extending the life of our films through filmmaker interviews, story updates, podcasts, streaming video and community-based and educational content that involves viewers in activities and feedback. POV Interactive also produces our Web-only showcase for interactive storytelling, *POV's Borders*. In addition, the *POV Blog* is a gathering place for documentary fans and filmmakers to discuss and debate their favorite films, get the latest news and link to further resources. The POV website, blog and film archives form a unique and extensive online resource for documentary storytelling.

POV Community Engagement and Education

POV works with local PBS stations, educators and community organizations to present free screenings and discussion events to inspire and engage communities in vital conversations about our world. As a leading provider of quality nonfiction programming for use in public life, POV offers an extensive menu of resources, including free discussion guides and curriculum-based lesson plans. In addition, POV's *Youth Views* works with youth organizers and students to provide them with resources and training so they may use independent documentaries as a catalyst for social change.

Major funding for POV is provided by PBS, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, The Educational Foundation of America, New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, The Fledgling Fund, FACT and public television viewers. Funding for POV's *Diverse Voices Project* is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Special support provided by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. POV is presented by a consortium of public television stations, including KCET Los Angeles, WGBH Boston and THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG.

American Documentary, Inc. (www.amdoc.org)

American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc) is a multimedia company dedicated to creating, identifying and presenting contemporary stories that express opinions and perspectives rarely featured in mainstream media outlets. AmDoc is a catalyst for public culture, developing collaborative strategic engagement activities around socially relevant content on television, online and in community settings. These activities are designed to trigger action, from dialogue and feedback to educational opportunities and community participation.



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