

For Immediate Release

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## ***FIRST PERSON PLURAL***

“A filmmaker’s quest to discover her true identity spans years, continents and families.”

**PBS premiere December 18, 2000 on P.O.V.**

Presented by the Independent Television Service (ITVS) and the National Asian American Telecommunications Association (NAATA)

(San Francisco, CA) ~ The National Asian American Telecommunications Association (NAATA) presents ***FIRST PERSON PLURAL***, a universal story about living with paradox. What's your name? Where are you from? Even young children have answers to these questions. But for Korean-born filmmaker Deann Borshay Liem the answers were elusive. catalyzing a journey through her past to a new understanding of family.

The journey on which she embarks to find the answers, ***FIRST PERSON PLURAL***. is an intensely personal and moving film that chronicles Borshay's efforts to reconcile her life as the adopted daughter of a loving American family with her previously unknown life in Korea. P.O.V., PBS's award-winning showcase for independent non-fiction films. will broadcast ***FIRST PERSON PLURAL*** on Monday, December 18 at 10 p.m. on P.O.V. (check local listings).

On March 3, 1966, a frightened little girl arrived in San Francisco from and into the arms of Arnold and Alveen Borshay. After two years of sponsoring a child

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by sending \$15 a month to the Foster Parent's Plan, the couple had decided to adopt the girl they knew as Cha Jung sHee.

In time, the girl, renamed Deann Borshay, adapted to her new life. The Borshays were a warm and .accepting family. "From the moment you came here." says Deann s older sister, Denise. "you were my sister and we were your family and that was it." Adds her brother, Duncan, "You don't have the family eyes, but I don't care. You've got the family smile."

Although she was living the all-American life—being a cheerleader, going to the prom—as she grew older, long-forgotten memories of her life in Korea began to resurface; memories that didn't jell with the facts of her adoption. "I remember going up to my mother," says Borshay, "and telling her, 'I'm not who you think I am. I'm not Cha Jung Hee. And I think I have a mother and brothers and sisters in Korea still.'"

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## **About the Filmmaker**

### ***Deann Borshay Liem / Writer, Director & Producer***

Deann Borshay Liem served as Co-Executive Producer for Spencer Nakasako's Emmy award winning documentary, *A.K.A. DON BONUS*, a video diary about a Cambodian teenager struggling to graduate from high school, and Nakasako's *KELLY LOVES TONY*, a documentary about two Mien teen refugees, broadcast on P.O.V. in 1998. Prior to directing *FIRST PERSON PLURAL*, Borshay Liem served as Executive Director of NAATA (National Asian American Telecommunications Association), a national media arts organization that provides funding, distribution, and production support services for film and video projects by and about the Asian American community for broadcast on public television. *FIRST PERSON PLURAL* is Borshay Liem's directorial debut.

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## Credits

Writer/Director/Producer: Deann Borshay Liem  
 Editor/Co-writer Vivien Hillgrove  
 Executive Producer: Vivian Kleiman  
 Cinematographer: Michael Chin  
 Sound Recordist: Sara Chin

### **about P.O.V.**



Major funding for P.O.V. is provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Florence and John Schumann Foundation. The National Endowment for the Arts, PBS and public television viewers. Funding for Talking Back is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. P.O.V. is presented by a consortium of public television stations including KCET/Los Angeles, WGBH/Boston, and WNET New York. Cara Mertes is executive producer of P.O.V. The series is produced by American Documentary, Inc; Ellen Schneider is executive director. Ward Chamberlin is chief executive officer.

### **about ITVS/THE INDEPENDENT TELEVISION SERVICE**



FIRST PERSON PLURAL was produced in association with the Independent Television Service with funds provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Unique in American Public Television, ITVS was established by Congress, "to fund and promote programming that involves creative risks and addresses the needs of underserved audiences," while granting artistic control to independent producers. ITVS has brought more than 250 single programs and limited series to public television. Many of these ITVS programs have been featured on P.O.V. including Sundance Grand Jury Prize Winner *GIRLS LIKE US* by Jane C. Wagner and Tina DiFeliciano, Peabody Award Winner *A HEALTHY BABY GIRL* by Judith Helfand and Emmy Award winner *NOBODY'S BUSINESS* by Alan Berliner.

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**About NAATA**

*FIRST PERSON PLURAL* is a presentation of NAATA, the National Asian American Telecommunications Association, an organization at the forefront of supporting and showcasing Asian Pacific American media productions to the American public. NAATA's recent presentations on PBS include Academy Award-winner *MAYA LIN: A STRONG CLEAR VISION* by Frieda Lee Mock; Sundance Award winner *RABBIT IN THE MOON* by Emiko Omori; Sundance Award winner *MY AMERICA. . . OR HONK IF YOU LOVE BUDDHA* by Renee Tajima-Peña; Academy Award-winner *VISAS AND VIRTUE* directed by Chris Tashima and produced by Chris Donahue; and Diep N. Bui's *I AM VIET HUNG*.