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## ADOPTION SWITCH LAUNCHES A SEARCH FOR ANSWERS IN NEW FILM AT THE SAN FRANCISCO ASIAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL

**"IN THE MATTER OF CHA JUNG HEE" CHRONICLES A KOREAN ADOPTEE'S  
ATTEMPT TO FIND THE GIRL WHOSE PLACE SHE TOOK IN AMERICA**

Berkeley, CA (February 8, 2010) – What began as a quest to unravel lies and deception in her adoption culminates in Deann Borshay Liem's documentary *In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee*, premiering Friday, March 12, at the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival. The premiere will take place at 6:45 pm at the Landmark Clay Theater in San Francisco. Subsequent screenings will be held on Saturday, March 13, at 3:30 pm at the Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley; and on Sunday, March 21, at 6:45 pm at the Camera 12 Cinemas, San Jose.

Part mystery, part personal odyssey, *In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee* follows Liem's attempt to resolve a switch in her identity just before she was adopted by an American family in 1966. She acquired Cha Jung Hee's name, passport, even her shoes, when the latter disappeared from the orphanage the two children shared. Told to keep her true identity a secret from her new American family, eight-year-old Liem quickly forgot she was ever anyone else. But after struggling with the lie for four decades, Liem decided it was time to find out why the switch happened and find the girl whose place she took in America.

"For years, Cha Jung Hee was both a stranger and also my official identity – a persona unknown, but always present, defining my life," says Liem. "In the film I search for her to finally put her existence to rest by meeting her in real life and finding out how she has fared."

An acclaimed Bay Area filmmaker and former executive director of the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) Liem previously directed the Emmy-nominated film *First Person Plural*, in which her adoptive and birth families meet for the first time. In this film, Liem searches for another piece of the puzzle, getting to the bottom of a bureaucratic switch that changed her life and, in the process, raising questions about the ethics of international adoptions.

*In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee* is a co-production of Mu Films and the Independent Television Service (ITVS), in association with Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), Katahdin Productions, and American Documentary/P.O.V., with major funding provided by the Corporation for Public

Broadcasting (CPB). Additional funding for the film was provided by National Endowment for the Arts, Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program, Rockefeller Film/Video Fellowship, Lagarde Charitable Trust, and many generous donors. *In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee* will air on the PBS series *POV* in November 2010.

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Mu Films produces and distributes documentaries and educational media about critical social, political and cultural issues with a focus on untold stories from under-presented communities.

Katahdin Productions is a not-for-profit, 501 (c) (3) corporation based in Berkeley, California. Katahdin's mission is to tell compelling stories often ignored by the mainstream media - stories that inform, enlighten, entertain and inspire. Katahdin is dedicated to creating high quality documentary films, ancillary educational materials and media projects that open minds, provoke dialogue and encourage positive social change - outstanding works that touch the soul as they sound a call to action.