

## CASA Documentary/Movie List 2022

### Documentaries:

**Adopted: For the Life of Me** Follows Dave, a fifty-two year old adoptee as he embarks on a journey to find his birthmother. His saga, with its unexpected and moving epiphany, illuminates the impact secrets can have over an entire lifetime. <http://www.adoptedforthelifeofme.com/>

**Closure**: A documentary about a transracial adoptee who finds her birth mother, and meets the rest of a family who didn't know she existed, including her birth father. A story about identity, the complexities of trans-racial adoption, and most importantly, closure. <http://closuredocumentary.com/>

**Broken Places** Explores why some children are severely damaged by early adversity while others are able to thrive. By revisiting some of the abused and neglected children we profiled decades ago, we're able to dramatically illustrate how early trauma shaped their lives as adults. BROKEN PLACES interweaves these longitudinal narratives with commentary from a few nationally renowned experts to help viewers better understand the devastating impact of childhood adversity as well as the inspiring characteristics of resilience. ([here](#))

**Blind Eyes Opened** A Christian documentary that dives deep into the sex trafficking industry in the U.S. The film exposes the darkness that fuels demand, highlights survivors' transformations through Christ, engages lawmakers, law enforcement, organizations, ministries and experts across the country committed to ending the atrocities, all while showing Christ as the hope for all involved.

**Congratulations, You're On Your Own: Life After Foster Care** [Congratulations, You're On Your Own: Life After Foster Care](#) is a Hilton Foundation-funded documentary that is part of its Foster Youth Strategic Initiative aimed at supporting youth leaving the child welfare system. These real-life stories of young adults—"transition-age youth," as the film terms them—who have recently left the foster care system are told by the youths themselves as well as by professionals in the foster-care world.

**Cracked Up** ([here](#)) In *Cracked Up* we witness the impact adverse childhood experiences can have across a lifetime through the incredible story of actor, comedian, master impressionist and *Saturday Night Live* veteran, Darrell Hammond. Behind the scenes Darrell suffered from debilitating flashbacks, self injury, addiction and misdiagnosis, until the right doctor isolated the key to unlocking the memories his brain kept locked away for over 50 years. *Cracked Up* creates an inspiring balance between comedy and tragedy helping us understand the effects of childhood trauma in a new light, breaking down barriers of stigma and replacing shame with compassion and hope.

**The Dark Matter of Love** is a documentary following the Diaz family as they adopt three children from a Russian orphanage. Expecting a joyous experience, the Diaz parents struggle with both cultural barriers and their adoptees' troubled past in their efforts to bond. To help, they enlist the aid of world-famous developmental psychologist Dr. Robert Marvin. ([here](#))

**First Circle** A revealing documentary about Foster Care, family, and healing in the Western United States. This film was filmed over a five year period in Idaho and Oregon and follows families struggling to heal, administrators working for change, and the isolation of a western landscape responsible for both the manufacturing of and liberation from meth addiction. <https://www.amazon.com/First-Circle-Heather-Rae/dp/B00LTMHL78>

**Foster** *Foster* is an HBO documentary chronicling true stories about children in the foster care system. With never-before access to the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (the

largest county child welfare agency in the country), the filmmakers head into courtrooms, foster homes, juvenile centers, hospitals, and the neighborhoods of Los Angeles to capture what goes on in foster care in the United States, and even upend some myths.

**Trust: Second Acts in Young Lives** TRUST is about creativity and the unexpected resources inside people you might discount because they are poor, young or of color. APTP is a neighborhood theater project dedicated to helping young people reimagine their experiences on stage. Marlin's is one of incredible struggle and pain, from enduring rape as young girl, to the difficult journey of immigrating to the U.S., to further abuse at the hands of her own brother, and finally to emancipation and overcoming substance addiction. <http://trustdocumentary.org/>

**Paper Tigers** ([Here](#)) This award winning film documents a year in the life of an alternative high school that has radically changed its approach to disciplining its students, becoming a promising model for how to break the cycles of poverty, violence, and disease that affects families. Due to the honest approach to the subject matter, recommended for mature youth and adults interested in learning more about trauma-informed strategies.

**Prescription for Hope: Overcoming Nevada's Opioid Epidemic** The 29-minute documentary received a regional Emmy nomination for best documentary. It follows the lives of several Nevadans who have experienced the loss of a loved one due to opioids and the constant battle and power of hope to overcome an opioid addiction. <https://vimeo.com/286378323>

**The Hungry Heart** Explores the struggles and challenges faced by Dr. Holmes and the simple and profound connection he forges with each of his patients. The Hungry Heart shines a light on the healing power of conversation and the need for connection that many of these young addicts yearn for in their lives. Interviews with older addicts discussing their recovery process are juxtaposed against Fred's younger patients. The road to recovery is paved with success stories and strewn with relapses, and downfalls. The Hungry Heart profiles the many faces and diverse populations of those struggling with addiction, and their continued search for a life of recovery.

<http://thehungryheartmovie.org/about-the-film/>

**Tough Love** ([Here](#)) PBS documentary *Tough Love*, from Emmy-nominated filmmaker Stephanie Wang-Breal, chronicles the story of two parents, one in Seattle and one in New York City, both of whom have lost custody of their children to child protective services. The film follows their efforts to redeem themselves in two different child welfare systems and prove they are worthy of being parents. Getting a second chance turns out to be a tortuous process as they encounter a complex and entrenched bureaucracy.

**Unadopted** is a documentary centered around Noel, a youth who entered the California foster care system at the age of one. Separated from his siblings most of his life and lacking a complete understanding of what happened to his family, Noel begins the journey of uncovering his own case files and history after emancipating himself. The heart of the documentary highlights the need for teen foster homes and families willing to adopt them. We follow the stories of two other foster teens as they navigate court hearings, relationships with birth parents, and aging out of foster care. They bravely open up about their questions, fears, and struggles, which by far outweigh those of their peers. ([Here](#))

## Movie

**Antwone Fisher** 2002 A story of a troubled sailor, Luke, who is ordered to see a naval psychiatrist about his volatile temper. Little does he know that his first step into the doctor's office will lead him on a remarkable emotional journey to confront his painful past and connect with the family he never knew.

<http://www.amazon.com/Antwone-Fisher-Widescreen-Edition-Washington/dp/B00005JLRZ>

### **Bastard Out of Carolina**

<http://www.amazon.com/Bastard-Carolina-Jennifer-Jason-Leigh/dp/1572526807>

Difficult tale of poor, struggling South Carolinian mother & daughter, who each face painful choices with their resolve and pride. Bone, the eldest daughter, and Anney her tired mother, grow both closer and farther apart: Anney sees Glen as her last chance.

### **Blindside**

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Blind-Side-Sandra-Bullock/dp/B002VECM6S>

The story of Michael Oher, a homeless African-American youngster from a broken home, taken in by the Touhys, a well-to-do white family who help him fulfill his potential. As a football player and student, Oher works hard and, with the help of his coaches and adopted family, becomes an All-American offensive left tackle.

### **Crash**

<http://www.amazon.com/Crash-Widescreen-Edition-Don-Cheadle/dp/B000A3XY5A>

A car accident brings together a group of strangers in Los Angeles. Crash takes a provocative, unflinching look at the complexities of racial tolerance in contemporary America.

### **From Place to Place**

<http://fromplacetoplacemovie.com/>

Despite being let down and left behind by America's foster care system, From Place to Place follows plucky underdogs Mandy and Raif as they set out to change the system that raised them.

### **Gone, Baby, Gone**

<http://www.amazon.com/Gone-Baby-Casey-Affleck/dp/B0010ZR160>

Two young private detectives are hired to take a closer look at the mysterious disappearance of a little girl and soon discover that nothing is what it seems. Ultimately, they will have to risk everything -- their relationship, their sanity, and even their lives -- to find a little girl-lost.

### **Good Will Hunting**

<http://www.amazon.com/Good-Will-Hunting-Robin-Williams/dp/0788814664>

A young working-class genius is hauled back from the brink of self-destruction by a gifted counselor.

### **Gracie's Choice**

<http://www.amazon.com/Gracies-Choice-Kristen-Bell/dp/B000679MF6>

A teenage girl tries to raise her three half-brothers and 1 half-sister on her own after their drug-addicted mother is sent to jail.

**Mr. Holland's Opus** <http://www.amazon.com/Mr-Hollands-Opus-Richard-Dreyfuss/dp/6305428352>

Glenn Holland is a passionate musician who dreams of composing one truly memorable piece of music. But reality intrudes when he reluctantly accepts a "day job" as a high school music teacher to support his family. In time, however, Mr. Holland realizes that his real passion is teaching, and his legacy is the generations of young people he inspires.

### **Music of the Heart**

<http://www.amazon.com/Music-Heart-VHS-Meryl-Streep/dp/6305763305>

Heartwarming, acclaimed true story of how one woman's musical gift affected those who least expected it! A single mother with little more than talent and the determination to make a difference, Roberta Guaspari overcame the skepticism of everyone who didn't think she should be teaching violin to students in a tough inner-city neighborhood.

### **My Sister's Keeper**

<http://www.amazon.com/My-Sisters-Keeper-Cameron-Diaz/dp/B001OQCV1K>

My Sister's Keeper examines what it means to be a good parent, a good sister, a good person. Is it morally correct to do whatever it takes to save a child's life... even if that means infringing upon the rights of another? Is it worth trying to discover who you really are, if that quest makes you like yourself less?

### **Rabbit Proof Fence**

<http://www.amazon.com/Rabbit-Proof-Fence-Kenneth-Branagh/dp/B00005JLD4>

In Australia of the 1930s, after a racist governmental edict "relocates" them from their families, three Aboriginal girls run away from the white government camp they have been stranded at and embark on a long walk home, using a length of rabbit-proof fencing as a compass for their journey.

### **The 400 Blows**

<http://www.amazon.com/The-400-Blows-Jean-Pierre-L%C3%A9aud/dp/1572525320>

A boy who turns to petty crime in the face of neglect at home and hard times at a reform school. Poignant, exhilarating, and fun (there's a parade of cameo appearances from some of the essential icons and directors from the movement), this film is an important classic.

### **The Christmas Box**

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Christmas-Timepiece-Naomi-Watts/dp/B0000ALPIW>

In this heartwarming Christmas tale, a young family become caretakers for a wealthy widow. While the husband's quirky, work-obsessed personality begins to take its toll on both his wife and their employer, through a series of dreams he comes to discover secrets leading him to believe that they were all meant to be together.

### **The Color of Purple**

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Color-Purple-Danny-Glover/dp/0790729717>

This film follows the life of Celie, a young black girl growing up in the early 1900's. The first time we see Celie, she is 14 - and pregnant - by her father. We stay with her for the next 30 years of her tough life.

### **The Help**

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Help-Emma-Stone/dp/B004A8ZWVK>

Set in Mississippi during the 1960s, Skeeter (Stone) is a southern society girl who returns from college determined to become a writer. She decides to interview the black women who have spent their lives taking care of prominent southern families. Along the way, unlikely friendships are forged and a new sisterhood emerges.

**The Kid with a Bike**

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Kid-Bike-Thomas-Doret/dp/B0061W8DCQ>

Abandoned by his father, a young boy is left in a state-run youth farm. In a random act of kindness, the town hairdresser agrees to foster him on weekends.

**This Boy's Life**

<http://www.amazon.com/This-Boys-Life-Robert-Niro/dp/B00008DP4C>

DiCaprio plays Tobias, a good kid with a bad boy streak but an unwavering love for his divorced mother. DiCaprio is magnetic in his first starring role, full of anger, hope, and confusion as he drifts back to juvenile delinquency, and his intensity gives the true story of survival and triumph its charge.

**The Pursuit of Happyness**

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Pursuit-Of-Happyness/dp/B000OW77UU>

Will Smith stars in this moving tale inspired by the true story about a struggling single father who dreams of a better life for his young son. Finding themselves homeless, he risks everything by embarking on an unpaid internship in a highly competitive stockbroker training program where only one in twenty interns make the grade.