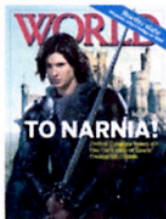


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TELEVISION

Family secrets

Story of a search for truth is wonderfully moving | *Marvin Olasky*

Tune in to the PBS series Independent Lens on the evening of Tuesday, May 27 (check local listings), to watch a wonderfully moving film, *New Year Baby*. It's the story of a Cambodian-American young woman's search for the truth about family secrets, and it should be shown two weeks later in the run-up to Father's Day.



Poeuv and her father. Charles Vogl/ITVS/PBS • Inset: ITVS/PBS

That's all I'll hint about the plot, but here's the backstory: Filmmaker Socheata Poeuv was born in a refugee camp on a Cambodian New Year's Day to parents who had survived the Khmer Rouge and eventually moved to Texas. Poeuv's parents never spoke about what had happened in the Communist killing fields, where more than 1.7 million Cambodians—one-fourth of the population—died.

Her parents instead worked to give Poeuv and what she believed to be her older sisters and brother a "normal American life." Poeuv worked hard and did well, graduating cum laude from Smith College in 2002. But on Christmas Day that year, Poeuv learned a secret about her family, and then traveled with her parents to their homeland, picking up pieces of her history, and learning about Cambodia's as well.

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