

# ***Thackary's Time*, a film by Kathy Klausner and Beni Strebel**

www.ThackarysTime.com

---

## **Media Contact**

Kathy Klausner and Beni Strebel  
415.824.3843  
bstrebel@sbcglobal.net

## **Format**

54-minute documentary

## **Synopsis**

The life of a free-spirited Northern Californian takes a dramatic turn when his mother tells him that the man who raised him is not his biological father. Thackary Grossman, a 39-year-old occasional carpenter and surfer, sets out on a years-long journey to discover a new father and redefine his identity.

Klausner and Strebel, a San Francisco husband and wife filmmaking team, offer an intimate look at key events in Thackary's odyssey of discovery as he grapples with his new reality. A longtime, close friendship with Thackary gave the filmmakers unusual access to shoot the first meeting with his new-found father, Walt Tulecke, a retired Ohio biology professor in his 80s. The film finds its groove in depictions of often awkward encounters during which raw emotions are vividly captured on screen.

As Thackary gets to know Walt and listens to his self-justifying, New-Age mother Baba, the audience is left wondering how Thackary will deal with the new family dynamics and his role as the love child of a long-ago affair. Thackary's search for love, family and meaning remains enigmatic, a theme underscored by a surprise ending that is one of the film's most aesthetically powerful and poignant moments.

## **Story Angles and Topics for Discussion**

- Everyone has skeletons in the family closet, but more and more people—including Oprah—are discovering that their family isn't everything they thought it was. What is the definition of family and how is it changing?
  - Who we are and who we become is a result of a complex blend of elements. How important to one's identity is it to know your biological parents, and how does finding out this type of information mid life change one's identity?
  - Baba seemed to have personal reasons for telling Thackary about his father, but with ever-changing research on genetic predisposition to disease and subsequent prevention and treatment, do parents have a moral obligation to be honest with their children about their DNA?
  - Thackary's father, Peter Grossman, doesn't think Baba should have told anyone about Thackary's biological father. If your biological father was not who you thought he was, would you want to know? Why or why not?
  - If you suddenly discovered you have a child you hadn't known about, similar to Mark Ruffalo's character in "*The Kids are Alright*," how would you respond? Would you want that child to be part of your life? Why or why not?
-