

MY MOTHER ES *Mi Madre*

FEATURE FILM BY
KATHLEEN O'NEILL





Logline: Shocked by the discovery of her adoption, a young woman boldly heads to Colombia to find her birth family, only to face a perilous showdown when her adoptive family pursues her.

The McHales



The Colon's



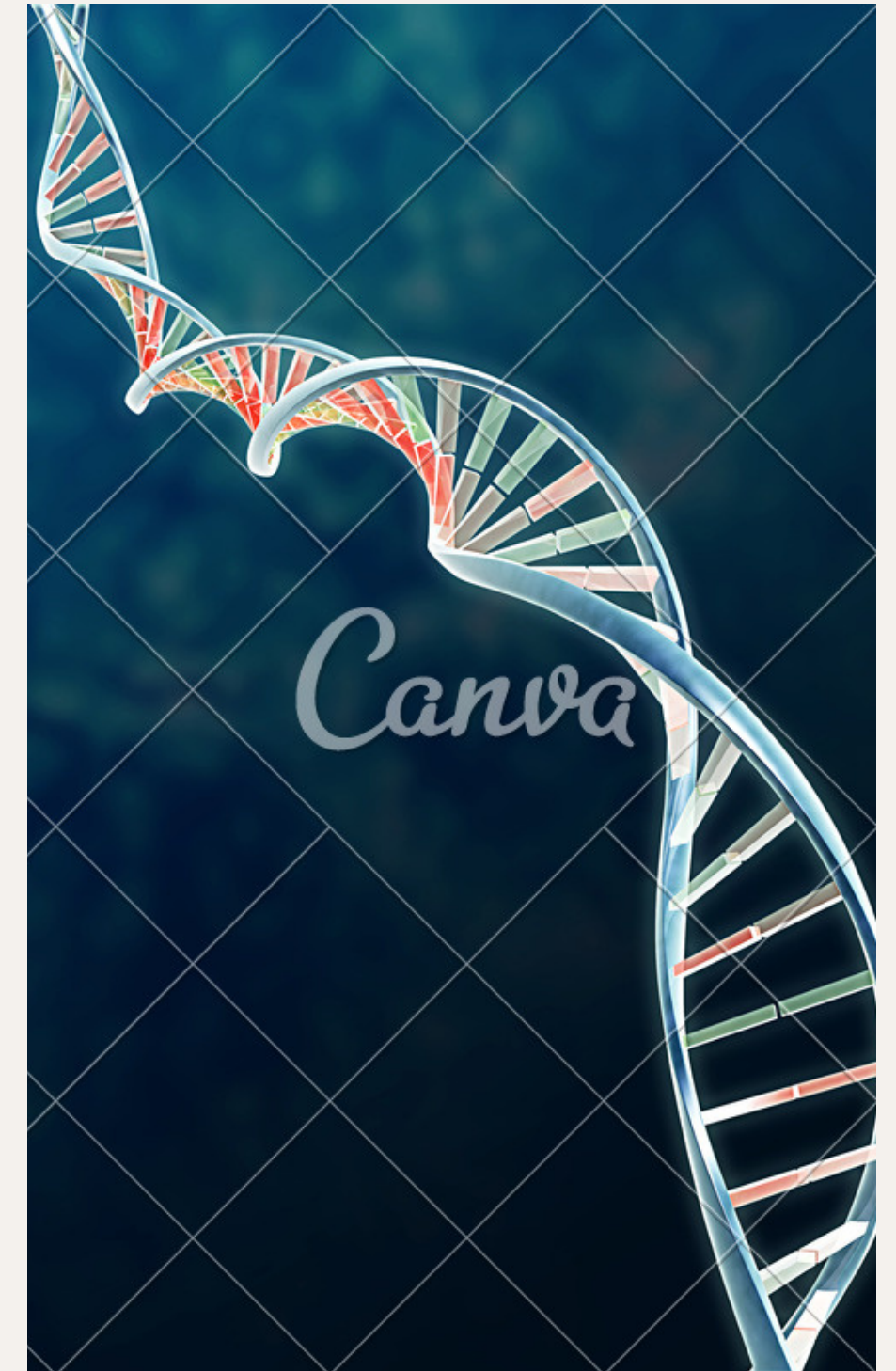
Who am I?

Story Summary

Reeling from the discovery that she is adopted, Jessica “Jess” McHale finds her birth family, the Colon’s, through social media. Needing the truth, she flies to Medellin, Colombia, and eagerly rings the doorbell only to be soundly rejected by Alejandra Colon, the birth mother. Jess returns the next day determined to gain entry. In the confusion and excitement of meeting the Colon’s, Jess forgets to make the daily phone call home and that triggers an immediate response from her adoptive family, the McHale’s.

Jess’s adoptive parents arrive in Medellin to reclaim their daughter and are followed by her siblings. For the Colons it feels like an invasion. For the McHales, it has disaster written all over it. Thirty years of lies are revealed with resulting consequences. The keeper of the truth is the Colombian grandmother, Carmen, and after several days, she brings them together and reveals the complete truth.

Jessica finds her identity in both families. Her Mother and her Madre are indispensable to her. She is both and she is separate. The lives of all concerned are enriched by Jess’s ringing of the doorbell. This is *Four Weddings and a Funeral* meets *Lion*.



Writer's Statement

My Mother Es Mi Madre (MMEMM) was inspired by a friend's account of a young woman seeking her birth family. Adoption has played an important part in my family with very different responses from the children adopted. As a storyteller, the quest for truth, identity and the meaning of family intrigues me. Adoption is an important expression of what it means to love and be part of a family. Often within adoption there is a dark element - it casts a shadow. Families have shadows.

Jess McHale's journey of discovery collides with the journeys of others. What happens when a lie enriches life? All the characters in MMEMM are within "two degrees of separation" and that makes for dynamic interactions.

When the doorbell rings at the Colon's residence, it resonates with all involved from Medellin, Colombia to Greenwich, Connecticut. Their lives are enriched and re-examined. I want the audience to also be enriched as well as entertained by the story.



Jessica "Jess" McHale

In the Turmoil of an Identity Crisis

30, bold, determined, gifted architect, the eldest child in her tight-knit Irish American family, partnered with Mark, and relentlessly seeking the truth about her identity.





Katie McHale

Jess's Adoptive Mother



50's, super wife & mom of five,
gardener, poet, and concealer of
the truth about Jess's origin,
now afraid of losing her
daughter forever.

Alejandra Hernandez Colon

Jess's Birthmother Who Thinks She's Dead

44, strong, smart, community leader and pediatric surgeon, in a devoted marriage with two sons, still grieves the loss of her first born, thirty years before.



Carmen Hernandez

Jess's Birth Grandmother
Only One Who Knows the Whole Truth

built a flower business empire, stoic
matriarch, does whatever it takes to
protect her family even if it means
hurting them.

Maria Cecilia Botero is attached.



About Kathleen O'Neill - Writer

Kathleen O'Neill grew up in the mid-West blessed with six brothers, a storytelling father who looked like a big leprechaun and a mother who was the Blessed Virgin in the city parade - a rich source for storytelling.

Kathleen received her Master's Degree in Directing from Boston University and is now based in New York City. Working as a Director and performer lead to producing and founding BOO Arts Productions, LLC.

Kathleen began her writing career in 2017 after being invited to direct at the Austrian Cultural Forum in New York. She knew the stage play would be a compelling screenplay. She secured the film rights and began writing. Since then, writing has become the main passion for Kathleen. She loves to share her explorations of truth and its variations in constructing her stories.



About Tricia Brouk - Director

Tricia Brouk, also grew up in the midwest dreaming of moving to NYC to pursue a career in dance. She has performed on stages all over the world including Lincoln Center, Opera Houses in Vienna, Palermo, Sintra, Lisbon, Austria and Brooklyn Academy of Music. Tricia also realized the dream of dancing with Baryshnikov and now lives across the street from Alvin Ailey where she gets to see those dancers dreams become a reality.

She has worked with Kelly Reilly, James Gandofini, Kate Winslet, Susan Sarandon, Bobbie Cannavale, Christopher Walken, Eddie Izzard, Steve Buscemi, Simon Curtis, Famke Janssen, Lt. CL. Alex Vindman, The Chief of Police of NYC, Mayoral Candidate Kathryn Garcia and Fran Liebowitz.

Her films have been awarded multiple awards including:

- Best Documentary Short at The Olympus Film Festival
- Best Documentary Short at The Los Angeles Move Awards
- Winner The Awareness Festival, Los Angeles
- Winner Independent Short Award, New York City

She is also currently directing *Behind The Curtain* the new Broadway Musical about Johnny Carson.

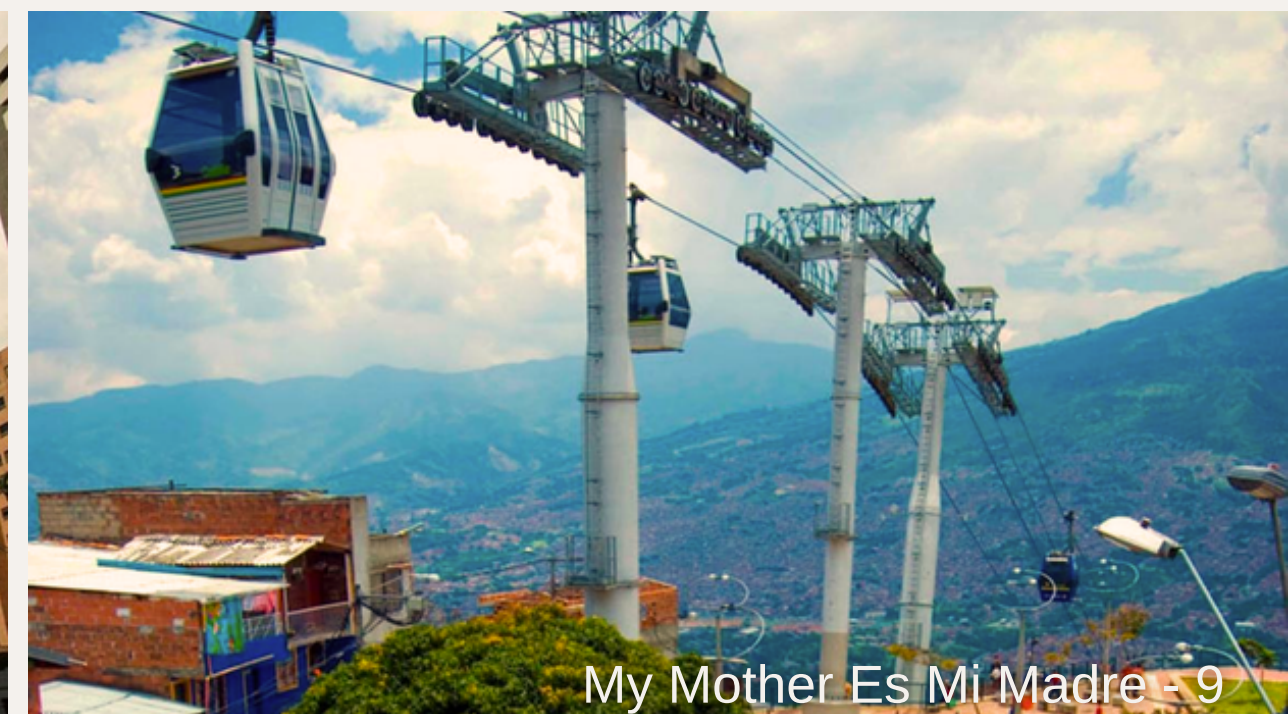




Medellin

My introduction to Colombia was Cartagena where I fell in love with the people and the beauty. I was married in the home of “Colombianos.” I am troubled by the current portrayals of this exceptional country. For this story I thought to set it in Colombia would be a gift I could give for all the gifts I have received. Then I arrived in Medellin and fell in love, once again, with a vibrant place and a caring people.

I knew it was the home of *My Mother Es Mi Madre*.





Medellin's Heart



MY MOTHER ES *Mi Madre*

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