

*wo ai ni (I love you)*



*mommy*

1 x 53 or 1 x 75

我爱你



PBS

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# *wo ai ni (I love you)* ♥♥ *mommy*

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*“Vivid personalities and a sharp eye for telling detail make this well-packaged docu an ingratiating winner.”—Variety*

China opened its doors to international adoption in 1992. In just fifteen years' time, American families adopted over 70,000 children from China. 95 percent of those adopted were girls. Fang Sui Yong was just one of these girls. But she was one of few who had a voice—unlike the majority of girls who are adopted as infants, eight-year-old Sui Yong is capable of expressing herself in both subtle and not-so-subtle ways. *Wo Ai Ni (I Love You) Mommy* is the first film to explore what it feels like to be adopted from the child's perspective, revealing the emotional and cultural losses that Chinese children must go through in order to gain a new family.

The first time Sui Yong enters the picture is heartbreaking. She is rigid and visibly unsettled by the scene unfolding in front of her eyes: a room full of expectant Caucasian parents holding Chinese orphans, young and old. We realize how difficult the moment is for this sensitive young girl and how it will forever impact the rest of her life. After her adopted parents—a Jewish couple from Long Island, New York—try out a few nonverbal exchanges, the filmmaker decides to jump in as a translator to facilitate their communication and to help Sui Yong feel somewhat connected to her new mother, Donna. We quickly see Sui Yong grow attached to Donna and her new family, language, and culture, and witness her amazing ability to survive and adapt to her new life. However, throughout the acculturation process, Sui Yong acts out, letting her family know that she is not entirely comfortable in her new life. Within 17 months, Sui Yong transforms into an entirely new person. And she has a new name, Faith.

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CREDITS

*Director:* Stephanie Wang-Breal

*Producer:* Stephanie Wang-Breal

*Photo Credit:* courtesy EYEWANG PICTURES



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