

Origins SPSA Inc.

Supporting People Separated by Adoption

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Happy Mother's Day



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*Please note our support
people are not trained
counsellors*

Welcome to our May newsletter

Well we are nearly half way through the year already and to date things have been extremely busy for us March 21st saw the official opening of the office at Fairfield and what a privilege it was to have the office opened and attended by Professor Mushin and Senator Claire Moore, we also had guests from the National Archives and local members from other agencies in our neighbourhood including Drug Arm and others The opening was well attended and the event was finished off with a great Chinese buffet at the restaurant across the road in all it was a great success with approximately 70 attendees

Uncle Steve Williams smoked out the bad spirits and Pamella Vernon Souris cut the ribbon for the Forgotten Australians and Aunties Val Linow and her sister Adelaide cut the ribbons for the Stolen Generations

A copy of the opening ceremony can hopefully be shown on our website soon. The event was well covered by local media with a front page article in the Fairfield Advance and a full page spread in the National Indigenous Times

Many thanks to our interstate members and members who travelled from far and wide and many thanks to those members who made donations on the day, your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated

We have been very fortunate enough to have given 2 two hour lectures at the Catholic University at Strathfield to the social work class one on forced adoption the other on Stolen Generations and are still happy to report we still have students and work experience and volunteers at the office 2 days a week until mid year when we will be expecting more to fill the other days

We are considering applying for a mother, adoptees retreat please fill in an EOI if you would like to be included in this event.

Funding from the Apology is due to be tendered out in May /June we don't know if we will be successful but shall keep our fingers crossed, there hopefully will be more news shortly on progress

We would like to thank our members again for their support without you we could not go on We now have another lawyer who is prepared to take on any action please consult us for more information This lawyer will also look at sexual abuse cases. Are you interested in attending a retreat if so please let us know, we have prepared an expression of interest on the last page of this newsletter



Professor Mushin, Pamella, Aunties Adelaide and Val Lily, Senator Claire Moore and Uncle Steve Williams



Uncle Steve offering up the smoke



Craft Classes

We now have craft classes such as scrapbooking and painting. Please come along and bring your artistic side Mon-Thursday



National Indigenous Times



See our beautiful card for Mothers Day luncheon details



Lecture at the Catholic University Class photo

'Love Child' TV Series: 8 Things to Know

By Maychelle Ornos |

April 4, 2014 10:56 PM EST

"Love Child" is a TV series from Nine Network that has managed to attract the audience attention and captured their hearts. This drama is set in a time when the world is still coming to terms with the war, while Australia is struggling to adapt to the changing times.

"Love Child tells the stories of young women and men fighting an unjust system in a world on the brink of change," according to Nine Network synopsis. "It's 1969 in Kings Cross and Joan Millar (Jessica Marais), a smart and sophisticated midwife, returns home from London to take a job at the Kings Cross Hospital. Joan finds a new life for herself, at a time when Australia is coming of age and the new generation believes anything is possible in this time of 'free love and peace'."

For those who have just heard about the series, here are the eight things to know about the gripping drama series "Love Child":

The drama is only an 8-part series but will return for the second season, continuing the story of the characters on New Year's Eve, in the year 1970. The music and costumes provides a glimpse of the exciting sixties, but the drama shows what unwed pregnant women had to go through at the time.

The authentic historical drama has several Logie awardee and nominees. Mandy McElhinney and Ryan Corr were both nominated for a Logie Award. On the other hand, Jessica Marais won the "Most Popular New Female Talent" and "Most

Outstanding New Talent" in the 2009 Logie Awards.

There is no Kings Cross Hospital in Australia, but there is one in Scotland.

On March 21, 2013, Prime Minister Julia Gillard made a public apology for the forced adoption that occurred more than 50 years ago. Several states have also apologised. Western Australia in October 2010 was the first state to voice its apology .

There are about 150,000 unwed women who were forced to give away their newborn. Coercion and drugs were used to make them give away their babies.

Social workers, religious figures and medical personnel participated in this illegal practice.

The first episode of "Love Child" garnered 1.587 views, making it one of the top three most watched series in Australia along with "My Kitchen Rules" and "The Block," according to The Australian. The last episode of season one will air on April 7th. It is expected that more drama will unfold in the next season of "Love Child."

To contact the editor, e-mail: editor@ibtimes.com

Review of 'Love Child'

Set in 1969 and currently screening on Channel 9 at 8.50 p.m. Mondays, 'Love Child' contains many of the elements of the adoption experience that are only too familiar to fellow members on the triangle. Uncertainty, confusion, grief, abuse and terror of the unknown are some of the themes which are present.

Pregnant girls are put to work "to earn their keep," as Matron puts it, in Stanton House, a home for young, unmarried pregnant girls attached to Kings Cross Hospital. There they do the laundry and form friendships which may help to tide them over until the birth of their baby. And beyond?

Well, who knows about that. The currents of society were all working against them, and subjects such as where will you go after the baby is born, and working out how to get work to support yourself then, were the ideas that were instilled into them to 'take their minds off' the baby.

It was assumed by the establishment that the girls would only be needing to support themselves, as the babies were "for adoption," in no uncertain terms.

Matron Bolton (played by Mandy McElhiney of 'Katoot' fame,) runs a tight ship indeed. One that the girls manage to flee, occasionally, to the much brighter lights of Kings Cross.

This T.V. Drama certainly does explore common themes that are not only of this time. The girls are a cross section of our community. Viv Maguire (Sophie Hensser), a country girl, Martha Tennant (Miranda Tapsell,) an aboriginal girl who was raped by her employer, Anne Carmichael (Gracie Gilbert,) a curly red haired young woman (to me very reminiscent of Dian Wellfare) – who is betrayed by her teenaged boyfriend. Then there was Patricia Saunders (Harriet Dyer,) a ditzzy blonde.

The show is accurate in revealing the mindsets of the time, but not just "sixties" stereotypes, as they are still representative of society's exploitation of young women.

And young men? Yes. Johnny Lowry (Ryan Corr) is a 1960's hippy, a member of the Love-In generation. He is in love with Shirley, (Ella Scott Lynch,)who is carrying his child. He wants them to be a family, but she is married to a soldier serving in Vietnam, and would have nothing should she follow her heart and live with Johnny. Then there is Dr. Patrick McNaughton (Jonathan La Paglia,) who arranges a "Private Adoption" for Annie's delivered baby.

To be adopted out to whom? Himself, of course! His wife has just lost a baby, and Annie's red haired girl is to be the substitute! Ah, the arrogance of the patriarchy!

Annie, however, is not one to give up easily. She comes back for her baby, and refuses to accept that she cannot take her home with her. She was not allowed to see her own child. She has to rely on nurse Joan Millar, (Jessica Marais,)who has seen the baby.

Nurse Joan is a woman ahead of her time who, aware of the exploitation, wants to support the girls in every way she can. Matron Bolton is in league with the doctor, and tries to deter Annie in her

attempt to claim her baby, by lying to Annie that her baby has died.
 There is hope, though, as the baby becomes sick. Is it epilepsy, Dr. McNaughton wonders, and duplicity quizzes Annie as to her medical history. (I was wondering, then; will the doctor decide the baby is 'spoiled goods' and give her back? I guess nobody figured that the loss of the mother could reduce a baby's immune defences to a state of the infant becoming sick, or perhaps even terminally apathetic?)

By the time you are reading this review the show may be over. But, speaking as a 1952 baby whose file is marked "baby for adoption," and who was adopted in a "Private Adoption," from a hospital very near Kings Cross, I can only state that when every episode finishes, I enter a very different state indeed.

I call it "my white space," state.

Because everything is white, and I feel discomfited, in shock, numb, alone, and unable to be anything else. It has a strangely ongoing feeling to it. It is impossible to do anything about it, as I am a newborn baby, with no sense of time, or space.

At the end of every episode the number for Lifeline appears. The number for lifeline is ph: 131114.

Pity I couldn't have dialled it in 1952, when my own lifeline had just been stripped away from me.

Reviewed by Benita Rainer



Victorian Support Meetings

There is a support group in Victoria they meet at the Queen Vic Centre 12-3pm 210 Lonsdale St on the last Saturday of the month, on the 1st floor see the sign at the front of the lift Phone 03 9812 0215 for more information



Are you a Financial Member? Find out by the code on the address label on the envelope **F** = financial, **D** = membership is due, **U** = un-financial, **U** = complimentary

THANKS

Many thanks to all those who have supported us with their memberships and donations we are very grateful to you for keeping us going

To ensure you receive your newsletter please informs us of any change of address.

Please tear off and return with subscription fee

SUBSCRIPTION TO MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE note Change of Address

If you wish to become a financial member or renew your membership please send application form provided along with subscription fee to:

'ORIGINS SPSA Inc'

P.O. Box W 18

Fairfield West N.S.W. 2165

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

Annual Membership:

\$25.00.....Full rate

\$10.00.....Concession

Donation.....\$.....

DATE...../...../.....



Expression of Interest for Mothers Retreat

**Yes I would like to be advised of a
healing retreat**

Please add my details

Name

Address.....

.....

.....

Email.....

Phone