

PITCHES FOR TUESDAY REVIEW 4/20/2021

Peter read all of the filmmaker's pitches that are printed in black. He then created revised versions printed in red. The revised versions are far from perfect. They are suggestive rather than definitive.

Faye Lederman

Two Sentence Pitch

I liked nursing my daughters so much that I nursed them well into their preschool years. My kids loved nursing too and when my younger one was finally ready to wean, she talked openly about the process of "giving up boobie" and counted down the months to our celebratory weaning party, just as we had done for her older sister years earlier.

Additional Sentence to add for formal written summaries:

The Weaning Project tells the story of our close mother-daughter relationship, celebrates both healthy attachment and growing independence and asks what it means for a child to grow up at their own pace... and for a parent to let go.

Revised PB pitch: The Weaning Project shares the filmmaker's experience nursing her daughters well into preschool years. It celebrates both healthy attachment and growing independence and asks what it means for a child to grow up at their own pace... and for a parent to let go.

Christoph Dostal

Here is my two-sentence pitch for my documentary **I DANCE MYSELF** (working title):

His father was born a slave - but Bob helped set dance free.

The untold true story of the legendary dancer and choreographer Bob Curtis, who - through the universal language of dance - encouraged everyone around him to discover themselves, live authentically, create freely and dance their lives fully.

Revised PB pitch: Legendary dancer and choreographer Bob Curtis helped set dance free. He encouraged everyone around him to discover themselves, create freely, and dance their lives fully.

Sheila Ganz

Here is my two-sentence pitch:

In a world that shuns persons with brain disorders **PIECE OF MIND** pulls back the curtain on the private battles of Jeff living with bipolar disorder, Linda whose son has schizophrenia, and Frances and Patricia, Japanese Americans, with a sister who has schizoaffective disorder, was shot by police and survived. Their intimate accounts amplify the voices of the multitude of people seeking normalcy and treatment amid cognitive and systemic barriers to care and reveals solutions to this humanitarian crisis.

Revised PB pitch: In a world that shuns persons with brain disorders, **PIECE OF MIND** highlights the cognitive and systemic challenges people seeking normalcy and treatment must overcome. Analyzing the private battles of people with bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and schizoaffective disorder, the film reveals promising solutions to this humanitarian crisis.

Cynthia Mondell

IN HER SHOES steps behind prison walls into an art class where women incarcerated for such crimes as petty theft, prostitution and murder reflect on their lives through the shoes they have worn. Unlocking stories of sex abuse, violence and addiction, they find the confidence and courage to envision taking their next step.

Revised PB pitch: **IN HER SHOES** takes us behind prison walls into an art class where women incarcerated for petty theft, prostitution, and murder analyze their lives through the shoes they have worn. Confronting stories of sex abuse, violence, and addiction, they find the confidence and courage to take their next step.

Dan Habib

Samuel Habib wants the same things many 21-year-olds want: to date, earn money, go to college, live away from his parents. But he drives a 500-pound wheelchair and can have a seizure at any moment, so there is no road map. Can a group of rebellious disability activists help light his way?

Revised PB pitch: Samuel Habib wants to date, go to college, live on his own, but he drives a 500-pound wheelchair and can have a seizure at any moment. Can a group of rebellious disability activists help him achieve the independence he desires?

Franziska Blome

*** Spoken 2-sentence pitch– SIMPLEST?**

When Sheila Walker, my mother-in-law, discovers that her ancestors were victims of a race massacre nobody's ever heard of, she sets out to break the silence. She visits Elaine, Arkansas, where a century ago over a hundred black sharecroppers were killed, and finds the trauma still reverberates there to this day, like a curse... and like in her own family.

*** Written 2-sentence pitch – pretty much the same**

When Sheila Walker (my mother-in-law) discovers that her ancestors were victims of a race massacre nobody's ever heard of, she sets out to break the silence. Visiting Elaine, Arkansas, where a century ago over a hundred black sharecroppers were killed, she feels the trauma still reverberating through the community, like a curse... just like it runs through her own family.

*** Written 2-sentence pitch**

for those interested in history, race, reconciliation and especially INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

When Sheila Walker discovers that her ancestors were victims of a widely unknown race massacre that her grandmother could never speak about, she sets out to break the silence. Visiting Elaine, Arkansas, where a century ago over a hundred black sharecroppers were murdered, she feels the trauma still reverberating through the community - just like it seems to haunt her own family.

Revised PB pitch: Sheila Walker's family is haunted by the murders of a hundred black sharecroppers a century ago. When Sheila learns that her ancestors were victims of this long-hidden race massacre, she is determined to break the silence.

*** Written 3 (or 4) -sentence pitch (with or w/o title)**

for those w/ interest in history, race and especially RECONCILIATION

Sheila Walker's ancestors were victims of a race massacre nobody's ever heard of. When she befriends the grandson of a Ku Klux Klansman who took part in the killings, she decides to break the silence. Visiting Elaine, Arkansas, where a century ago over a hundred black sharecroppers were killed, she finds that the community has not even begun to heal. (optional: Through the lens of black and white descendants, BOUND BY BLOOD explores why reckoning with history is more urgent than ever.)

Diane Vicari

"Never let anyone steal your dreams" is the story of a first-generation poor Italian immigrant, who followed his dream from the streets of Pittsburgh to Hollywood stardom and even carving a place in the Whitehouse, amidst our great depression of the mid 20's.

National treasure, Maestro Sammy Nestico not only became a legend of the swing era and jazz history, but carved a legacy for the future of the genre that will inspire and empower many new generations of dreamers.

Revised PB pitch: NEVER LET ANYONE STEAL YOUR DREAMS captures the remarkable rise of a poor Italian immigrant from the streets of Pittsburgh to Hollywood stardom, during the Great Depression. Maestro Sammy Nestico became a legend of the swing era, created a legacy for the future of jazz, and inspired new generations of dreamers.

Brittany Aslot

Short casual version: In Finding Your Laughter, Chicago comedian Arlieta Hall uses improv techniques to care for her dad who has Alzheimer's.

A couple two sentence options:

Finding Your Laughter is about Chicago comedian Arlieta Hall who is using improv techniques to care for her dad who has Alzheimer's. She turns to stand-up to process her emotions and to teach others how to find more joy and ease in their caregiving work.

In this joy-filled personal documentary, comedian Arlieta Hall has gone against all popular advice and quit her day job to care for her father. She has to learn how to laugh in the midst of a disease that is not very funny, using improv to affirm and validate his experiences.

Revised PB pitch: In Finding Your Laughter, stand-up comedian Arlieta Hall quits her day job to care for her dad struggling with Alzheimer's. She has to learn how to laugh in the midst of a disease that is not very funny, using improv to affirm and validate his experiences.

LINDSAY OFRIAS - confirmed attending

PROTEST: A Modern Gangster Tale

PROTEST examines how laws originally designed to take down the Mafia have become a key tool for deep-pocketed corporations and politicians to silence dissent. By following the interlocking stories of Amazonian villagers, Black Lives Matter activists, and Standing Rock water protectors as they all defend themselves against charges of organized crime and conspiracy, PROTEST shows precedent in the making that has severe implications for democracy and our ability to stand up for a cause.

Revised PB pitch: PROTEST reveals how laws designed to take down the Mafia are now being used by major corporations and politicians to silence dissent. Black Lives Matter activists, Standing Rock water protectors, and Amazonian villagers are charged with organized crime and conspiracy, thus discouraging protest and endangering democracy.

Nora Jacobson

"Ruth Stone's Vast Library of the Female Mind"

After tragedy strikes, acclaimed poet Ruth Stone retreated to the margins of the literary world, working tirelessly to provide for her children, and transforming her intense grief into poetry, using funny, startling language. Using a conversational, intimate approach, the film combines verité footage of Ruth at different times of her life, animation by her granddaughter, and heartfelt observations of friends and family members.

Revised PB pitch: "Ruth Stone's Vast Library of the Female Mind"
After tragedy strikes, acclaimed poet Ruth Stone retreats to the margins of the literary world, works tirelessly to provide for her children, and transforms her intense grief into funny, startling poetry.

Judy Branfman

The Land of Orange Groves and Jails tells the story of my great-aunt Yetta's 10-year prison sentence for flying a red flag at a summer camp - and her Supreme Court case that became the court's first affirmation of free speech - and laid the groundwork for our right to protest and dissent.

Revised PB pitch: My great-aunt Yetta was sentenced to 10 years in prison for flying a red flag at a summer camp. Her case sparked the Supreme Court's first affirmation of free speech and laid the groundwork for our right to protest.

Connie Bottinelli

DRIVING MRS M

When a beloved 3rd grade teacher loses both arms and legs, her mission is to regain independence, drive again and return to teaching. Without warning, she's terminated for disability, but fueled by the uncompromising support of those kids who love her, she enables the future with a world first, never expecting what she creates.

Revised PB pitch: A beloved 3rd grade teacher struggles to regain independence after losing both arms and legs. Terminated for disability, she achieves a one-of-a-kind breakthrough with the uncompromising support of the kids who love her.

Vivien Wu

BACHATA ACADEMY follows four children pursuing their dream of becoming professional musicians. Together, the children channel music to heal divisions in their community: discrimination against migrants, abusive relationships, and generational trauma. Along the way, they become the role models they were searching for.

Revised PB pitch: BACHATA ACADEMY follows four children pursuing their dream of becoming professional musicians. The group channels music to heal divisions, abusive relationships, and generational trauma and become the role models they were searching for.

Alejandro Enriquez

Rapa is a portrait of Sabucedo, a small village in Spain that preserves something unique: villagers and wild horses depend on each other to survive. There are less people in the village every year and –like in a mirror– much less horses in the mounts. Protecting the wild horses is the only way to preserve the village, confronting them at the Rapa the only means not to disappear.

Revised PB pitch: Villagers and wild horses have traditionally depended on each other to survive in Sabucedo, a small declining village in Spain. Protecting the wild horses is the only way to preserve the village, confronting them at the Rapa the only means not to disappear.

Alex Leff

Grandpa Mel used to always tell me the story of his epic 1945 bicycle adventure, until he lost his memory to Alzheimer's. So 75 years later my brother and I set out to recreate his bike trip in order to hold onto our connection with him before it fades away.

Revised PB pitch: 75 years later, two brothers embark on an emotional journey inspired by their grandfather's oft-told-tale of his epic 1945 bicycle adventure. The brothers recreate his legendary bike trip, hoping to hold onto their connection with him before Alzheimer's finally steals his memory.

Ned Augustenborg

The film is titled "THE BALLAD OF DON LEWIS: The Untold Story of a Synthesizer Pioneer"

"The Ballad of Don Lewis" is about an African American who revolutionized electronic music instrumentation; a master musician who surmounted commercial, technical and racial barriers to forever change our world's musical landscape.

Revised PB pitch: Don Lewis revolutionized electronic music instrumentation. An African American master musician, he surmounted commercial, technical and racial barriers to forever change the world's musical landscape.