

**Little People**

16mm or videocassette. color. 58 min.  
Filmmakers Library. 1985. 16mm: \$850 (Rental: \$85); videocassette: \$700. Preview avail.

MAINSTREAMING

"People want to pick you up." This is one of the many expressive and provocative statements made in *Little People*, a fascinating and definitive documentary about dwarfs in America. Interviews in the film describe the social and psychological adjustments of growing up small, with humor and a remarkable sense of self-actualization. The "talking heads" style of much of the film works especially well, giving us a face-to-face view, free of the distortions we may perceive in the speakers' physiques. Documentary footage, mixed with the interviews, provides a privileged excursion into ordinary experiences of these extraordinary people—buying clothes, undergoing a medical examination, attending a special fashion show. Scenes from a "Little People of America" convention illustrate the joy and pride individuals can find in gathering together, intensified for these special people. If every minority or handicapped population deserves to be represented by at least one good film, *Little People* fills that need and goes beyond it to make a statement about the development of mental well-being. The length of the film and the use of a couple of mild expletives probably suggest that it be used for high school through adult audiences.—*Scott Parsons, Audiovisual Consultant, Lincoln Trail Libraries System, Champaign, Ill.*