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## **Big Enough ★★★**

(2004) 53 min. VHS: \$229, DVD: \$249. Fanlight Productions. PPR. Color cover. ISBN: 1-57295-424-8 (vhs), 1-57295-804-9 (dvd).

Like the landmark documentaries *7-Up* through *42-Up* by Michael Apter that followed several British schoolchildren every seven years all the way into middle age (so far), Jan Krawitz's *Big Enough* returns to subjects that Krawitz and Thomas Ott filmed 20 years earlier in their 1981 film *Little People*, one of the first (if not *the* first) documentaries to explore the lives of dwarves. It was that film that created a new awareness of "little people" (as they prefer to be known), and *Big Enough* pays another visit to several interviewees profiled in 1981, focusing on four couples (only one non-dwarf husband among them) who have risen from their challenging childhoods to become content and productive members of mainstream society. And while much of *Big Enough* emphasizes the difficulties (physical, psychological, and social) of life as a little person in America, the film ultimately conveys an encouraging and altogether progressive sense of acceptance and equality, both among little people themselves (who often form a kind of private enclave, and have their own conventions where experiences are shared) and in society at large. The struggles and obstacles presented here are simply taken as a fact of life, while important issues—marriage, raising families, and the ethical implications of "weeding out" the newly-discovered "dwarfism" gene from future generations—are touched upon with sensitivity. *Big Enough* is not a sappy, inspirational, or condescending portrait, but rather a respectful and admirable glimpse into the lives of otherwise average people who, like many with disabilities or genetic conditions, are forced to overcome the stereotypical perceptions that society thrusts upon them. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (J. Shannon)