



About Susan Polis Schutz

Celebrated filmmaker and writer, Susan Polis Schutz is a force in socially conscious filmmaking. Her mission is to shine light on important current topics through honest, vulnerable and impactful storytelling, and her work continues to influence audiences around the world. Her latest film, *Bridging Divides: Sharing Heartbeats (2024)*, is an exploration of what it takes to go beyond the issues and ideas that divide us as human beings. It highlights six unique organizations, Fandango Fronterizo, PeacePlayers - Northern Ireland, Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom, The Jerusalem Youth Chorus, Tri-Faith Initiative and Chicago Children's Choir. They gather together in a spirit of kindness, fun and with a willingness to engage. Their differences are no longer a source of conflict, but something to celebrate.

Susan and her production company IronZeal Films have made nine culturally, impactful films since 2007 and her films have aired on public television stations throughout the United States and other stations worldwide. Her first release, *Anyone and Everyone (2007)*, featured the coming-out stories of gay children and their parents. It was inspired by Susan's own son, Jared Polis, who is the Governor of Colorado, and the first openly gay governor. From there, Susan went on to tackle a series of pertinent issues including homelessness, anxiety, aging and depression.

In 2018, Susan won the Christopher Award for work that "affirms the highest values of the human spirit" with her film *The Homeless Chorus Speaks*.

In addition to her work as a filmmaker, Susan is a thriving poet, entrepreneur, and bestselling author of *To My Daughter with Love on the Important Things in Life*

which has sold approximately 2 million copies. Susan, along with her husband, Stephen Schutz, founded Blue Mountain Arts, a popular publisher known for its distinctive greeting cards, gifts, and poetry books. Susan's poetry has been published on over 435 million greeting cards worldwide.

Susan has always been a women's rights activist fighting for gender equality. Through her films and writings Susan seeks the truth that affects us all. She is proud to share her tremendous accomplishments with her loving husband, children, and grandchildren.

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