

July 4, 2009

To those responsible for any part of the film, *Orphan*,

My daughters are adopted. They came to me as babies with invisible baggage associated with the complexities of being separated from their birth parents and the trauma from institutional care and then relocation to this country and our home. They are amazing examples of the power of the human spirit and I can't possibly express how much they mean to me.

I have not seen your film, *Orphan*, only the trailer for it. It seems to me from viewing this small piece of film that the implied message is clearly that an adopted child is tainted, possibly evil and most certainly, not desirable. I am utterly disappointed in these messages directly aimed at one of the most vulnerable populations of our society. I am disappointed that countless people must have been a part of the pre-production, filming and post-production process and yet no one spoke to the enormous negative implications of the movie. This, naturally, leads me to conclude that the opportunity for ticket sales dominated any conversations about the appropriate nature of the film.

Shame on you. This film shouldn't have been made. I understand that you have rights to make any type of movie you wish, yet with these rights come responsibility. The damage this type of film produces is not measurable. Even walking past the movie poster and having peers question their reaction to it, hurts the adopted child.

I would ask that you pull this film and don't release it. Instead, explain to the media that you made a mistake. You will find forgiveness bountiful and, possibly, your ticket sales increasing on your projects due to the display of sensitivity and humanness.

Sincerely,

Becky Harding
President of
Families with Children from China
Austin, Texas chapter