

November 9, 2009  
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## **MULTI-AWARD WINNING AMNESIA DOCUMENTARY COMES TO 18TH ANNUAL ST. LOUIS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

Filmmaker Rick Minnich to present **FORGETTING DAD** at the 2009 St. Louis International Film Festival

- \* official film website: [www.forgettingdad.com](http://www.forgettingdad.com)
- \* PDF press kit and press photos: <http://forgettingdad.wordpress.com/press-room/>
- \* Facebook fan group: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=58713580431&ref=ts>
- \* St. Louis Film Festival link: [http://www.cinemastlouis.org/2009/sliff\\_documentaries2.html](http://www.cinemastlouis.org/2009/sliff_documentaries2.html)

**SCREENING TIME:** Monday, Nov. 16, 9:30 p.m. Tivoli Theatre 3

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Following its world premiere at the world's largest documentary film festival, the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam IDFA last November, where it won the Special Jury Award in the main competition - the Joris Ivens Competition - "Forgetting Dad" has been touring the world, moving audiences and collecting one prize after another. The screening at the St. Louis International Film Festival will be the first screening in Missouri since the sneak preview at the True/False Film Festival in Columbia, MO this past March.

In this deeply personal documentary, writer/director Rick Minnich explores the most painful event of his childhood: the loss of his father, Richard, to amnesia. A hybrid of detective story and autobiography, it takes as its starting point a minor traffic accident, occurring shortly after Rick's college graduation in which Richard was rear-ended. A week later, he suddenly seemed to have lost all memory of his own past – and soon left his family to go off and create a new life.

Minnich plans to explore his father's recovery as the triumph of a literally self-made man. But as filming progresses, and his initially enthusiastic father and stepmother withdraw from the project, he begins investigating the facts surrounding the case and decides to turn the camera instead on himself and the rest of his family, opening up old wounds to examine the impact of his father's abandonment on their lives. In the process, he makes startling discoveries that raise a painful question: is his father truly the victim of a neurological injury – as he claims despite doctors' diagnoses to the contrary – or has his amnesia been a hoax, the brainchild of a man willfully leaving his old life behind? Poignantly recreating the past via home movie clips and sometimes tense, probing interviews, Minnich captures moving instants of revelation right before the camera.

Minnich – who spent six years in Germany studying film – undertook the project with co-creator Matt Sweetwood as a means to maintain perspective on his highly charged material. This is Minnich's third feature-length documentary and his second collaboration with Sweetwood.

Rick Minnich is happy to give interviews throughout his stay at the festival as well as via Email, phone or Skype in advance.