

# “A Friend Indeed – The Bill Sackter Story”

## Festival & General Press Release Descriptions

After 44 years in the institution, Bill’s life was about to begin...

“A Friend Indeed – The Bill Sackter Story” is an inspiring new documentary showing how a forgotten man and an uncommon friendship shattered the world’s perceptions of people with disabilities.

Bill Sackter’s life story was made famous by the award winning made-for-tv movie “Bill” (1981) starring Mickey Rooney as Bill, and Dennis Quaid as the young filmmaker Barry Morrow who had befriended Bill in 1972 and began filming their relationship and adventures.

Now get to know the real people behind the story in this engaging documentary featuring actual film and video footage and photographs of Bill Sackter himself, along with new interviews with the people closest to Bill, in an uplifting true story that has been over 35 years in the making!

With a harmonica, a warm cup of coffee and a positive embrace of life, get to know the real Bill Sackter, an international hero for people with disabilities, and witness how a little friendship and attention transformed Bill’s life and everyone around him.

See Lane Wyrick’s powerful new documentary “A Friend Indeed – The Bill Sackter Story” – voted the #1 Audience Favorite in five festivals already: the Kansas International Film Festival, the Hardacre Film Festival, the Omaha Film Festival, the Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival, and the New Strand Film Festival.

It’s a highly entertaining and engaging feature-length documentary filled with laughter, insight, and emotion (a box of Kleenex is definitely recommended)!

Learn more at [www.BillSackter.com](http://www.BillSackter.com)

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## **Additional Descriptions of “A Friend Indeed” at various lengths**

### **Logline 1 (13 words/74 characters with spaces)**

After 44 years in the institution, Bill Sackter’s life was about to begin...

### **Logline 2 (23 words/150 characters with spaces)**

The inspiring true story of how Bill Sackter left a lifetime of institutionalization, to emerge as an international hero for people with disabilities.

### **Short Short Synopsis (50 words/365 characters)**

Emerging from 44 years in an institution, Bill Sackter’s life changed through an unlikely friendship with young college student, Barry Morrow.

Witness Bill’s incredible transformation into an international hero for people with disabilities, in this inspiring real-life documentary about hope, compassion, and the power of friendship.

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### **Medium Synopsis (83 words/533 characters)**

Abandoned in an institution for 44 years, Bill Sackter would never see his family again. Forgotten and alone, his life changed through the help and friendship of a young college student, Barry Morrow and several other caring individuals.

With a harmonica, a warm cup of coffee, and an incredible embrace of life, Bill was transformed from a neglected individual into a national hero for people with disabilities.

An inspiring real-life documentary about hope, compassion, and the power of friendship.

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**Long description – (304 words/1818 characters)**

As a 7-year-old boy, Bill Sackter's life was in turmoil. After his father died in 1920, the State of Minnesota determined that his mental retardation would make him a burden on society, so he was locked up in an institution, never to see his family again.

It took 44 years for Bill to finally be released from Faribault Institution. And while he had freedom, he was languishing on the streets of Minneapolis.

A chance meeting with a young college student, Barry Morrow, led to an incredible friendship and a new journey for Bill. Barry introduced Bill to a whole new side life and many new friends, and took the extraordinary step of becoming his legal guardian.

This unlikely pairing allowed Bill's vibrant personality and zest for life to blossom. Never looking at the past with regret, Bill embraced life in the present and brought a smile to peoples' faces, especially when he played the harmonica for everyone he met as proprietor of Wild Bill's Coffee Shop in Iowa City.

Barry's dream of making a real-life documentary about Bill wasn't realized at the time, but the basis of his life story was turned into a highly successful made-for-television drama "Bill" (1981), starring Mickey Rooney as Bill and Dennis Quaid as Barry.

Now, over three decades since Barry began filming, the real Bill Sackter comes to life in this new feature length documentary by Lane Wyrick.

Voted the #1 Audience Favorite in five festivals already: the Kansas International Film Festival, the Hardacre Film Festival, the Omaha Film Festival, the Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival, and the New Strand Film Festival, "A Friend Indeed – The Bill Sackter Story" is a very funny and inspiring real-life documentary about hope, compassion and the power of friendship. Just be sure to bring a box of Kleenex!

Learn more at [www.BillSackter.com](http://www.BillSackter.com)