

FINDING DOE

by

Kristi Blake Jones

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Thesis Committee:

Leon Alligood, Thesis Director

Christine Eschenfelder, Second Reader

FINDING DOE  
By Kristi Blake Jones

APPROVED:

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Leon Alligood

Associate Professor, School of Journalism and Strategic Media

---

Dr. Greg Pitts

Director, School of Journalism and Strategic Media

---

Leann McBride

Executive Aide, School of Journalism and Strategic Media

---

Dr. Rebekka King

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

## **Dedication**

To my mom and dad.

Both of you gave me the drive and passion to conquer whatever I set my mind to.

You both inspire me every day and I hope to make you proud. I love you.

## Acknowledgments

Thank you MTSU. Thank you to the College of Media and Entertainment for giving me a home where I feel like I belong. Thank you, Leon Alligood, for everything since the Fall of 2019; from inviting me to SEJC pre-covid to believing I could complete this project.

Thank you, Dr. E, for being an inspiration, kind soul and a person to calm me down.

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you to Noah Brady for continuing to support me through this project and being there

always.

Thank you for being my mentors and a listening ear. I will never forget each of you and always look up to you and all that you have accomplished. Without each of you, I would

not be where I am today or get to where I hope to be.

I want to have a special thank you to Todd Matthews and The Doe Network. Without you, this could not have been done. Your research has touched so many lives and I can only hope to touch half as many with this project to further raise awareness for this silent

mass disaster that you work to flatten every day.

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## **Abstract**

The goal for this project was to create a series of multi-media journalistic audio stories detailing the work of Todd Matthews, creator of “The Doe Network,” a valuable resource in identifying human remains whose bodies have been recovered by public citizens and law enforcement. Matthews uses this group to harness the power of the internet to help solve the “nation’s silent mass disaster,” a phrase coined by the National Missing and Unidentifiable Person System. Rising in popularity and aligning with my passions, the creative portion of my thesis is a true-crime podcast. Each episode details what “The Doe Network” is and dives into cases that Matthews has worked over twenty years.

## **Introduction**

I came to MTSU in the Fall of 2019 and planned for the day that I would get to ring the Honor's College bell. One year ago, I began thinking about what I would be ringing the bell for. Rising in popularity, a podcast stuck to me. That's when I thought of the true-crime route. I began to research unsolved murders and 20-year cold cases when my thesis director, Assistant Professor Leon Alligood, told me about Todd Matthews. Instantly I clung to the idea of picking his brain and learning about what he has been so passionate about. The "Silent Mass Disaster".

According to the National Missing and Unidentifiable Person System, over 600,000 individuals go missing in the United States every year and according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, out of individuals who are not found alive, there are about 40,000 bodies awaiting identification in the United States. Less than 10% of those bodies are identified every year. Groups like The Doe Network act as internet archaeologists digging up information and then connecting it online. They assist police officers and families to reunite them with loved ones and give them closure.

To be able to take something that I am interested in and something that creates change is what I always envisioned in my time at MTSU. Through each episode of this podcast, I believe that I am doing that.

## Terms/ Definitions

NCIC:	National Crime Information Center
RTI:	Response to Intervention
CODUS:	Combined DNA Index System
Audio Tracking:	recording voice
CANON 90D:	high-quality photography camera
Citizen Journalism:	public citizens play an active role in the process of collecting, reporting and analyzing news and information
Cultural Artifact:	gives information about the culture of its creator and users
Editing Software:	Adobe Audition, Adobe Premiere Pro, Audacity
	John & Jane Doe: multiple-use names that are used when the true name of a person is unknown or is being intentionally concealed
Lavalier Microphone:	small microphone connected to camera and interviewee
Middle Tennessee News:	on-campus faculty-led television news station
Phenomenology:	philosophical study of the structures of experience and consciousness
Sidelines:	on-campus newspaper
SONY 100:	high-quality video camera
Podcast Booth:	quiet place with egg crate pad for quiet audio tracking
	True Crime: examining an actual crime and details of it and the actions of real people that led up to the death or injury of another; can come in all media forms

## **Methodology/ Creative Project Process**

I wanted to make this project something that I would always be proud of. I wanted to look at it from someone else's perspective and think that this is clever and interesting. Each episode's name is indicative of what Matthews and I spoke about. The intro and outro are quotes that he said throughout the interview that stuck with me. "Who is" is something I wanted to add to each name because, through every episode, the audience is learning who the person is and what happened/ is happening.

Episode 1 - Recomposing the Decomposed

Episode 2 - Who is Tent Girl

Episode 3 - Who is Charlie

Episode 4 - Who is Steve

I did not want each episode to be too short or overly long where the viewer would get bored. Each episode is roughly 10-16 minutes and I think that is an appropriate length for both telling the story and keeping listeners' attention.

I wanted the format to be simple. Matthews was telling the story and I was flipping the pages. He is such a colorful character he made the interviews easy. The listener can hear how much he loves his craft and how hard he tries to help everyone he meets.

## **Production/ Editing**

I traveled to Livingston four times over the summer to interview Todd Matthews. It was about a two-hour drive from my hometown to his house. I was there for roughly an hour each time asking him anywhere between 20 and 30 questions.

For the interviews, I used a TASCAM professional audio recorder. I also used a SONY 100 professional-grade video camera as a backup and if I were to use any visuals. I put a lavalier microphone on him which was connected to the SONY 100.

When it was time to record my part of each podcast episode, I recorded it in MTSU's podcast booth in the Bragg building. The booth allows crisp, untouched audio quality. I recorded through Audacity, an audio recording software, and emailed it to myself for editing.

The music was a mix of *Youtube Studio*, copyright free and myself. I mixed everything together and added it to the track. I wanted an ominous feeling when the episode begins; grabbing the listener's attention and keeping them engaged through the whole podcast.

I used the Adobe Creative Cloud Premiere Pro Editing Software to edit everything together. I occasionally brought clips of Matthew's audio into Audition, another Creative Cloud Audio Editing Software, to clean up any static or unwanted noise in his soundbite.

Editing took the most time by far. I easily spent 75 hours editing the podcast. I had a pretty detailed outline of my process. First, I created a project for each episode on Premiere named "FINDING DOE episode number episode name". I imported, which means added, each full interview into its respective episode and just listened.

Then, I cut out the pieces where I ask Matthews each question. After that, I cut out any soundbites that I did not want to use. Then, I picked out clips of audio that I wanted to use for the beginning teases of each episode. When all of that was done, I began to put his sound bites in order of how I wanted to tell each story. I left space between his bites for where I wanted to have my voice track. Depending on the episode, I either wrote my track as I put Matthew's soundbites in order or I wrote my full track after putting all of his soundbites in. This took much longer than I expected it to.

After putting the soundbites in and I liked the storytelling order, I sent my rough drafts to my thesis committee for review. I did not worry about technical issues because I wanted to hear my committee's critiques before doing fine detail editing. This included making sure every audio clip is the same volume, cutting out any long pauses, "so's," or stutters. That would not take an excruciating amount of time so it could be lowered on the priority list. To me, it was easier to wait to do that when I had my thesis committee's critiques and changes as well.

After the meeting, I corrected all of my changes and sent each episode back for final approval. Once they were approved and finally completed, it was time to publish them for anyone to listen to. Each episode was posted every other day leading up until the day of submission. They are available on Spotify as well as Apple Podcasts.

## Reflection

Looking back on the past year of this project, I am very thankful for my choice of topic. My path from beginning to an end showed me the passion someone can have for something that I have such little knowledge of. I have been greatly educated on a topic that affects tens of thousands of families each and every year. I could not imagine even thinking about going through what they have to. This project has opened my eyes so much.

I found a new passion for podcasting and audio editing. Being able to tell a perfect story through another person's words has been something I deeply enjoy and want to keep pursuing. I do hope to add episodes to the podcast and make this project more than an honors thesis I completed in college. To continue to tell the stories that impact so many families in our country and all over the world.

The process was not as smooth as I thought and hoped it would be. The Fall 2021 semester has been my busiest, most strenuous to date. Being pushed more than I ever have been makes me even more proud that I was able to create a podcast that I will put on my resume and enter for awards. I had a lot of strings to pull to get this done and personally, I believe that I succeeded in everything that I set out to make.

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## Appendices

### Appendix A: Episode 1 Script

THIS IS FINDING DOE

<My name is Todd Matthews.>

ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE DOE NETWORK, MATTHEWS GIVES US A FRONT ROW SEAT TO THE MYSTERY THAT HAS BEEN HIS LIFE FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS.

<And I work in the world of forensic science.>

WORKING ALONGSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND CREATING LEGISLATION, MATTHEWS CONTINUES TO WORK WITH NAMUS. A DATABASE CONNECTING THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES TO THE DECEASED.

<I'm a 51-year-old father and grandfather and I've been married for 33 years.>

A MAN WHO HAS SPENT THE LAST TWO DECADES CONNECTING FAMILIES TO THEIR LOVED ONES REMAINS AND TELLING THEIR STORIES IN HOPES OF IDENTIFYING MORE DOES AND RAISING AWARENESS.

<I've lived on this same property for 51 years.>

LIVING TWO LIVES, MATTHEWS WAS COMPELLED TO DIVE INTO FORENSIC SCIENCE FULLTIME. WE BEGIN THIS CAPTIVATING JOURNEY WITH EPISODE ONE.

<I know I'm definitely on a parallel world.>

RECOMPOSING THE DECOMPOSED.

<This kind of work is something I've done my entire adult life. It wasn't always a professional job.>

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIABLE PERSON SYSTEM, OVER 600,000 INDIVIDUALS GO MISSING IN THE UNITED STATES EVERY YEAR. ACCORDING TO THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, OUT OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT FOUND ALIVE, THERE ARE ROUGHLY 40,000 BODIES AWAITING IDENTIFICATION IN THE UNITED STATES. LESS THAN 10% OF THOSE BODIES WILL EVER BE IDENTIFIED. GROUPS LIKE THE DOE NETWORK ACT AS AN INTERNET ANTHROPOLOGIST DIGGING UP INFORMATION AND THEN CONNECTING IT ONLINE. THEY ASSIST POLICE OFFICERS AND FAMILIES TO REUNITE THEM WITH LOVED ONES AND GIVE THEM CLOSURE. MATTHEWS HAS DONE THIS FOR 20 YEARS. ALMOST HALF OF HIS LIFE. HE'S HAD THOUSANDS OF ARTICLES WRITTEN ABOUT HIM AND WHAT HE DOES.

<I have been interviewed by so many different news organizations I can't even keep up with them and they're from all over the world. You know, VICE in the UK interviewed me pretty in-depth last summer and it was for a program we did an hour-long interview and they had a ton of questions about the case and sometime people have asked questions that make me ponder in a way that I never have before.>

BEFORE BEING CONTACTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN 2007, MATTHEWS HAD WORKED HIS WAY UP THE RANKS AT A FACTORY.

<It was going from being what you do at night after you get done with work to this is your work and I can see the life I would have had which wasn't a bad life you know my brother still works at that factory so he still knows the same core group of people, just a smaller world.>

HIS NIGHT-WORK TO HIS LIFE WORK, MATTHEWS' FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND COLLEAGUES ARE INTRIGUED BY HOW HE MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD.

<My high school reunion my last one had I been there I had something else that happened and I was gonna be voted with for the most unique job and nobody can really say what job I do.>

BUT WHAT DOES TODD MATTHEWS DO? HE NAMES PEOPLE. BUT THIS IS NO SIMPLE TASK.

<So, naming somebody I like to call it recomposing the decomposed.>

HE USES ANY INFORMATION HE CAN OBTAIN. SPEAKING TO PERSONAL SOURCES INCLUDING NEIGHBORS, FAMILIES, OFFICERS AND DENTISTS. HE COMPILES HIS INFORMATION INTO THE DOE NETWORK. FOUNDED IN 1999, THE DOE NETWORK IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION MADE UP OF VOLUNTEERS TO CONNECT MISSING PERSONS CASES WITH JOHN AND JANE DOE CASES. HE ALSO WORKS WITH NAMUS, A NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE AND RESOURCE CENTER FOR MISSING, UNIDENTIFIED, AND UNCLAIMED PERSON CASES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. RTI, ALSO KNOWN AS RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION IS AN INTERNATIONAL NONPROFIT RESEARCH INSTITUTE DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE HUMAN CONDITION AND IDENTIFICATION OF MISSING JOHN AND JANE DOE CASES.

<So of course, the Doe Network, I've had it for a long time and National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, NAMUS, I'll probably do some more work with

NAMUS now that the grant has actually went to RTI. A lot of its advocates individual advocates somebody that you can empower to go like here's what we did in Tennessee here's the language that we used to pass the law unanimously. We did a lot of work to get this going it's yours; you take it and change people's lives with it.>

AND CHANGING LIVES IS WHAT HE DOES. SEARCHING TENNESSEE, KENTUCKY AND SURROUNDING STATES TO DISCOVER UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS THAT HAVE BEEN SOUGHT AFTER FOR YEARS OR DECADES BY THIER FAMILIES. NOT ONLY DOES HE WORK ONE ON ONE WITH CASES, HE ALSO ACTS AS A CONSULTANT ACROSS THE COUNTRY. HE IS NOT THE ONLY PIECE OF THE LARGER PUZZLE.

<You know whether there was a direct like Todd put this final piece in there, but they know it was part of what you built like if NAMUS has resolved a case Alice Alamendrez in Texas and she's the one that just recently helped pass state law. She had to go on that journey alone, but she calls me on the way to testify both times and it's like I can't testify in Texas. I can be a consultant and talk to your state representatives and explain some of the issues behind the scenes and help them understand so you don't have to. You just have to go and say my dad was a John Doe and I don't want this to happen to anybody else.>

ALAMENDREZ'S FATHER WAS DEAD FOR YEARS BEFORE HE WAS FOUND AND NAMED, BUT TO HER HE HAS ONLY BEEN DEAD SINCE THE DAY SHE WAS NOTIFIED. THAT'S WHY MATTHEWS GRAVITATES TOWARDS OLDER CASES. A SENSE OF URGENCY TO GIVE CLOSURE TO FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YEARS.

<I do like to work on the older cases before I work on the newer cases. The newer cases have the advantage of all the modern technology that are already ready. The older cases I am fighting the living memory of people that say we don't have a John or Jane Doe case. Yes, you do, and it's literally going back to newspaper archives; things you can't google search. You can't google search filing cabinet.>

HE IS CONSTANTLY FIGHTING TIME TO FIND LIVING MEMBERS OF ORIGINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND TANGIBLE DOCUMENTS FROM BEFORE A TIME OF TYPED POLICE REPORTS AND INFORMATION BEING A COUPLE CLICKS AWAY.

<So, unless that data is first found digitized and put back out there, the clock is running on it. And I've went to so many cases in the past I had one from 1921 in Kentucky and some of the original news articles about that case had been lost in a fire or water damage so that's the reason he become a John Doe for so long is because some of the original newspaper articles that covered it had just destroyed what was left of the record and it was it literally had to be restored. So that was part of it and the key in that was to target media in certain areas where you knew that could be potential connections and literally a family come forward and said that John Doe is my great great uncle and it was and they had a family bible where his name was recorded and then to go back and realize it was known years ago but yet he was around for 100 years as a John Doe because those records had not been connected or easily searchable.>

WHILE DOCUMENTS ARE HARD TO FIND, WHAT REALLY CLOSES THE CASE CAN BE EVEN HARDER. CONFIRMING THE PERSON'S IDENTITY. THIS IS WHAT CAUSES THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DELAY.

<So, there's dental, DNA or fingerprints is the number one. You know there's different types of the DNA; ancestry DNA it's not really the first place you should go to you know you have to go through the standard forensic scientist first. Fingerprints have been a form of id for centuries. They're a unique thing they're easily found.>

CODUS IS THE COMBINED DNA INDEX SYSTEM USED TO DESCRIBE THE FBI'S PROGRAM OF SUPPORT FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE DNA DATABASES AS WELL AS THE SOFTWARE USED TO RUN DNA THROUGH THESE DATABASES. FINGERPRINTS ARE THE QUICKEST AND MOST EFFICIENT, BUT IF YOU ONLY HAVE BONE THE CASE GETS HARDER.

<Here's the problem. I can have your fingerprints as a missing person, but if you have skeletal remains they're useless. And often dental records, I can have skeletal remains that are found and of course, you have the remains right there. I can have the full dental work up from a forensic odontologist. Well if I don't have your dental records as a missing person uploaded into a file that's accessible they're useless. That's why DNA often is the shortcut. Unfortunately, I feel like law enforcement will just say, do DNA. It's like if I have two dental records or two fingerprint sets it can be done today. If we have them, but the challenge is whether you have flesh or whether you do not have flesh. Fingerprints are flesh, dental records are bone.>

DENTAL RECORDS AND FILES MAY SEEM TO BE HARD TO FIND UNLESS THEY ARE GIVEN BY A DENTIST OR DOCTOR. MOST DO NOT KNOW TO GIVE THEM EVEN IF THEY MIGHT BE THE LAST PIECE OF THE PUZZLE.

<And when you're sliding them across the table it's easier to take them you know, but they might not be looking for those dental records so I think that's why medical

professionals and we passed a resolution in Tennessee this year where it's best practice for medical providers just to remind them we might not always know that you have that record, so if you could volunteer that record or at least let law enforcement aware that such a record exists it could shorten that time period prevent the loss of that record.>

POLICE AND FORENSIC SCIENTISTS CAN NOT DO THIS ALONE.

AWARENESS IS KEY. THE MORE PEOPLE ADVOCATING FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF A JOHN OR JANE DOE, THE MORE LIKELY THAT IT WILL END UP WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS CRUCIAL INFORMATION.

<That's a part of the process is making sure people are aware of it. Every time a news story is run, I'll have somebody that will call and say, hey, I know something about that. The medical examiner in Knox County Darinka Mileusnic really nice lady and I've worked with her quite a bit Dr. Mileusnic is very progressive and she wants to see her John and Jane Does resolved. In Cumberland County, there's two John Does from the eighties and nineties that I want to get the DNA testing ancestry. There's one from Sevierville from 1974; I want that one and one from the late nineties in Campbell County Tennessee in particular that I want to get the DNA and I've requested that and they're willing to work with me and how this works, they will send in a bone sample to the authorum (sic) lab for DNA solves. I'm going to be able to go back and do the crowdsourcing. So a page will be created for me and it costs approximately \$5,000 to do the DNA so the county won't have to pay for it the public that are saying how can you help I'll be able to say you can help by contributing. Sometimes corporations in the county will just say listen I'm going to pay half of it and they'll write a check. So once there's enough in it to actually begin the DNA processing we can find living even distant

relatives of those John and Jane Does and that is essential to finding a way to name them and resolve because three out of four of them are homicides. I'll do everything that I can to use my platform to crowdsource and just get them funded and get the identification and hopefully, we'll eradicate every John and Jane Doe in Tennessee and hopefully Kentucky and beyond.>

BUT WHO THE DOE NETWORK IS LOOKING FOR AND THE TYPE OF VICTIMS THAT COME UP THE MOST AS JOHN AND JANE DOES IS SOMETHING THAT MATTHEWS RESEARCHES TO BETTER WORK THE NEXT CASE. KNOWING HOW THAT TYPE OF VICTIM LIVES CAN MAKE THE INVESTIGATION EASIER.

<So, commonalities is a word that I used for the Grateful Dead. The commonalities was it wasn't because it was a serial killer and the deaths themselves were related, but some of the circumstances they had something to do with the Grateful Dead and you know it's either they were on their way to a concert leaving a concert or they had a t-shirt on. It was a popular thing and it was something that brought attention to them. Grateful Dead wasn't responsible for their death but they could've been partly responsible for their identification because they were categorized because of these commonalities. A lot of the commonalities are like the red-headed slayings where a single killer killed many because of something that he saw; that he chose so this was a little nicer story where the Grateful Dead was the commonality. Anytime you have one here you might be able to see it if you have like ten here that's a bigger crowd to see.>

AFTER DNA TESTING HAS BEEN SENT OUT, THE LIVING FAMILY MUST BE NOTIFIED. ALIVE OR DEAD PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED OR IF THEIR LOVED ONE IS STILL MISSING.

<Identifications made the family are usually aware cause they've had to give a family reference sample of DNA so they know something is pending something is always out there the day could come. Most of the time it's the investigating agency that's going to give them a call or pay them a visit depending on the circumstances. I had a lady in Connecticut, her son has been missing for years and she said if he's ever identified would you personally call me? Well if I have the opportunity but I might not be the one notified of the DNA it'll probably be the investigating agency. I would love to tell you I would love to be able to be the one to tell you. I did actually call and tell her about one set of DNA. We thought there was a match and I saw the DNA results and it wasn't him. She cried cause it wasn't him. The general public that don't realize what we're doing they would think they would say yay that means what. That means we're still looking. I think she was wanting to hope just the hope of okay I know something terrible has happened to him at this point and time I just wanna (sic) know what it is and have the traditional funeral and start healing from it and you can't do that if you can't have somebody to bury.>

HOWEVER, WITH ALL THE HARD WORK THAT GOES INTO THIS JOB, NOT ALL FAMILIES CAN BE REUNITED AND NOT EVERYONE CAN HAVE THEIR WHAT COULD BE A HAPPY ENDING. SO MUCH IS TO BE DONE TO MAKE A HAPPIER AND SAFER WORLD.

<There was a day knowing that some of these cases were gonna (sic) be a tremendous lifetime you know when there were some hits that were coming through and we were making identifications with volunteers and forensics science. When I was younger I thought we might actually get a lot done. As I get older I realize we're not gonna (sic) get half of it done. That's something that I had to accept. We can't solve them all you can't save the world, but we can build processes, state law, tell the stories that can build on it and be a party beyond your own lifetime like I'm not gonna (sic) see the end this but can we improve it and put things in place that can help control it so it's not a total silent mass disaster and that's the term for it the silent mass disaster. A lot of cases over distance and time if it was in one area it would be a huge deal but it's scattered out to the point so that it's silent and unseen. If we can control that to where it's not an absolute disaster but more of a concern that would be better. Knowing that we can do that; that we will do. That we've already done. So now it's just making sure you just get as much done as possible. I feel like that's what I'm compelled to do post fifty is to tell the stories that have never been told to explain how these things come to fruition instead of just she was identified through DNA. There could have been an incredible amount of energy and people that went into that maybe we need to celebrate. Look at all of this teamwork that went together to resolve this and look at what it did to help restore that family. Those are the stories that I want to tell now.>

SO MANY PEOPLE COME TOGETHER, BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY JUST HOW MANY CASES THE DOE NETWORK HAS HELPED SOLVE. THE PUZZLE IS A GROUP EFFORT THAT NEVER STOPS.

<How many cases; it's not a year that you do it. The Pacos County Jane Doe case in Texas was an investment five years ago it come to fruition now. So you never really know some of the early work you've done what somebody else will put a piece onto it. It's really like putting a piece of like a puzzle together. Everybody finds pieces and throw on the table and you never know what's going to be the last piece. I honestly couldn't tell you how many cases that I've contributed to or some of my work or people that I've worked with have contributed to or how many more that we'll resolve. Honestly, you don't even count them anymore. You just get done as much as you can possibly get done.>

WHAT STARTED AS A DAY JOB OVER TWENTY YEARS AGO WITH THE HELP OF PERSISTENCE, A MAN HAS DONE WHAT HE NEVER THOUGHT HE WOULD HAVE. WE'LL DIVE INTO WHAT HE HAS SEEN OVER THIS TIME TO GIVE GRIEVING FAMILIES WHAT THEY DEEPLY DESIRE. CLOSURE AND ANSWERS. WITHOUT HIM, THEY MAY NEVER HAVE. WITH TODD MATTHEWS IN LIVINGSTON, I'M KRISTI JONES, MIDDLE TENNESSEE NEWS.

## Appendix B: Episode 2 Script

THIS IS FINDING DOE.

<I think maybe she might have tried to claw her way out of that bag.>

ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE DOE NETWORK, MATTHEWS GIVES US A FRONT ROW SEAT TO THE MYSTERY THAT HAS BEEN HIS LIFE FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS.

<I was now the first cyber sleuth.>

WORKING ALONGSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND CREATING LEGISLATION, MATTHEWS CONTINUES TO WORK WITH NAMUS. A DATABASE CONNECTING THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES TO THE DECEASED.

<So, it was May 17th, 1968 that he actually discovered the body.>

WE MOVE ONTO A CASE THAT TAKES MATTHEWS BACK IN TIME.

<It's like a family member that's just passed away.>

TO A FOUNDTIONAL CASED IN LL OF HIS RESEARCH. EPISODE TWO.

<So that was the start of this current life.>

WHO IS TENT GIRL.

<She was a foundational part of why I do what I did, of what I do now and how I continue to work on it you know she's the cornerstone.>

IMMEDIATELY MATTHEWS HAD A DEEPER CONNECTION WITH THIS CASE.

<And my father in law found the body originally so she was already like part of the family. Like because you know she was buried we visited her grave. It was just like she was so present in our lives.>

NO ONE EXPECTS TO BE PUT INTO A POSITION WHERE THEY MUST CALL AUTHORITIES AND TELL THEM THEY HAVE FOUND A BODY, BUT THEN THAT YEARS LATER THEIR SON IN LAW WOULD HELP IDENTIFY WHO THAT BODY WAS.

<The first thing that pops into my mind when I think of the Tent Girl case I feel like through the perspective of my father in law when he actually saw that bag. That's that's the thing I'm seeing his point of view as he discovered it, saw the bag, touched it, realized that it was something you know not an inanimate object in the bag. He realized the way that it shifted as it rolled it looked like it had somebody in it.>

MATTHEW'S FATHER IN LAW WAS CHANGED THE DAY THAT HE HAD TO MAKE THAT PHONE CALL AND SEE THAT BODY.

<I do think that finding that body did change my father in law a little bit I think it made him more cognizant of the horrible things that people do to each other because he had children that would have been her age. He had adult children at the time, he had children that were much younger, several kids. He knew that that was potentially a daughter so I think that really hit home for him he was very protective of his girls. >

THE CANVAS TENT HIS FATHER IN LAW FOUND HER IN GAVE HER THE NATURAL FIT FOR HER SOON TO BE NAME. ANYTIME SOMEONE SAID TENT GIRL, EVERYONE KNEW WHAT WAS BEING TALKED ABOUT.

<The name Tent Girl was created it was basically the media you know they were trying to John Doe Jane Doe wasn't very common thing back then so they would associate finding a body with a location like river girl or trunk boy.>

BUT BEFORE SHE WAS NAMED SHE HAD TO BE FOUND.

<He was waiting on somebody he had a job he drilled waterwells and at the time you just had to meet up you couldn't just text him or cell phone him. You just had to make an appointment and meet somebody close to a location predetermined so that's what he did.>

AS SOON AS MATTHEWS FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS CASE AND HAD TIES TO HIS FUTURE WIFE, THE SUSPECTED KILLER, WHO AUTHORITIES THOUGHT TO BE EARL TAYLOR, TENT GIRLS ESTRANGED HUSBAND COULD NOT BE PROSECUTED.

<The case has always been open I don't know how hard it was worked and you know then a reopening after the identification but Earl Taylor died the same year and month that I found out about the Tent Girl in 1987.>

AN INVESTIGATION WAS OPENED AND MATTHEW'S FATHER IN LAW AND THE AUTOPSY HAD CONFLICTING OPINIONS.

<He saw the body and the autopsy said earlier it talked about maybe she was 13 to 16 and they revised it a little. He saw the body. He said she had red painted fingernails and she said he had well developed breasts. He felt like she was an adult not a child, so I went with that. I thought well he's seen kids from every stage of life. I'm going to trust a father. I can't imagine a parent of a 13-year-old not reporting them missing. It didn't make sense. So, I went with 19 or older.>

BUT THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUED TO WHAT KILLED HER AND HOW.

<Blunt force trauma to the head and we're not sure that was even enough to kill her. We think that possibly she was still alive maybe unbeknownst to we think it was probably her husband that did this to her because the children did recall arguments.>

RUMORS CIRCULATED AND MATTHEWS HAS HIS OWN THEORY AS TO WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY IN DECEMBER OF 1967.

<He had claimed that she left with another man maybe she did I don't know, but I believe that maybe there was an argument maybe an accident and then thinking she was dead; he had a tent wrapper he was a carnival worker so he obviously had access to the tent material. I think he tried to dispose of her so that he wouldn't be pinned with the crime maybe it was an accident but she could've been awake in the bag because her fingernails were broke off and that's just scary.>

THIS STORY HAS TAKEN MATTHEWS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY ON HIS SEARCH TO FIND WHO WAS THE UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN IN THE CANVAS TENT.

<I traveled looking for information on that Tent Girl a ton mostly back and forth to the Lexington to Georgetown area looking in the newspaper archives or I'd hear that somebody that was interviewed in an article 10 years earlier that had some kind of comment maybe like a former police officer I'd try to find that person and ask them what they knew. The reporter that had covered it so intensely you know wanting to talk to him to see what some of his theories were. I had easy access to them because they felt like I was part of the story because it was my father in law that found it so that made me unique to them as well and the fact that we were still very interested.>

THE DOE NETWORK AND OTHER ONLINE SOURCES HELPED TO IDENTIFY A VERY STRONG LEAD. WHEN A FAMILY WENT TO THE INTERNET TO SPEAK ABOUT THEIR MISSING SISTER MATTHEWS SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR PLEAD FOR HELP LED HIM TO BELIEVE THE UNIDENTIFIED BODY WAS THEIR MISSING PERSON.

<And then one day I was looking on the internet after I built the page for it I put everything I knew online digitized for the first time I found a lady looking for her sister and the description was last seen December 1967 in the Lexington, Kentucky area which was very close to where that was. I knew that night when I saw that name Barbara Hackman Taylor that also seemed familiar and I knew it had to be her then it was just a matter of proving it so then there's an exhumation, a DNA test, 48 hours with CBS came out and documented it there was news media from all over the world. It was a 30-year mystery had been solved and it just it was insane you know that was one of the first times the internet had been used to resolve a case.>

FORTUNATELY, HER FAMILY WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY HER AS THEIR RELATIVE THANKS TO A POSITIVE DNA TEST FROM HER SISTER ROSEMARY.

<And then they got some DNA out of the bone. I don't think it was dental I think it was more a femur that they used and after 30 years in the ground you never know what you're going to get out of the grave so luckily it worked and it's improved so much since then the DNA that it worked. And I think 48 hours helped bump it along a little sooner because we thought it was going to be a long time and I think they financed it a little to make sure it got done sooner because they wanted an exclusive and they didn't want to

wait a year. I'm not exactly sure what happened I know they definitely hounded people to keep the balls in the air which is good it kept me from having to worry about bugging people and hovering trying to get it resolved.>

MATTHEWS AND THE FAMILY WERE HOPEFUL THAT IT WAS HER,  
BUT THERE WAS A BIT OF THOUGHT IN THE BACK OF THEIR MINDS  
SAYING WHAT IF IT IS NOT THEIR FAMILY.

<When I first found it and I was just so sure in my heart it was her I worried about the DAN. I thought well what if there's not enough DNA if they dig her body up, what if it's degraded to the point that we can't prove it, what if it's not her and Rosemary thought the same thing we were the ones that was really thinking you know I said to her obviously it's going to be DNA that's the only way to do it and she said what if we're opening up a can of worms and it's not her. We've opened up this poor girl's grave up and it's like well we just make the case famous cause 48 hours is here so if it's not your sister it's somebody and this might be the chance for them. So that is what our second hope was if it's not her, at least I would have had her out of the ground and DAN collected and it was a tormentors (sic) six weeks waiting for that DNA. We were right in the middle of a blizzard during that year it was January of 1998 when we actually made the connection it just was horrible thinking it's like waiting on a pregnancy test to see if you're going to be a parent or not it's just crazy. We had a chance to sit down and think about what if what if what if and her family had a little bit of time to let it soak in a little bit and me too you know I had to tell my father in law and he was just stunned. I don't think he thought it would ever really be resolved so he was all excited it just brought it

back. He said I never thought I would live long enough to know who it really was and he did so that was that was really extra special.>

THEN CLOSURE CAME. A REAL FUNERAL FOR BARBARA HACKMAN TAYLOR.

<Identification her bones were put into a baby casket and we together had a funeral for her. They put her back where she was because one sister is in Arkansas, the daughters are in Ohio, I'm here in Tennessee and they did treat me like family right off the beginning. Consideration was to put her back where she was; where the town had taken care of her she was central to all of us and she was part of that town now. It just made sense and the original tombstone which had her likeness on it was altered. There was an extra part put in it that gave her name. We didn't take away Tent Girl we just had to find a way to merge these people together and I think that tombstone is a physical embodiment of how we took Tent Girl and Barbara Hackman Taylor and made it one story. Any chance we get to tell the whole story like this is just amazing.>

AFTER BEING HAPPY THAT THE FAMILY HAD FINALLY IDENTIFIED BARBARA HACKMAN TAYLOR, ALSO KNOWN AS TENT GIRL FOR SO MANY YEARS, THEY HAD TO FACE THE FACT OF WHO KILLED HER AND THAT THEY MIGHT ALSO KNOW THAT PERSON.

<That's their blood; their step dad. I'm not going to bash their dad because I don't really know what happened. In the beginning stages there was a little more tenseness because it was like okay they found out not only was this person deceased this person was probably responsible for it. It was a lot to take at first, I think it was just emotional for them, coming to the realization that it doesn't change anything it's a it is what is it.

I'm not going to try to characterize him as some monster cause I just don't know what happened>

NOW DECEASED, THEIR FATHER GAVE THEM A WAY TO FIND EACH OTHER.

<I think in a way as evil as it is to separate them there must've been a moment of repentance at the end that he felt enough for his daughters to tell them enough and it didn't matter if they figured it all out then. You know it was too late. Before he passed away he gave his children enough information to find their mothers family. They had been separated from their mother's family cause they went to live with his family. By then, everybody was grown up their aunts were grown; had children of their own so giving them that much information they were able to find their aunts and at least restore their family.>

WHAT STARTED OVER 50 YEARS WHEN MATTHEWS FATHER FOUND THE CANVAS TENT IN A DITCH, CAME A LIFETIME OF ANSWERS AND A MEMORY MATTHEWS AND HIS FAMILY WILL NEVER FORGET. WITH TODD MATTHEWS IN LIVINGSTON, I'M KRISTI JONES, MIDDLE TENNESSEE NEWS.

## Appendix C: Episode 3 Script

THIS IS FINDING DOE.

<So, he went missing 20 years ago.>

ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE DOE NETWORK, MATTHEWS GIVES US A FRONT ROW SEAT TO THE MYSTERY THAT HAS BEEN HIS LIFE FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS.

<The 10th case entered into NAMUS.>

WORKING ALONGSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND CREATING LEGISLATION, MATTHEWS CONTINUES TO WORK WITH NAMUS. A DATABASE CONNECTING THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES TO THE DECEASED.

<He's my age exactly so I can imagine I've walked the places he's walked.>

CONTINUING THE STORY, A CASE FROM EAST TENNESSEE THAT MATTHEWS KEEPS COMING BACK TO.

<Will my baby be buried besides me.>

EPIISODE THREE.

<Did he want to live the life of a transient.>

WHO IS CHARLIE.

<I'm afraid that he is deceased and his body has just not been found.>

LAW ENFORCEMENT HAS SPECULATION AS TO WHAT HAPPENED TO CHARLIE AND WHY HE HAS BEEN MISSING FOR THE LAST TWO DECADES.

<And he was in Oak Ridge. A friend actually said he took him and dropped him off at the state line between Tennessee and Georgia. The thought was maybe he was traveling. Law enforcement have speculated over the years that maybe he's alive and

wanted to detach from the family. I'm not sure about that she did tell me that she thought Charlie was homosexual and that was probably a source of a lot of his pain and fear and that could even be hate crimes now you never know especially 20 years ago. There's a lot of things that could have happened to Charlie.>

CHARLIE'S MOTHER BROUGHT MATTHEWS ONE OF HIS VERY FIRST CASES. ONE OF THE LONGEST WORKING CASES IN THE DOE NETWORK.

<He's one of the few cases that I had hand entered into NAMUS so he's one of the very first and now there's thousands and thousands.>

WHEN ENTERING HIS CASE BY HAND, MATTHEWS REALIZED THAT CHARLIE WAS HIS EXACT AGE. THAT HE COULD BE LIVING HIS LIFE IF HE WAS ALIVE SOMEWHERE.

<You know after putting it in there and seeing that he was my age, it just makes it a little more personal. I met his mother at one of the NAMUS events that we held in that area and she walked right up to me and was telling me about Charlie and what it meant to her. And of course, I could tell that she had just a loving look in her eye; heartbreak and me being the same age as him I can imagine thwart you could be my son if he was alive. He's your age; he might have a family like you do.>

HE HAD THE CASE AND THEN HAD TO USE HIS RESEARCH TO PUT TOGETHER HOW TO FIND THE MISSING MAN AND HELP A GRIEVING MOTHER.

<So, I think the news articles were probably around 2006 and seven that I first noticed the case and then entered them into NAMUS and then working to develop the case by like getting family reference samples of DNA from the family. Meeting her and

understanding in a way that you don't always do with missing persons family's members. I don't care what happens to me they can bury me in a coffee can. She said I need to made sure that he's gonna (sic) be there.>

A FREINDSHIP GREW. DURING ONE OF THEIR MEETINGS SHE HAD A PARTICULAR FAVOR. ONE THAT SOME MAY THINK IS SOMETHING THAT CAN NOT BE DONE. WHAT IF SHE DIES BEFORE CHARLIE IS FOUND AND IDENTIFIED.

<And I've met her several times and one time she had a very personal request. And she took me to the grave where she put up a stone for Charlie besides her and Charlie's father. And she said I don't know how far I can go with this journey and she wanted me to promise that I would make sure that they would bury him there. And you can't have a lot of control over it but you can make sure they know that was the intention. I think it'll be automatic for the most part if his remains are found, but I think she just wanted the extra assurance that somebody would be there and say so you know. If I'm alive and well and able to do it of course and his remains are found I'll let them now this is what his mother told me it was her intention just so it won't be forgotten or overlooked.>

HER DAY TO DAY LIFE CHANGED DRASTICALLY SINCE SHE LOST HER SON. SHE REMEMBERS THE DAY IT HAPPENED AND HOW IT REFLECTS ON HER DAILY ACTIVITIES.

<So, you know she makes a missing person's report, follow up calls, nothing, not heard anything. They go through the process of maybe he's alive and then it gets to the point where maybe he's not alive and then circumstances. Law enforcement are busy

with other things it's kind of hard. A male 30-year-old male is not the highest priority; especially that they think there's circumstances that he wanted to be away. He was believed to be mentally ill. I'm not sure the diagnosis of it; like a probably the anxiety depression. It does heighten the danger quite a bit. Did he want to be on the streets; to be homeless. Did he just disappear and change his identity? Everything is possible but I don't think he would have done thus to his mom. I think they were close enough where he wouldn't have allowed this. At her age now, the past 21 years has been just agony, but she's still been a mother to him and I remind her of that you're still very much a mother to him because look at all these things you're doing for him trying to resolve it.>

THE MYSTERY STILLS LIES WITH THE INDIVIDUAL THAT DROPPED HIM OFF AT THE GEORGIA STATE BORDER. HOW MANY QUESTIONS COULD BE ANSWERED IF THEY WOULD SPEAK OUT ABOUT HOW MUCH THEY KNOW.

<I think the person that dropped him off probably had a lot more knowledge. And people are for whatever reason they won't say more but that doesn't necessarily mean they are guilty of anything it's just they don't want to get involved. I've seen so many cases where a person is really talkative at first; they're the last person that's seen this person and they can describe and when law enforcement gets into it their memory starts to fade out because they don't want to be involved in something dangerous.>

OFFICIALS HAVE SPECUALTED WHETHER OR NOT CHARLIE CHOSE THIS LIFE. IF HE DECIDED HE WAS GOING TO GO AWAY AND NOT BE FOUND BY ANYONE.

<The fact that he did have some kind of mental illness and was very dependent on his family; I don't see him making that leap unless something very traumatic happened that we don't know about. He would wander from time to time, but he always came back. I think he was a person that was very vulnerable and often law enforcement do see a 31-year-old male as a person that's in danger.

EVERY LEAD KEEPS COMING BACK TO THE DROP OFF AT THE GEORGIA STATE LINE. WHAT WAS SET UP TO HAPPEN THERE. THE DNA IS COLLECTED BUT A BODY IS NOT.

<Well there was the Georgia connection. There was somebody that was a person of interest at one point in his case and I think keeping looking at that, I look in Georgia for remains that could be his. I look to see if biometrics are similar to compare. Do we have anything e a compare DNA; dental fingerprint. I always look at new entries that come in NAMUS especially from Georgia and Alabama since it was in that direction and of course Tennessee I think there's enough information in Tennessee he would be kind of obvious. There have been time she saw this can we look at it and you do. You do a comparison, make an exclusion in the database. That's what we had to keep doing that but I know she's got to be miserable.>

BUT MATTHEWS ISN'T DONE TRYING TO LOCATE CHARLIE. FINDING HIM DEAD OR ALIVE. A CALL OUT TO TRY TO LOCATE HIS DNA AS A JOHN DOE UNCLAIMED.

<I would like to do something media wise that puts a huge focus on it; a call out to law enforcement if there's remains that have not been entered in the NAMUS database, potentially him, could we please get them in there. Use him as an example, he

could be in your evidence room and the sense of urgency is mom and dad can have a piece of that to know that something happens but every time we do this in a media I know it gets her hopes up. It's good to have your hopes up. Mean when YouTube your hopes up you feel really good and when you don't get anything out of it you feel you know it's just incredible highs and lows.>

TENNESSEE IS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE NATION FOR USING RESOURCES FOR THEIR MISSING JOHN AND JANE DOES. BUT IT DOESN'T STOP THERE, ALL AUTHORITIES MUST BE AWARE OF THE TOOLS THEY HAVE.

<I've probably traveled back and forth to Knoxville three or four times specifically. I would use him as an example if we did do any training it was one of the earliest cases entered into NAMUS and that's our Tennessee Pride is we got him in there from the beginning. We got them in there we got him from the beginning we want that to instill a sense of pride on law enforcement in the area like we are very current in a national database. Tennessee is very close up to the front end of it.>

ALL IT COULD TAKE IS ONE PERSON TO SAY THAT THEY SAW CHARLIE FOR THIS CASE TO BE SOLVED AND A FAMILIES AGONY OVER THEIR MISSING SON TO BE PUT TO A HALT.

<I just think Charlie's case is potentially solvable if we ask and beg to pay attention to anything that reminds them of it could he be alive somewhere and if he is alive somewhere and a person seems like a familiar to this case or a neighbor that might have looked like. Could he even have been in a nursing home I don't know. You know there's a lot of things so I'm hoping that people will just and I'll beg; please if you see

something that you think could be connected. You know something you've heard something.>

AFTER OVER TWO DECADES, THOSE INVOLVED IN THE CASE ARE STARTING TO THINK THE WORST HAS HAPPENED AND THAT NO ONE WILL FIND CHARLIE ALIVE.

<I do hope I'm wrong. I hope I'm proven wrong, but I just don't feel like Charlie is alive. Unless something is very mentally drastically wrong with him that he is just totally a different person, I don't think that he would have allowed his parents to go through this I really don't.>

IT IS NOW A WAITING GAME. WAITING TO REACT TO A TIP THAT MIGHT NEVER COME FOR CHARLIE'S FAMILY.

<There's nothing currently other than his DNA is in CODUS they've got all the records that they could possibly find for his identification so I think they've done everything. They've checked every box they could in NAMUS. I think now they are just waiting for something to pop up.>

ACCEPTING THE LIKELIHOOD THAT SHE WILL NEVER SEE HER SON AGAIN, CHARLIE'S MOM IS READYING THE FAMILY GRAVES IF A BODY IS RECOVERED.

<I do think she has accepted the fact that the likelihood that he's deceased and I do think she understands that's probably going to happen and I think that's when she started fixating on making sure that he was buried there. She transitioned from live recovery or having remains and burning them by herself to can this happen after I'm gone. I'm thinking she's aged and progressed she's realized and I think in 2016 they

closed out his estate that was probably the point where they had the legal acceptance of he passed away so there was a notification in the paper seeing any debtors in 2016 so that was around the time that she showed me the grave.>

CHARLIE'S FAMILY WILL NEVER STOP DREAMING FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE OUTCOME.

<I just love for her to see him buried before she dies.>

THE DOE NETWORK AND NAMUS GAVE A MOTHER CONTINUED HOPE THAT ONE DAY SHE WILL LOCATE HER SON OR THAT HE WILL FINALLY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REST BESIDE HER. WITH TODD MATTHEWS IN LIVINGSTON, I'M KRISTI JONES, MIDDLE TENNESSEE NEWS.

## Appendix D: Episode 4 Script

THIS IS FINDING DOE

<Franklin Floyd was a serial killer.>

ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF DOE NETWORK, MATTHEWS GIVES US A FRONT ROW SEAT TO THE MYSTERY THAT HAS BEEN HIS LIFE FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS.

<There's one missing nephew.>

WORKING ALONGSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND CREATING LEGISLATION, MATTHEWS CONTINUES TO WORK WITH NAMUS. A DATABASE CONNECTING THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES TO THE DECEASED.

<Steve Patterson your real name is Philip Brandenburg if you want to find your family.>

A CASE THAT LEFT A MAN PICKING UP THE PIECES TO HIS LIFE. OR WHAT HE THOUGHT HIS LIFE WAS.

<She gave her baby to the other lady.>

EPISODE FOUR.

<He took off with the remainder of his children.>

WHO IS STEVE.

<He said I feel like my mom threw me away and I said your mom put Moses in a basket and saved your life.>

FRANKLIN FLOYD. A MAN WHO DESTROYED LIVES AND RIPPED APART A FAMILY. AFTER JUMPING STATES, LANDING HIMSELF IN PRISION TO THIS DAY. SITTING IN A CONCRETE CELL.

<Franklin Floyd's responsible he married a lady that was pregnant with a baby and had children already and that was in North Carolina. When she and his wife had the baby, she had a coworker who had also had a baby.>

MAKING A MOTHER DO THE UNTHINKABLE. A LIFELONG SACRIFICE. FRANKLIN FLOYD'S WIFE DECIDED THAT IT WAS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF HER BABY'S LIFE TO BE GIVEN AWAY. SHE SAVED HIS LIFE BUT GIVING HER CHILD TO THE WOMAN THAT SHE WORKED WITH.

<It had cigarette burns it was very malnourished. Obviously was going to fall victim. So, they leave she's put in jail for hot checks that he probably made her write.>

MATTHEWS AND A MAN LIVING A DOUBLE LIFE CROSSED PATHS. HE NEEDED ANSWERS AND MATTHEWS COULD GIVE THOSE TO HIM.

<Actually, he called me now I knew about the case for a long time before he even knew who he really was. You know it was mentioned that there was another child that was missing. FBI decided that they didn't have enough evidence to even know that child even existed to go missing. Given away by his mother, with no paper trail we kept a listing up of him on the Doe Network you know some of the early recollections. It wouldn't fit into NAMUS because we couldn't validate it with law enforcement. The FBI was like we didn't know he even existed. I just had a feeling I've been looking for him. I kept that up on Doe Network and was an opportunity for somebody to eventually see it and he did. When his adopted father passed away and his adopted mother was getting older she decided to tell him your real name would have been blah blah. Well he's Google searching it just through a normal course; is there any family out there looking for me. He finds out something alarming.>

THAT HE NARROWLY ESCAPED DEATH BY A SERIAL KILLER, ALSO HIS STEP FATHER. HE IS THE VICTIM OF SERIAL KILLER FRANKLIN FLOYD. AN UNKNOWN SPARED LIFE THAT HAS BEEN DECLARED MISSING. AFTER ALL THESE YEARS HE BEGINS TO UNPACK A NEW LIFE. THE FBI DID NOT EVEN KNOW PHILIP BRANDENBURG WAS ALIVE. HE WAS NEVER TAKEN TO TEXAS SO EVERYONE ASSUMED THAT HE HAD SUCCUMBED TO THE NEGLECT FROM HIS STEP FATHER. THE FBI TOOK CONTROL OVER THE CASE WHEN THE CASE CONTINUALLY CROSSED STATE LINES AND HAD MULTIPLE VICTIMS.

<When he contacted me, it was all familiar so I was able to have a conversation with him like yeah here's what they think, here's what we know and here's what we don't know. It was a matter of a DNA test at that point. There were victims that were related to him so we were able to do a DNA testing and he was exactly who he claimed to be. Now we've had to acknowledge that he did exist, who he would have been and to me, go above what law enforcement will normally do. It's reparations; how can we fix this; how can we make sure he knows his other family and just embraces it.>

OUT OF HARDSHIP, ANOTHER FRIENDSHIP WAS BORN. THE TWO WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER THE UNKNOWN QUESTIONS TOGETHER.

<Steve he's become such a close friend I've not met him yet on purpose because we want to do this together. If you had went with him, you would have been dead. No question about it. No way shew could have saved you so and he was malnourished and burned with cigarettes. He was already well on his way of being neglected to the point that he wouldn't be okay.>

HE DOES NOT HAVE A FATHER. AND HE IS PICKING UP THE PIECES TO HIS LIFE. BUT HE STILL HAS A MOTHER AND SIBLINGS THAT HE NEVER KNEW EXISTED.

<Can we fix his relationship with his mother. How bad is it. Does she care. Do you want a life with him? He's already been meeting some of his brothers and sisters that he ever knew existed. He thought he was an only child. I want to rebuild Philip Brandenburg.>

FLOYD DIDN'T STOP WHEN HE GOT TO TEXAS. HE RAISED ONE OF THE CHILDREN AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. HE THEN RAISED HER UP TO BE A WIFE. HE WENT ON TO KILL HER AND SEVERAL MORE. MATTHEWS WAS WORKING BEFORE BRANDENBURG AROSE FROM WHAT EVERYONE THOUGHT WAS THE GRAVE. HE WANTED TO REACH OUT TO FLOYD TO UNDERSTAND HOW MANY VICTIMS THERE ARE.

<I had already written a letter to Franklin Floyd asking where Phillip Brandenburg and the other young man were; of course, I got a nasty letter back from him not telling me anything. I had all of that and what he was telling me made absolute perfect sense and I was able to set up the DNA test to make sure it was him and it was.>

NOW IS THE TIME FOR BRANDENBURG TO REKINDLE THE FAMILY THAT HE DOES HAVE FROM HIS MOTHERS SIDE.

<I think he's got family back in his original life that he didn't know growing up. He's going to have to blend these families together in a way so it's just really important that that's not just a piece of the past he puts behind him, so I think incorporating it in and making and talking to the serial killer that caused all of this. He's still in prison and to see

if there's any information in Florida on any of the people that were missing due to a result of his activity. Maybe if he was actually confronted by one of his victims it might make a little bit of a difference. This was essentially his step son for a short period of time. I'm not sure he even knows he's even alive or what happened to him. Maybe that level of confrontation which is an unusual level of confrontation might help us find something. The one missing person that could be Steve Phillips nephew, so we would like to find that person if possible I don't know if he's alive or dead could be like Steve; think he's someone else or become someone else. He was Steve more than he was Phillip. It's kind of hard to sort that out. I want to sort it out because I see him as both people and I think he needs to as well.>

A SENSE OF CONFUSION WAVES OVER A PERSON WHO EVERYONE IS SAYING SHOULD BE OR WAS THOUGHT TO BE DEAD.

<He is very capable of pulling these things together but you know it's odd. You're filling out missing persons reports and filling out your name on a piece of paper and he says I shouldn't be alive to do this. It was quite strange to him. It was alarming. I think the more time goes, the more he's able to understand it and accept it. It may take some time. I would love to help him go through it so I could better understand it.>

A CRAZY TURN OF EVENTS. THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS COULD BE MORE COMMON.

<The possibility that it could be more common cause it's rare that you see these cases where someone that's thought long gone from the dead appear. So, to see something like that is a miracle. He's already been grieved now they know. How would

you like to find out yourself not only did you have a sibling; they were thought to be a victim of a serial killer and you never knew.>

FRANKLIN FLOYD IS THE ANSWER TO EVERYTHING AND MATTHEWS INTENDS TO ASK THOSE QUESTIONS. TO FIND OUT HOW DEEP DOES THE STORY GO.

<You know have a real conversation with a serial killer just to see if there's anything else he could tell us besides of course putting his family together just to see. There's one more missing person as a result of this man who was known to have taken a child and I'd like to find out what he did with him. Did he murder him and dumb him, did he abandon him somewhere, did he send him away, did he sell him. Is he out there as an adult not knowing who he really is. One thing there could be like a ticking time bomb out there; when will he discover who he is. I'm so hopeful that he is out there under the same circumstances of Steve and that there will be an awakening and he'll realize who he was and that they'll have that in common. They that, uncle and nephew grew up as individual people in other lives and then realized who they were in enough time to be together.->

THE NEXT STEPS ARE GOING THROUGH THE PRISON SYSTEM TO GET AS CLOSE TO FLOYD AS POSSIBLE. IF HE DOES NOT WANT TO SPEAK. THE STORY MAY BE DEAD. THE STORY MAY DIE WITH WHAT FLOYD KNOWS.

<I do think it's up to him. I do know that I can speak to him if he's willing to speak to anybody. There will have to be a letter written to him through the prison; not sure exactly how that process is going but I know people that are willing to help.>

THE VICTIMS OF FLOYD MAY NEVER BE FULLY KNOWN UNTIL HE IS READY. BUT PHILIP BRANDENBURG IS READY TO REBUILD HIS LIFE AND

MERGE WHAT HE KNOWS NOW AND WHO HE WAS AT BIRTH. WHAT STARTED YEARS AGO IS STILL BEING UNRAVELED BEHIND THE BARS AND OVER A SCREEN. MORE TO COME ABOUT A LIFE THAT WAS NEVER KNOWN AND A LIFE OF WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN.

<It's the first time Morgan Freeman's company Revelation has ever done a podcast.>

HIS MOST EXCITING PROJECT, A PODCAST JUMPING FURTHER INTO THE WORLD OF FRANKLIN FLOYD AND PHILIP BRANDENBURG IN A 12 EPISODE SERIES WITH MORGAN FREEMAN'S COMPANY.

<I'm hoping that my podcast will help us tell the more in-depth stories kind of Anthony Bordane style where we're going to go into the space of the people and smell the things that they smelled, see the things they see, touch the things they touch and I think that's going to be important for the healing process. And for me that's a deeper dive than I usually do.>

21 YEARS OF WORKING AROUND THE COUNTRY TO SOLVE THOUSANDS OF CASES. OVER 200 CASES IN 2021 AND THE YEAR IS NOT OVER YET. A NEVER-ENDING LIFE OF MULTI MOTEL PROJECTS AND INTERVIEWS FINDING FACT AND FICTION. WITH TODD MATTHEWS IN LIVINGSTON, I'M KRISTI JONES, MIDDLE TENNESSEE NEWS.

## Appendix E: IRB Approval

Leon,

Based on your description, this looks like the perception of one individual and would not come under systematic data collection. Therefore, this proposed activity would not be covered under OHRP regulations. In addition, OHRP enacted a new policy in 2019 to exclude journalistic scholarly activity from IRB oversight.

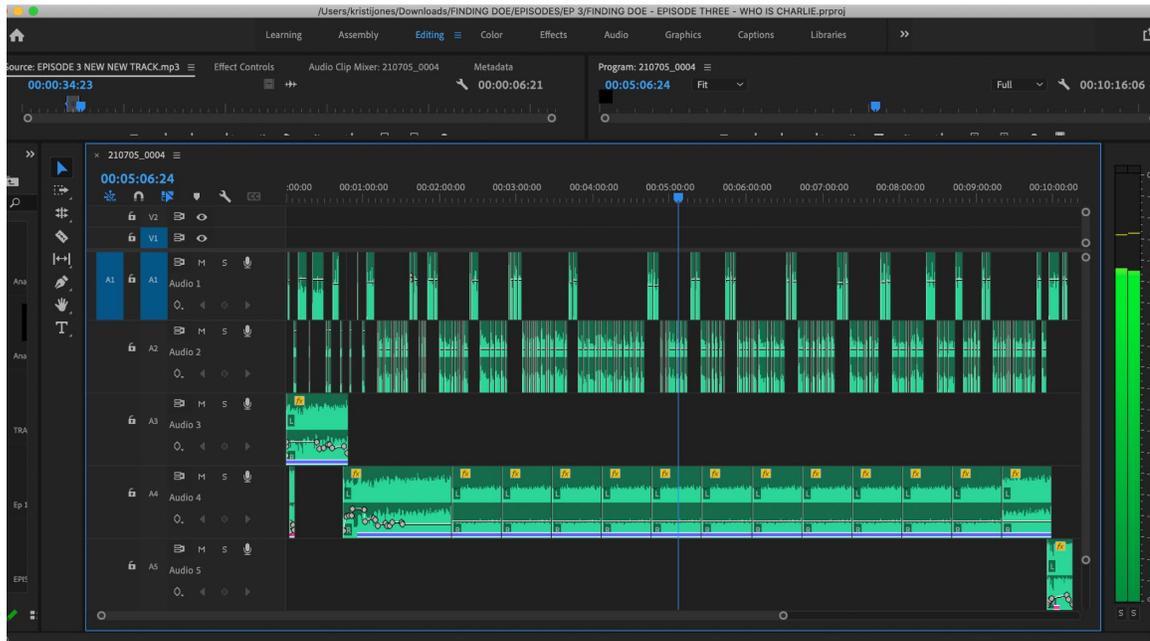
So, Kristi should be able to conduct her research. There may be other oversight bodies she may have to account to and I do not know them. Please check with academic affairs. Also, please check with her program coordinator on whether they need an official determination from our office. If so, then I will need more information on the project and other details to document and make a determination.

Best wishes

Moses

For the International Review Board needs, because this project will only be working with one other person, my committee decided to seek an exemption of IRB status. We completed the process with Dr. Moses Prabu to gain exemption status.

## Appendix F: Premiere Pro Timeline



Screenshot of Premiere Pro Editing Timeline

Audio 1 is Me

Audio 2 is Todd Matthews

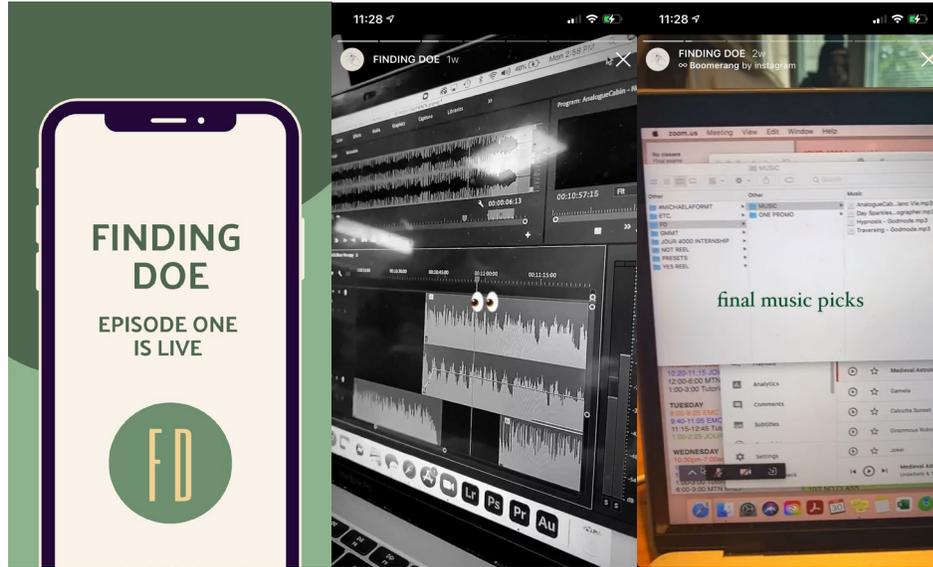
Audio 3 & 4 is intro, track & outro

## Appendix G: Podcast Booth Set Up



Dual voiceover set up in Bragg

## Appendix H: Instagram Posts



These graphics were made for every episode and posted on my personal Instagram @kristibjones and saved to a highlight titled FINDING DOE along with a link to listen. On the highlight, I added sneak peeks and updates to what part of the project I was working on or completing. The link for each episode was also in my bio and a link to the channel resides there.

## Appendix I: Website Podcast Tab

# FINDING DOE

with Todd Matthews

This project has been presented to the  
MTSU Honors College.

For more information about The Doe Network, [click here](#).

The goal for this project was to create a series of multi-media journalistic audio stories detailing the work of Todd Matthews, creator of "The Doe Network", a valuable resource in identifying human remains whose bodies have been recovered by public citizens and law enforcement. Matthews uses this group to harness the power of the internet to help solve the "nation's silent mass disaster," a phrase coined by the National Missing and Unidentifiable Person System. Rising in popularity and aligning with my passions, the creative portion of my thesis is a true-crime podcast. Each episode details what "The Doe Network" is and dives into multiple cases that Matthews has worked over twenty years.

**Episode One - Recomposing the Decomposed**

**Episode Two - Who Is Tent Girl**

**Episode Three - Who Is Charlie**

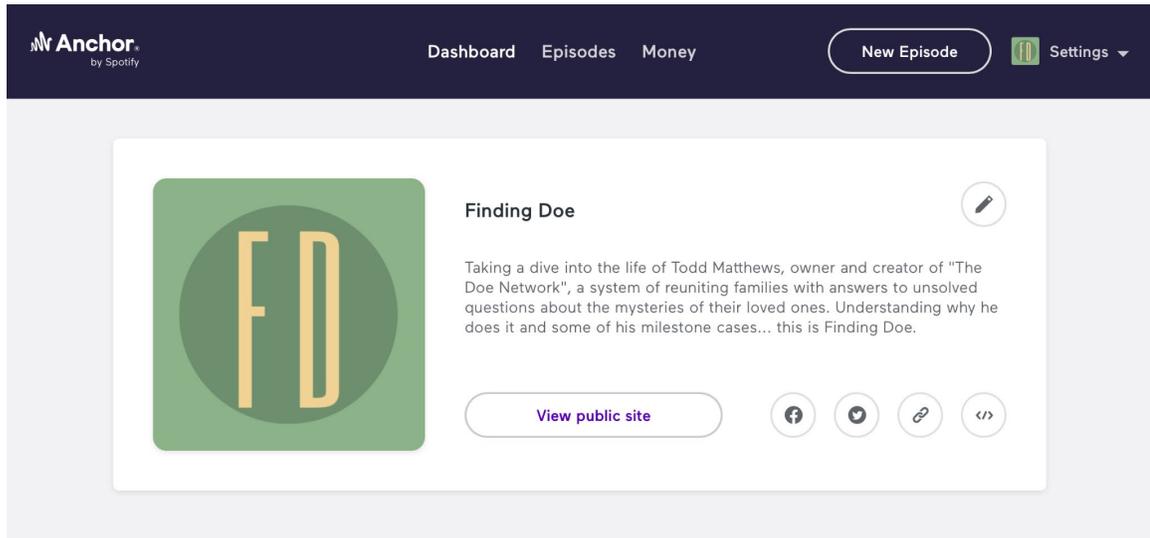
**Episode Four - Who Is Steve**

I came to MTSU in the Fall of 2019 planned for the day that I get to ring the Honor's College bell. One year ago I began thinking about what I would be ringing the bell for. Rising in popularity, a podcast stuck to me. That's when I thought of the true-crime route. I began to research unsolved murders and 20 year cold cases when my thesis director, Assistant Professor Leon Alligood, told me about Todd Matthews. Instantly I clung to the idea of picking his brain and learning about what he has been so passionate about. The "Silent Mass Disaster".

According to the National Missing and Unidentifiable Person System, over 600,000 individuals go missing in the United States every year and according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, out of individuals who are not found alive, there are about 40,000 bodies awaiting identification in the United States. Less than 10% of those bodies are identified every year. Groups like The Doe Network act as internet anthropologists digging up information and then connecting it online. They assist police officers and families to reunite them with loved ones and give them closure.

To be able to take something that I am interested in and something that creates change is what I always envisioned in my time at MTSU. Through each episode of this podcast, I believe that I am doing that.

## Appendix J: Anchor Landing Page



In a separate tab on my personal website, I added the abstract and introduction along with a link to listen to every episode. Anchor distributes FINDING DOE to *Spotify*, *Apple Music*, *Anchor* and anywhere else you listen to podcasts.

## Appendix K: Links to Listen

Any Episode

<https://anchor.fm/kristi-jones5>

Episode 1 - Recomposing the Decomposed <https://anchor.fm/kristi-jones5/episodes/Recomposing-the-Decomposed-e1910tp>

Episode 2 - Who is Tent Girl

<https://anchor.fm/kristi-jones5/episodes/Who-Is-Tent-Girl-e1946sb>

Episode 3 - Who is Charlie

<https://anchor.fm/kristi-jones5/episodes/Who-Is-Charlie-e197dab>

Episode 4 - Who is Steve

<https://anchor.fm/kristi-jones5/episodes/Who-Is-Steve-e199h8t>