

## WHO IS THAT SWIMMER?

*It seemed to be on during every Olympic and Paralympic broadcast... the Toyota commercial with the amputee swimmer that repeatedly aired during the Games.*

The ad, which actually debuted during the Super Bowl, showcased 13-time gold medal American Paralympic swimmer Jessica Long's journey from an orphan in Siberia to a Paralympian. Long was adopted at 13 months old. The commercial recreated the conversation her

mother, played by an actor, had with the adoption agency as she learned about the challenges she would face with amputation.

"I think what makes this so emotional for me is that there really were so many hard moments that people didn't see," Long said. Long was born with a condition that required her to have her legs amputated below the knees. "I didn't sign up to be an amputee; it was the life that I was given. And I have always made the best of it

but there were a lot of really tough moments," she said.

Olympic and Paralympic fans saw the short version of the commercial. A longer, 60-second ad appeared during the big game in February. "I think one thing about this beautiful spot that Toyota created is that it really does highlight so many moments of my life that I never thought would be showcased," Long said. Long is among the world's most decorated swimmers with 23 Paralympic medals in total, according to [www.Paralympic.org](http://www.Paralympic.org).

