

A powerful, intimate, and timely film, *Catching Sight of Thelma & Louise* dives off the edge, into the truth of women's experience in the world.



## A Far Beyond Film Production

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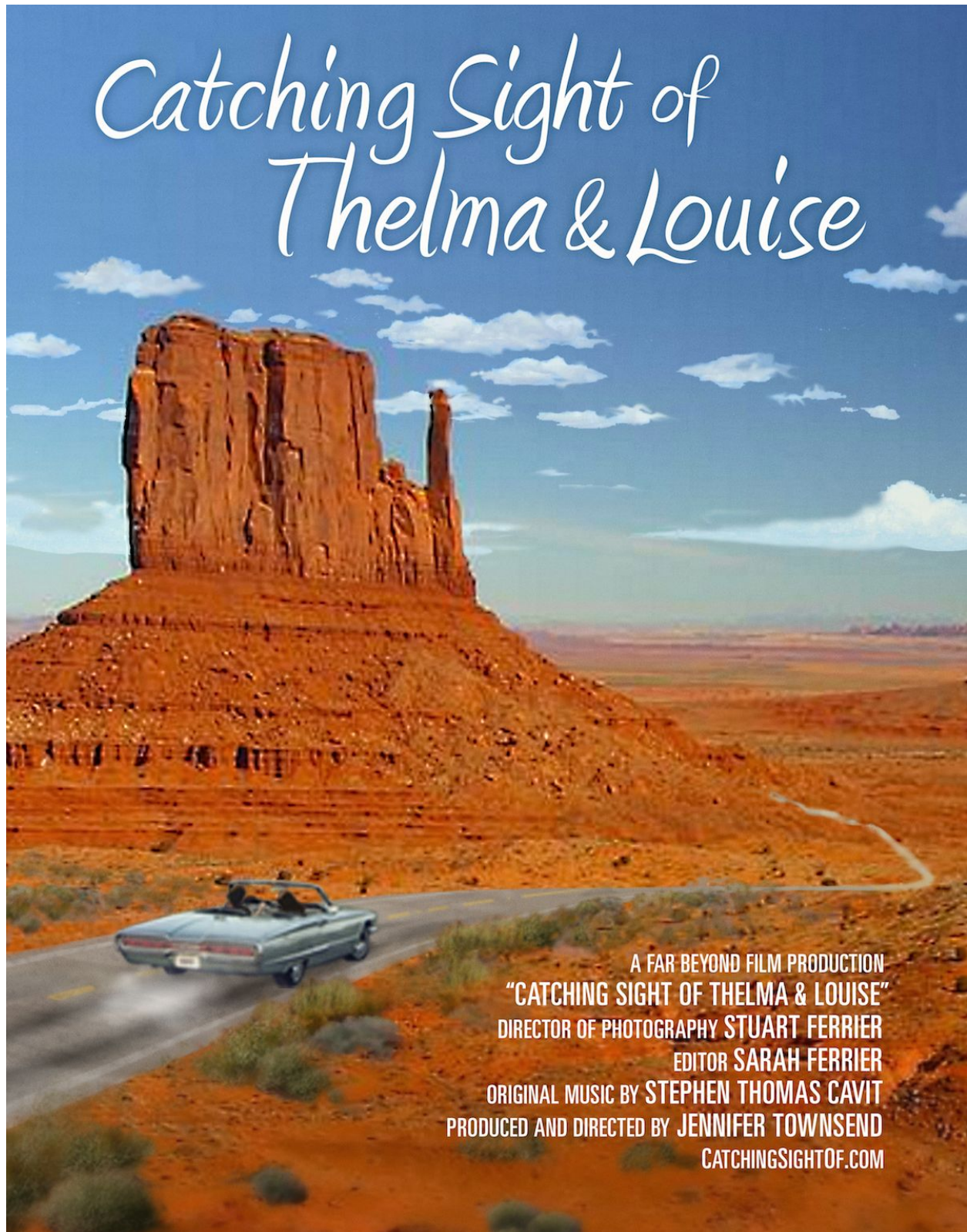
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# Catching Sight of Thelma & Louise

A FAR BEYOND FILM PRODUCTION  
"CATCHING SIGHT OF THELMA & LOUISE"  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY STUART FERRIER  
EDITOR SARAH FERRIER  
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY STEPHEN THOMAS CAVIT  
PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY JENNIFER TOWNSEND  
CATCHINGSIGHTOF.COM



# Synopsis

## Logline

A powerful, intimate, and timely film, *Catching Sight of Thelma & Louise* dives off the edge, into the truth of women's experience in the world.

## Short Synopsis


In *Catching Sight of Thelma & Louise*, filmgoers are taken on a wild ride with Thelma and Louise, beginning when they leave for a weekend getaway and ending when they sail off the canyon's edge at the end. We revisit their extraordinary journey through the lens of viewers who saw the namesake film in 1991 and wrote about the feelings it engendered at that time. Twenty-five years later the same viewers share their present-day perceptions, comparing them with their original reactions.

## Long Synopsis

*Catching Sight of Thelma & Louise* had its beginnings in 1991 when *Thelma & Louise* blazed across theater screens throughout the country and around the world, creating a firestorm of controversy. *Thelma & Louise* was praised as an exhilarating prototype of female empowerment and freedom. It was condemned as an alarming specimen of toxic feminism and male-bashing.

At that time, some viewers responded to a national survey, sharing their visceral reactions to the film in letters and on audiotape. Twenty-five years later, the same viewers were tracked down by the filmmaker and invited to connect past to present. They revisit the protagonists' journey, beginning with Thelma and Louise taking off for the weekend and continuing until they fly off the cliff at the end. Clips from the original film serve as a catalyst for intimate, personal stories of women's experience in the real world.

Sometimes the participants disagree with their earlier selves and sometimes they disagree with one another. They consider whether societal changes have occurred in regard to the way women are treated and how they are expected to navigate a world designed by men.



Our guides provide depth and definition to what it is like to be female in a world where most of the power and institutions are controlled by men. *Catching Sight of Thelma & Louise* enriches the viewer's appreciation of the reasons behind *Thelma & Louise's* hold on popular culture. It is a film for women and the men who care about them.

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# Letter from Filmmaker

By Jennifer Townsend

One thing that really stands out to me in conversations with men after they have viewed *Catching Sight of Thelma & Louise* is how deeply they are moved by it. And while men, in general, have expressed a desire for other men to see this film, it is *fathers* who are particularly sensitive to the messages in the film.

Prior to having preview screenings, I thought of the film as a film 'for women.' And it is that. First, and foremost, it is a film about how women experience the world. That is what *Thelma & Louise* was about. At its essence, it was about how being female shapes and constricts and controls what women can and cannot do. But I came to realize that 'Catching Sight' is a film that brings home to men how unsafe the world is for women and how this lack of security affects the day-to-day choices women are forced to make in wending their way through the world.

When I was successful in locating women and men who had written to me in 1991 about *Thelma & Louise*, I was pleasantly surprised at how open they were to being in the documentary and appearing on camera. This was in total contrast to myself. I was comfortable in back of the camera and had no thought, whatsoever, of being in front of the camera. It was only when I realized there was no other way to convey the backstory that I consented to being in the film.

Not everyone I located as potential 'voices' wanted to be included in the project - not because they were shy or uncomfortable, but because they rejected who they were in the past, or didn't want to voice criticisms of *Thelma & Louise*, or had been raped and didn't want to revisit that experience, even in the silence of their own mind.

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It is not possible to fully express my gratitude to the wonderful participants in *Catching Sight of Thelma & Louise*. Their openness, authenticity, and generous spirits give the film its power and poignancy. It's tempting to say 'the times we live in give it relevancy,' but, truth be told, since its very beginning, *Thelma & Louise* has been, and remains, relevant to the times we live in.

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## Production Company

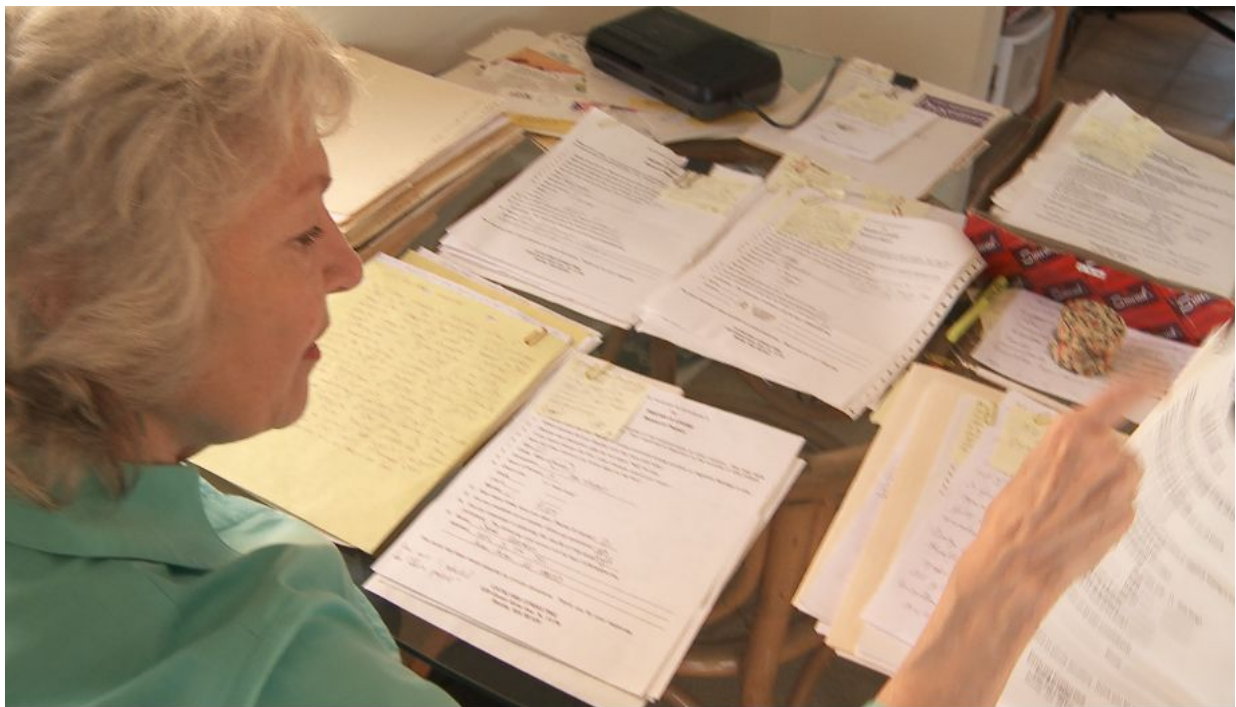
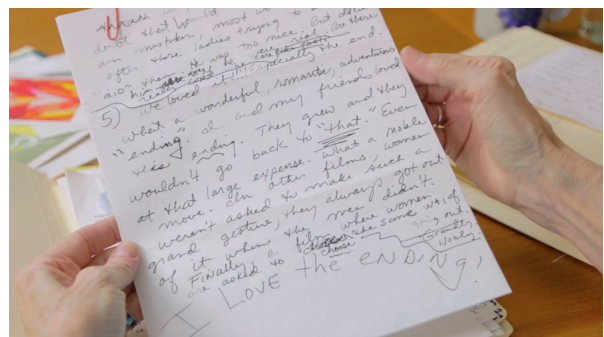
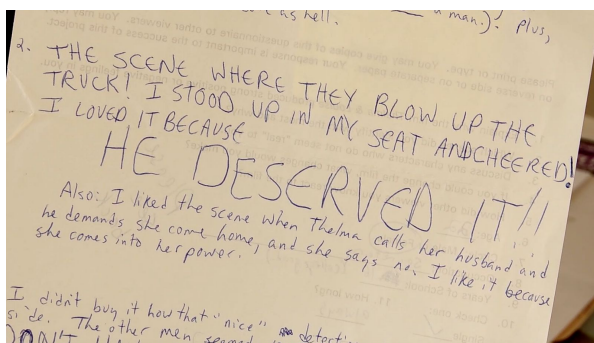
Far Beyond Film, LLC is a Seattle-based company focused on producing films with a relevant social message. Producer/Director, Jennifer Townsend, founded the company in 2014 with her first production goal clearly in mind: making a feature documentary about *Thelma & Louise*.

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# Selected Stills

Stills, key art and poster thumbnail can be accessed and downloaded at:

<http://bit.ly/2nRZ7c>



Jennifer Townsend reviews responses to her 1991 survey.





Jennifer interviews Thom Noble, editor of *Thelma & Louise*.



Director/Producer Jennifer Townsend is seen here meeting Thom Noble (top left), being interviewed herself (top right), and interviewing Marco St. John who played the truck driver in *Thelma & Louise*.