

FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF

FRIENDS



# BEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS

directed by  
GARRETT ZEVGETIS

produced by  
ARIANA GARFINKEL, JEFF CONSIGLIO,  
GARRETT ZEVGETIS and  
JORDAN SALVATORIELLO

executive producers  
KEVIN S. BRIGHT and CLAUDIA BRIGHT

runtime:  
1:30:50 h:m:s

## BEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS

NOT YOUR AVERAGE OUTCAST

ONLY BRIGHT PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A BEACON STREET FILM  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH CARRIAGE HOUSE PICTURES AND VFR FILMS  
"BEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS"

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY TYLER STRICKLAND CINEMATOGRAPHY BY SARAH GINSBURG JORDAN SALVATORIELLO  
FILM EDITING BY JEFF CONSIGLIO ADDITIONAL EDITING BY SARAH GINSBURG  
PRODUCED BY ARIANA GARFINKEL JEFF CONSIGLIO GARRETT ZEVGETIS JORDAN SALVATORIELLO  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS KEVIN S. BRIGHT CLAUDIA BRIGHT DIRECTED BY GARRETT ZEVGETIS

BESTANDMOSTBEAUTIFULTHINGS.COM @BESTANDMOSTFILM #HACKNORMAL

press contact:  
Ariana Garfinkel, Producer  
ariana@carriagehousepictures.com  
917-570-6603

## LOGLINE

In a celebration of outcasts everywhere, a precocious young blind woman disappears into quirky obsessions and isolation. With humor and bold curiosity, she chases love and freedom in a surprising sex-positive community on her path to self-discovery.

## SYNOPSIS

Off a dirt road in rural Maine, a precocious 20-year-old woman named Michelle Smith lives with her mother Julie. Michelle is quirky and charming, legally blind and diagnosed on the autism spectrum, with big dreams and varied passions. Searching for connection, Michelle explores love and empowerment outside the limits of “normal” through a provocative sex-positive community. Michelle’s joyful story of self-discovery celebrates outcasts everywhere.

Website: [BESTANDMOSTBEAUTIFULTHINGS.COM](http://BESTANDMOSTBEAUTIFULTHINGS.COM)

Facebook: [facebook.com/BestandMostBeautifulThings](https://facebook.com/BestandMostBeautifulThings)

Twitter: [twitter.com/BestandMostFilm](https://twitter.com/BestandMostFilm)

IMDB: [imdb.com/title/tt4875456](https://imdb.com/title/tt4875456)

Instagram: [instagram.com/bestandmostfilm/](https://instagram.com/bestandmostfilm/)

Trailer: <http://bit.ly/BestAndMostTrailer>

Country of Production: USA

Genre: Documentary

Language: English

Year: 2016

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

We have all felt like an outcast.

I set out to share an authentic and artistic first-person account of an exuberant young woman who faces extraordinary challenges on her journey to adulthood.

Michelle's unique story is about growing up and embracing all that life has to offer with unbridled optimism, even in the face of significant obstacles. Through Michelle we discovered the startling lack of opportunities available for all people to fully engage in our society, and the need to bridge the ocean of fear and misunderstanding that infuse attitudes toward people considered "other." The beautiful differences that exist between all of us make up our common humanity.

# ABOUT THE FILM

In 2009 director Garrett Zevgetis googled the word “Beauty.” He had been working on a number of darker-themed documentaries and was determined to find an uplifting story for a future project. The search returned a poignant Helen Keller quote that led Garrett to Perkins School for the Blind outside Boston, a renowned institution where a feature documentary had never before been made. He began volunteering at Perkins and on the last day of his scheduled term a bubbly young student introduced herself – Michelle had found him. Over five years of filming and editing followed, and along the way the film was supported by IFP’s Independent Film Week, LEF Foundation Moving Image Fund, and Independent Film Festival Boston’s Work-In-Progress Award. The filmmaking team devoted to telling Michelle’s unique story grew to include the Emmy-winning creator of *FRIENDS* and Oscar-winning editor of *INOCENTE*, *WAR/DANCE*, and *TWINSTERS*. In March 2016, *BEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS* had its World Premiere at SXSW Film Festival.

Only Bright Productions Presents

A Beacon Street Film

In Association with Carriage House Pictures and VFRFilms

BEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS

Directed by Garrett Zevgetis

Produced by  
Ariana Garfinkel  
Jeff Consiglio

Edited by Jeff Consiglio  
Additional Editing by Sarah Ginsburg

Cinematography by  
Sarah Ginsburg  
Jordan Salvatoriello

Produced by  
Garrett Zevgetis  
Jordan Salvatoriello

Original Music  
Tyler Strickland

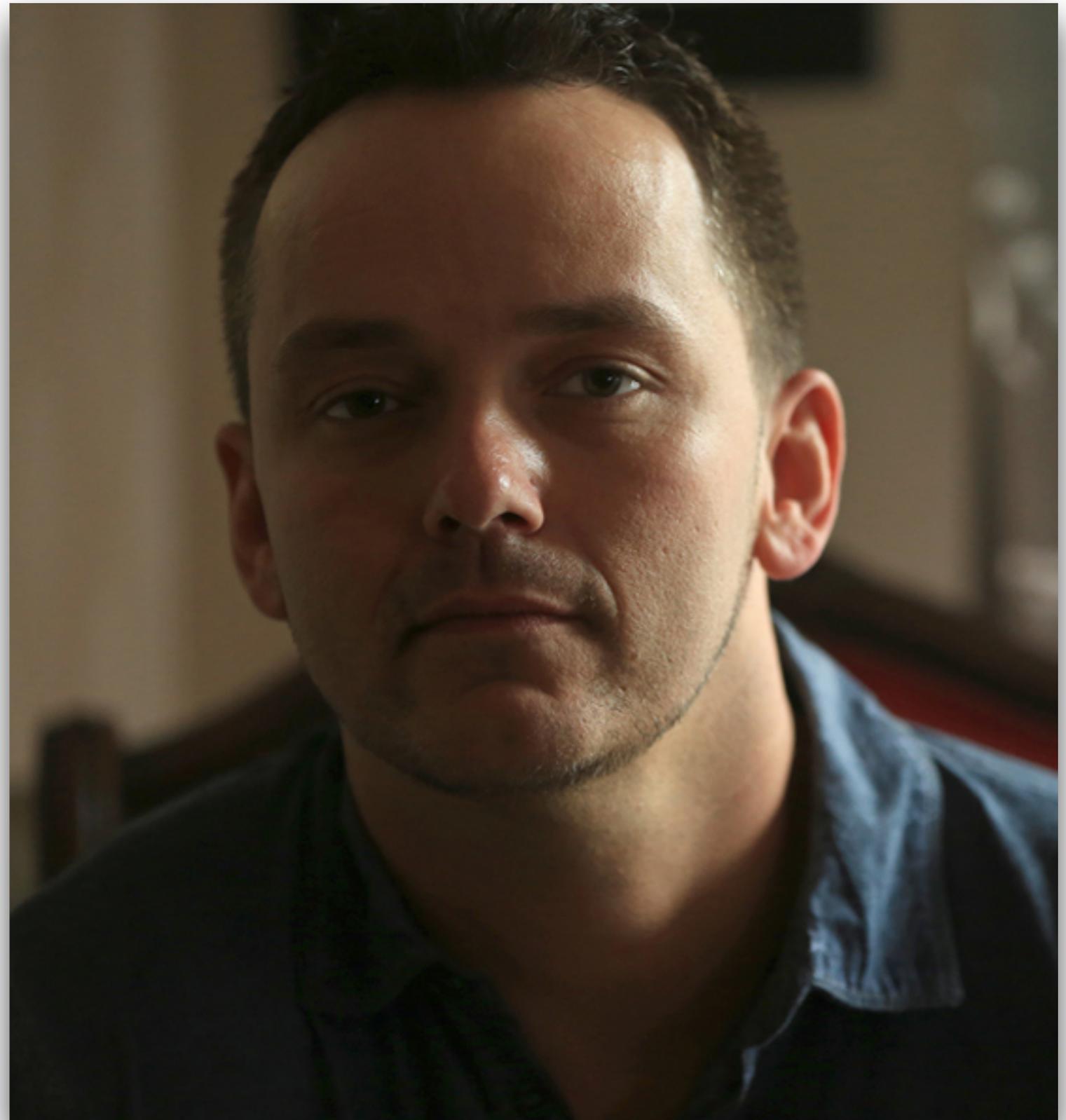
Executive Producers  
Kevin S. Bright  
Claudia Bright

MAIN CREDITS

# FILMMAKER BIOS

## DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Garrett Zevgetis is a Boston-based documentary filmmaker focusing on fascinating people and social change. Garrett grew up in Kissimmee, Florida, served in the U.S. Navy during Desert Storm, and earned an MFA in Media Art from Emerson College. He has directed several short films, including *A MERCENARY TALE* which premiered at the Boston International Film Festival and was distributed worldwide by Quat Media. Garrett has also worked at PBS' FRONTLINE, at WGBH under acclaimed producer Judith Vecchione, and as a producer for the nationally syndicated public radio program, *RADIO OPEN SOURCE WITH CHRISTOPHER LYDON*. He was recently named one of "10 Filmmakers To Watch" by *The Independent* magazine.



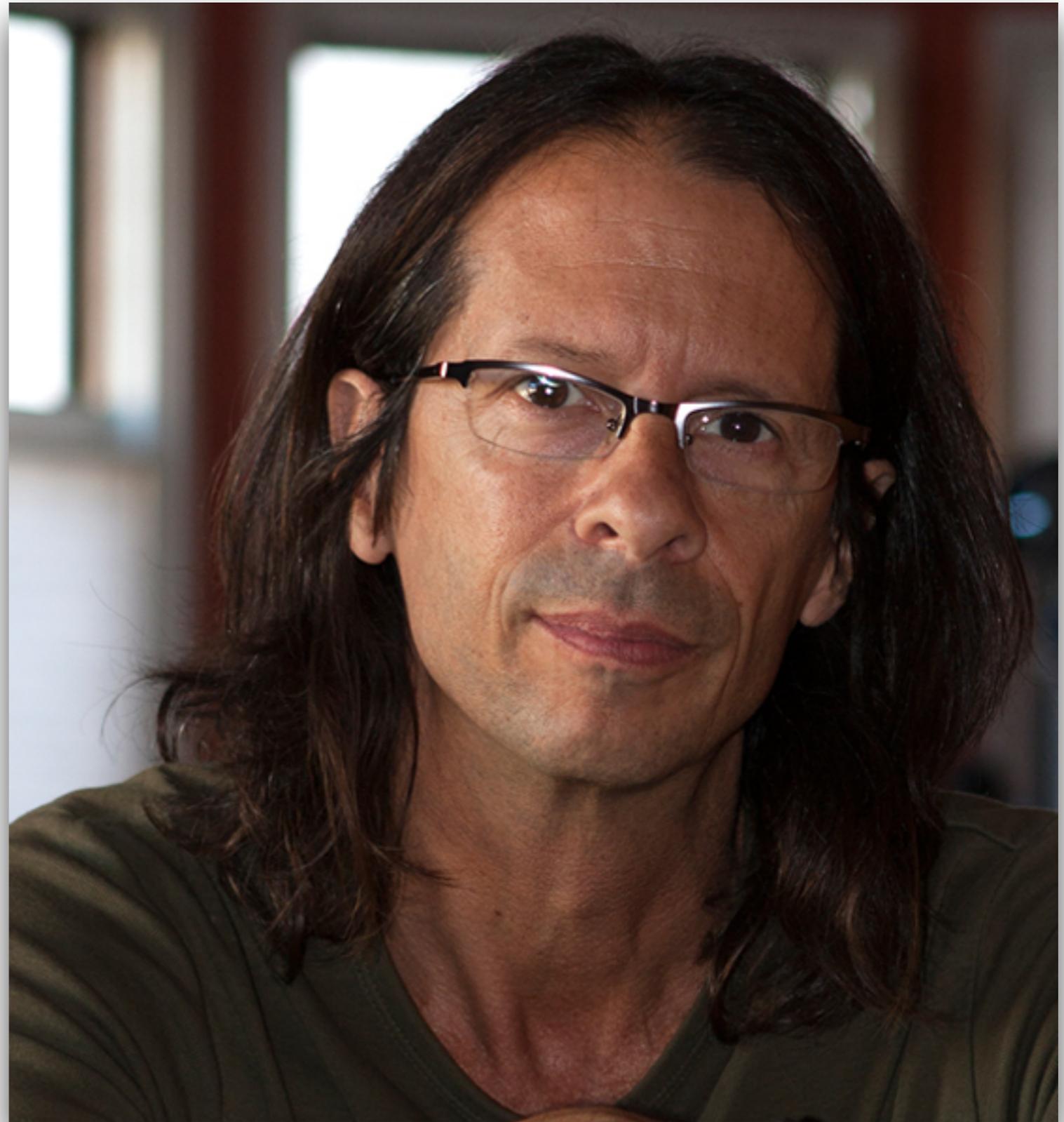
## EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

For its entire ten year run, Kevin Bright was an Executive Producer behind the Emmy Award winning television series *FRIENDS*. Kevin additionally directed more than 50 episodes of the show including all 10 season finales. He produced and directed other programs including *DREAM ON*, *JOEY* and *VERONICA'S CLOSET*. While teaching at Emerson College in Boston, Kevin attended a Celtics game where he heard the Perkins School Chorus sing the National Anthem. Inspired by their performance Bright began a relationship with Perkins and developed a film production class for the visually impaired which was featured on NBC's *ROCK CENTER*. A student in his first class was Michelle Smith. He has been involved with the film project since it began. Bright is currently Founding Director of Emerson College Los Angeles.



## EDITOR/PRODUCER

Jeff Consiglio has worked as a director, producer, editor and creative consultant on films for over 30 years. Jeff edited the Academy Award Winning documentary film *INOCENTE* (Best Documentary Short Subject, 2013). Jeff earned his first Oscar nomination for the feature documentary *WAR/DANCE* in 2008, which also won Best Directing at Sundance and an Emmy Award. For HBO, Jeff edited *LIFE ACCORDING TO SAM*, which premiered at Sundance and was shortlisted for the Academy Award. He produced and edited the feature documentary *TWINSTERS*, which premiered at SXSW in 2015 and won the Special Jury award for Editing.



## PRODUCER

Ariana Garfinkel is an independent film producer and a 2015 FilmHouse Resident at the San Francisco Film Society. She produced the award-winning feature documentary *BOYS OF SUMMER*, distributed by Tribeca Film and broadcast by ESPN, PBS and Sundance Global. She is currently producing a narrative feature film titled *GLASS* by Lily Baldwin, with whom she has produced two acclaimed short films. Other credits include documentaries *NUNS ON THE BUS*, *SYMPHONY OF THE SOIL*, *WRENCHED* and *TRUMBO*. Ariana spent ten years working in New York City at Miramax Films, Tribeca Productions and Reno Productions. She graduated from Stanford University.



## CINEMATOGRAPHER/PRODUCER

Jordan Salvatoriello is an award-winning media artist and journalist with a BS in Journalism from Boston University and MFA in Media Art from Emerson College, where she received Emerson's Graduate Program Award for Creative Excellence. Her documentary work includes projects on a variety of international issues, including education, trauma, gender issues, and healthcare. Her short film, *GRACELAND GIRLS*, won the Director's Guild of America Jury Prize, Gold Circle Award from the Caucus for Producers, Writers & Directors and was nominated for a Student Academy Award. Drawing on her desire to tell real stories of social good, Jordan also currently serves as Public Relations Manager for Make-A-Wish.



CINEMATOGRAPHER/  
ADDITIONAL EDITOR

Sarah Ginsburg grew up in the magical Midwest town of Columbia, Missouri. She studied Film Production at Emerson College in Boston, where she lives and works as a documentary filmmaker today. She has worked on various documentary projects, including editing on *HOLLOW*, an interactive documentary which was nominated for a 2014 Emmy and won a 2014 Peabody Award. Sarah is the co-creator and co-host of She Does podcast, a series featuring women in media and the different routes they've taken.



## COMPOSER

Tyler Strickland is a film composer and songwriter based in Los Angeles. Tyler's scores have accompanied acclaimed narrative and documentary films such as *AUDRIE & DAISY* (Sundance 2016), *THE GENIUS OF MARIAN* (Tribeca 2013), *TOUGH LOVE* (Full Frame 2014), *FRESH DRESSED* (Sundance 2015), *THE MANY SAD FATES OF MR. TOLEDANO* (Tribeca 2015) and *OVERBURDEN* (Full Frame 2015). His music can also be found in Clio, Webby and Addy award-winning commercial campaigns for Google, YouTube, HBO, Burberry, and Lenovo.



# PRODUCTION STILLS





UN-LEARNING

IS

NORMAL!

AY









# END CREDITS

Directed by Garrett Zevgetis

Produced by  
Ariana Garfinkel  
Jeff Consiglio

Edited by  
Jeff Consiglio

Additional Editing  
Sarah Ginsburg

Cinematography by  
Sarah Ginsburg  
Jordan Salvatoriello

Produced by  
Garrett Zevgetis  
Jordan Salvatoriello

Original Music  
Tyler Strickland

Executive Producers  
Kevin S. Bright  
Claudia Bright

Additional Camera  
Shaun Clarke  
Daniel Jacobs  
Ben Pender-Cudlip  
Ethan Goldhammer  
Elena Rossini

Sound Recordists  
Ross Matthei  
Bradford Kneger  
Brian Misiewicz

Graphic Design  
Claire Miyamoto

Post Production Services & Mastering  
Fancy Film Post Services

Finishing Supervisor  
William B. Macomber

Finishing Producer  
Eleanor Nett

Post Production Coordinator  
Ed Schuerman

Colorist  
Robert Crosby  
Neptune Post

Audio Description  
Audio Eyes

Closed Captioning  
Axium Digital

Transcription  
Rev.com  
JP Dubuque  
Melissa Coleman

Production Assistant  
Fran McCarthy

Post Production Sound Services  
Puget Sound, Inc

Supervising Sound Editor & Re-Recording Mixer  
Joe Milner

Foley Recording Services  
Sound Troop

Foley Artist  
Miguel Barbosa

Foley Mixer  
Diego Suarez Staub

Legal Counsel  
Justine Jacob

Clearance Counsel  
Lisa Callif  
Donaldson & Callif, LLP

Music Clearances  
Brienne Rose

Fiscal Sponsor  
Filmmakers Collaborative

Distribution Advisory Services  
provided by Preferred Content

Very Special Thanks  
The Smith Family  
Perkins School for the Blind

Special Thanks  
Corinne Grousbeck

In Loving Memory of

John Zevgetis  
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Mischa Sobel  
Richard Mahaney  
MaryAnne Barbella  
Alexia Toubanc  
Jake Hoffman  
Monica Steinert  
Dylan James Manning

And Mitchell Alan Michael Smith

Thank You

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Jaimi Lard  
Marilyn Rea Beyer  
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Bill Appel  
Carmen Harris  
Rachel Wetschensky  
Christina Alexandra Voros  
Actors Shakespeare Project  
Kori Feener  
Keiran Watson-Bonnice  
Seth Horowitz  
Marina Bedny  
Jan Seymour-Ford  
Cara Pelletier  
Pamela Ryan  
Mara Bresnahan  
Matt Langer  
Ashley Bernard  
Daniel Dintzner  
Igor Kaminski  
Helen Selsdon  
Perry Garfinkel  
Ryan Romeiser  
Judith Vecchione  
Lisa Palone  
Braille Design  
2me

The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
The Salvation Army  
Nocturnem Draft Haus  
Jeffrey L. Berman, M.D. - Maine Eye Center  
Margaret Hoffman - Boothbay Railway Village  
Great Skates, Bangor ME  
Paddy Murphy's Irish Pub, Bangor ME  
The Penobscot Pour House, Bangor ME  
Bangor Housing Authority  
Ed McCurdy MC/DJ, Bangor ME  
The Charles Hotel

The director would like to thank his mom, Norma Jean Darcy, for teaching him what it means to see.

## MUSIC

### “Up to Me”

Written and performed by Bob Dylan  
Courtesy of Columbia Records  
By arrangement with Sony Music Licensing

### “Turpentine”

Written by Michael Fiore and Michael Hiller  
Performed by Criminal Hygiene  
Courtesy of New Professor Music

### “You Wish You Were Red”

Written by Eva Susanne Renlund and James Lee Dose  
Performed by Trailer Trash Tracys  
Courtesy of Domino Recording and Publishing Company Ltd

### “Graduation”

Written and performed by Stone Cold Fox  
Courtesy of Stone Cold Fox Music

Home Movie Footage provided by Tiffany Smith

## ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

### “Daria” / MTV Networks

“Follow Your Arrow” / Brandy Clark, Kacey Musgraves, Shane McAnally

### “Baby Got Back” / Sir Mix-A-Lot

“Rise Up With Fists!!” / Jenny Lewis

“Pump Up The Volume” / Martyn Young, Steven Young

“Torn” / Phil Thornalley, Scott Cutler

“At Last” / Harry Warren, Mack Gordon

“Hey Leonardo (She Likes Me For Me)” / Blessid Union of Souls

“Gold on the Ceiling” / Brian Burton, Dan Auerbach, Patrick Carney

“Thomas & Friends” / BBC / HIT Entertainment

This film was supported by

LEF Moving Image Fund  
Independent Filmmaker Project



**To find out more about Michelle and be a part of this continuing story, please visit:**  
[www.BestandMostBeautifulThings.com](http://www.BestandMostBeautifulThings.com)

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## REVIEWS

“The film gently captures the complex and intimate successes and failures that are unique and yet universal to anyone who has tried to find themselves.” – [Steven Abrams, The Independent](#)

“One of the year’s most touching documentary films... A provocative and joyous coming of age portrait... [Michelle] bursts off the screen as someone immensely relatable. You’ll want to know her... A powerful, affecting journey into a young woman’s mind as she searches for connection and empowerment.” – [Xaque Gruber, Huffington Post](#)

“Best and Most Beautiful Things nails the idea that “normal” is very overrated... The filmmaking team does a wonderful job lending insight into the blurry shapes and abrasive sounds she encounters daily with their fascinating cinematography and an original score... A great watch.” – [Jessi Cape, Austin Chronicle](#)

“Best and Most Beautiful Things will connect with audiences on an emotional level — with anyone who has struggled to find others they can relate to. In a city where the motto encourages individuality and weirdness, SXSW was an ideal festival to premiere such a poignant film... But it is [Michelle’s] indomitable spirit, her confidence, her zest for self-discovery that will make audiences root for her success.” – [Jane Kellogg Murray, Austin-American Statesman](#)

“... It’s Michelle’s unbridled sass and spirit that makes Best beautiful.” – [Jason Coleman, StarPulse](#)

“The story of a young blind woman attempting to achieve her dreams could risk mawkishness, but “Best and Most Beautiful Things” mercifully avoids condescending to its subject... Studios would be wise to adapt this non-fiction material for the YA crowd that flocked to “The Fault in Our Stars” last year. Whereas that story revolved around a young woman making the most of her limited time, “Best and Most Beautiful Things” focuses on the discovery of boundless opportunities in a society designed to suggest otherwise.” – [Eric Kohn, Indiewire](#)