

# BEHIND — THE — BULLET

4 SHOOTERS

4 STORIES

A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON GUN VIOLENCE



## BEHIND THE BULLET

**Distributed by Gravitas Ventures:** Available on DVD/VOD beginning 9/3/19

Official Website: [www.behindthebulletfilm.com](http://www.behindthebulletfilm.com)

Directed & Produced by Heidi Yewman | Co-Produced by Skye Fitzgerald

A BTB Productions, LLC Film | Runtime: 84 Minutes, HD, Color

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## Public Relations

A. Wordsmith  
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## World Sales

Throughline Films  
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### Log line

An in-depth look at four individuals who have pulled the trigger and the profound impact it's had on their lives.

### Medium Synopsis

*Behind the Bullet* explores a side of gun violence that's rarely talked about- the impact a shooting has on the shooter. The film takes an intimate, non-polarizing look at how taking a life forever changed four people emotionally, psychologically and spiritually, offering a powerful new perspective on gun violence in the United States.

### Long Synopsis

Every year, almost 40,000 people are shot and killed in America. Each shooting devastates the victim's family and friends. *Behind the Bullet* explores a side of gun violence that's rarely talked about - the impact a shooting has on the shooter. Four individuals share how pulling the trigger changed them emotionally, physically, psychologically, and spiritually. They describe the moral injury that comes after a self-defense, accidental, or unintentional shooting, offering a new and unbiased perspective on gun violence.



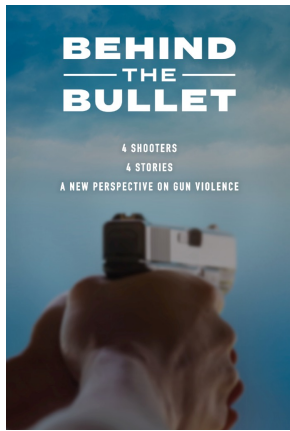
**Theatrical Trailer:** <https://vimeo.com/290806333>

### Awards

Winner, Best Documentary -  
Sunscreen Film Festival

## Stills for Press

Download Photos: <http://bit.ly/btbphotos>



## Social Media

Instagram: @btbfilm <https://www.instagram.com/behindthebulletfilm/>

Twitter: @btbfilm <https://twitter.com/BTBFilm>

Facebook: @behindthebulletfilm, <https://www.facebook.com/BehindTheBulletFilm/>

Linked In: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/behind-the-bullet-productions/>

## Director Heidi Yewman

Heidi's passion for gun violence prevention began in 1999 when her former basketball coach and teacher, Dave Sanders was killed in the Columbine High School massacre along with 12 students. Heidi is a graduate of Columbine.

In 2009 she wrote the book, *Beyond the Bullet: Personal Stories of Gun Violence Aftermath*, profiling 19 people forever altered by the impact of gun violence. She is a tireless advocate for gun safety, sitting on the boards of Brady United to Prevent Gun Violence,

Women Donors Network, Stop our Shootings, and Trauma Intervention Program of Portland, OR. Heidi's vast experience working with trauma victims, advocating for gun violence solutions, and community organizing has inspired her to find unique ways to look at gun violence which creates a more meaningful dialog.

Heidi has been published in USA Today, Ms. Magazine, The Seattle Times, The Oregonian and the Columbian. Heidi's four-part series, *My Month With a Gun* was published in The Denver Post, Ms. Magazine and The Daily Beast.

Heidi's first feature documentary, *Behind the Bullet*, is being released in 2019. The film provides an in-depth look at the lives of four individuals who've shot someone and the profound impact it's had on their lives.



## Director's Statement

I made *Behind the Bullet* because I wanted to know what it feels like to be the "good guy with a gun."

I wanted to look at gun violence from a different angle. I wanted to get past the hyperbole and the entrenched arguments and instead explore a viewpoint nobody thinks about: what happens when you use a gun for the purpose that it's designed for - to shoot someone.

The Columbine High School 1999 massacre is where it all began for me. I graduated from Columbine 13 years before the shooting and one of the victims was my former basketball coach Dave Sanders. As I sat at his memorial service watching my traumatized teachers weeping, one of the speakers said, "We can't control what happens. But we can control how we respond."

After that, I got active.

I wrote a book *Beyond the Bullet* about 19 people who were shot and how it affected them and their families. As I wrote the book I started to think about the people who pulled the triggers; the people who were behind those bullets.

That led me to write a four-piece series for Ms. Magazine, *My Month With a Gun* where I carried a 9mm Glock with me everywhere I went so I could experience the emotional and physical ramifications of always being prepared to defend myself and my family from a bad guy.

That experience evolved into *Behind the Bullet*. The four stories in my documentary focus on common gun violence situations - suicide, accidental child shootings, street crime, and the widespread fear of a home invasion.

*Behind the Bullet* provides a different perspective on gun violence. Some of the stories came from an NRA website, where they're heralded as success stories - people who'd heroically upheld the Second Amendment by defending themselves and their families. The PTSD and moral injury that ensues even when the shooting was justified or deemed unintentional under American law is surprising. As the interviews unfold it becomes apparent that the shooters suffer profound anguish, and the reality of being the "good guy with a gun" in America comes into focus.

## The Characters



**Kevin Leonard** shot two intruders who were stealing items out of his home in rural Washington State. One of them died as he tried to run away. Kevin was traumatized by the experience. He has created an elaborate defense system around his home including trip wires, guns strategically placed around his home, and motion detectors while carrying a gun on him at all times.



**Will Little** grew up on the streets of Philadelphia where violence, drugs and death were a part of his everyday experience. After being shot at by a group of teens after exiting a roller rink, Will shot back, killing an 18 year old. He was charged with murder and served 10 years in prison where he reformed himself. He has dedicated the past 19 years to giving back to his community thru mentoring young boys, speaking at schools, half-way houses, prisons, and organizations dedicated to stopping the recurring violence. Much of his work focuses on stopping retaliative shootings.



**Christen McGinnes** bought a gun for self defense in case someone broke into her apartment. She did not know a few years later so many things in her life would fall apart and she would use that gun to try and kill herself. Three weeks after pulling the trigger, she woke up from a coma with half her face missing. She spent the next 5 years enduring 46 surgeries to reconstruct her face. In Florida, we see the 47th surgery while learning the toll it has taken on her.



**Taylor Dwyer** was 8-years-old when he found his mom's gun by her bedside table and accidentally shot and killed his 5-year-old brother. We pick up his story 10 years later at his home with his Dad in North Carolina where he talks about the guilt, sadness, and heaviness he lives with everyday. His family shares their heartache from losing their child while working to protect Taylor from the burden of killing his little brother.

## Press Quotes

"BEHIND THE BULLET is a captivating and honest look at what is going on in our country when it comes to gun control. It looks at all sides of the issue that sometimes the media does not discuss or cover. This is a must see film in our current climate."

**-Peter Hammond, Deadline**

"Behind The Bullet is just WOW - an amazing insight into what we are dealing with in the U.S. It's a refreshing insight and a story that needs to be told."

**-Chris Gardner, The Hollywood Reporter**

"A striking new documentary"- **Gary Krammer, Salon**

"[A] profoundly poignant exploration of the wages of violence... [this film] brings us into the trigger puller in all its complexity, offering no easy answers, but an engrossing series of penetrating questions. Watch it and be transformed." - **Christopher Llewellyn Reed, Hammer to Nail**

"Pains in shades of grey, eschewing the political angle to focus on the human cost of pulling the trigger... Less a political screed, and all the more impactful for it. [Grade A]"  
- **Brent McKnight, The Last Thing I See**

"Powerful! The film grabs you and never lets go... will stay with me for a very, very long time." - **Chris Eaton, Sunscreen Film Festival programming director**

"Yewman's documentary is important for 2019 ...touches on the ideology behind gun culture without devolving into politicized diatribe. - **Chris Newell, Father Son Holy Gore**

## Reviews

**Salon: *What is it like to shoot someone? "Behind the Bullet" explores "moral injury" of gun violence***

<https://www.salon.com/2019/01/27/what-is-it-like-to-shoot-someone-behind-the-bullet-explores-moral-injury-of-gun-violence/>

**KCPW (Park City NPR): *Slamdance Film Looks At Gun Violence From A Different Perspective***

<https://www.kpcw.org/post/slamdance-film-looks-gun-violence-different-perspective#stream/0>

**Park Record Review *Slamdance documentary takes a look 'Behind the Bullet'***

<https://www.parkrecord.com/entertainment/slamdance-documentary-takes-a-look-behind-the-bullet/>



## Film Crew



### **Co-producer Skye Fitzgerald**

Skye Fitzgerald, an Oscar nominated film maker for his documentary short, LIFEBOAT, was recently inducted as an honorary member into SAMS (Syrian American Medical Society) for his work with Syrian refugees and named a Distinguished Alumnus at his alma mater, Eastern Oregon University for documentary work. Designated a Fulbright Research Scholar to produce the film Bombhunters in Cambodia, Fitzgerald has since collaborated or received support from the Sundance Institute, the U.S. Institute of Peace, the State

Department, the Paul Robeson Fund and Mountainfilm. As a Director of Photography, Fitzgerald has lensed work for major broadcast and cable strands throughout the world including Dateline NBC, VICE , Mercy Corps, CNN, the Discovery, Travel and History Channels, ABC, CNBC, NHK, and recently shot an entire season of the new Animal Planet show, Amanda to the Rescue. In the documentary world, Fitzgerald directed 101 Seconds, LIFEBOAT, and 50 Feet from Syria. More info at: <http://www.SkyeFitzgerald.net>



### **Editor Dan Sadowsky**

Over the last two decades, Dan Sadowsky has practiced the craft of narrative storytelling for a variety of media. Sadowsky has written for newspapers, magazines and organizations, led interactive content projects as web team leader at Mercy Corps and produced multimedia stories for OPB. Sadowsky's editing credits include *50 Feet From Syria*, *101 Seconds*, and *LIFEBOAT*. More info at: <http://storymind productions>

## Film Credits

### **Directed by**

Heidi Yewman

### **Produced by**

Heidi Yewman  
Skye Fitzgerald

### **Executive Producers**

John W. Boshier  
Chris Charles

### **Edited by**

Dan Sadowsky

### **Director of Photography**

Skye Fitzgerald

### **Additional Camera**

Kenny Allen

### **Original Score**

Bryan Minus

### **Featuring**

Christen McGinnes  
Kevin Leonard  
Taylor Dwyer  
Daron Dwyer  
Will Little

### **Apperances by**

Randy Holbrooks  
Beth Dwyer  
Tom Irwin  
Tim Nix  
Carolyn Dwyer  
Danny Dwyer  
Matthew Sabatella  
Dr. Robert Marx  
Jibril Little

Cash Jefferson

Alice Leonard

Harley the dog

Charley Hodge

Tyrone Tariq Reavis

Sahmir Sims

Michael Kielt

Darnell Harris

Kenneth Palmer

Andrew Stancil

Jason Field

Sara Hopkins

Wendy Haynes

Paul McGinnes

### **Sound Technicians**

Skye Fitzgerald

J.R. Duncan

### **Production Assistants**

Hallie Clark

Clare Ellis

Tim Mitchell

Samantha Yewman

### **Transcriptions**

Ilana Sol

### **Post Production Supervisor**

Jon Betz

### **Sound Editor**

Brent Rogers

### **Re-recording Mixer**

Russ Gorsline

### **Sound Design and Mix**

REX Production & Post

### **Music Score Mixer/ Recordist**

Matt Greco  
The Rye Room

### **Music Preperation**

John Weisiger

### **Musicians**

Mirabai Peart (Violin)

Kyleen King (Viola)

Anna Fritz (Cello)

John Weisiger (Piano)

Bryan Minus (Guitar)

### **Additional Music**

"Pandemic"

Performed by Barrie

Gledden and Chris Bussey

Courtesy of Audio Network

"Sakura"

Performed by Bob Bradley

and Thomas Balmforth

Courtesy of Audio Network

### **Color**

John Davidson

### **Motion Graphics**

Dan Sadowsky

Jotham Porzio

Benjamin Markus

### **Archival Footage**

Special Collections Research  
Center, Temple University  
Libraries, Philadelphia, PA