

# 6.4 Million Watch Rough Cut Filmmakers on DATELINE NBC

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## NBC to air report on film about murder

BY LI WANG  
Of The Patriot-Mews

Local filmmakers are hoping a national television news broadcast about their true-crime movie will help them find a distributor.

On Friday, the news program "Dateline NBC" will air a segment on the 2003 murder case of East Pennsboro Twp. resident Randi Trimble and "Rough Cut," the locally produced documentary on the crime. The show begins at 8 p.m. on NBC.

The network has begun airing promotional spots for Friday's program, featuring footage from the movie made by Mount Gretna-based filmmaker Todd Klick.

"Rough Cut" was first screened for the public at the Allen Theatre in Annville last July. But the filmmakers have yet to find a national distributor.

"We see this as a great way to get some buzz around the film and land a distributor," said Todd Shill, the film's co-producer. "We've had inquiries to buy the film from Court TV, but we haven't moved on anything yet because our goal is for theatrical release."

According to Shill, "Dateline" producers came across a story about the local premiere of "Rough Cut" in The Patriot News in July.

They contacted the documentary's filmmaking team for more information and, following a pitch by the filmmakers to the show's executive producer, a segment was approved for production three months later.



From left, "Rough Cut" co-producer Todd Shill, co-writer Sean Gaston, Dateline NBC correspondent Dennis Murphy and writer/director Todd Klick at the Midtown Cinema in Harrisburg.

"It's very rare that a film that doesn't already have a buyer or distributor gets exposure on a national show," said Shill.

Dateline correspondent Dennis Murphy interviewed the filmmakers at the Midtown Cinema in Harrisburg this fall, and also made two separate trips to the midstate to speak with others involved with the case - including detectives and the victim's family members - according to Shill.

Trimble's mother, Nancy Chavez, said that "Rough Cut" gives a good overview of what happened to her daughter. She called the film's writers, Klick and Sean Gaston, "very sincere" and said she enjoyed working with them. Chavez, who worked with Dateline NBC over the past four months, said the producers of the show promised that the segment would honor her daughter's life.

"I'm praying that they do follow through with their agreement," said Chavez, who is in the process of finishing a book to benefit a foundation dedicated in memory of her

daughter. "Dennis Murphy and his crew came into my home and turned it into a studio. They were very professional. It was incredible.

A little more than two months ago, the filmmakers heard that "Dateline" had approved the airing of the segment.

"Rough Cut," a 90-minute documentary that has been entered for consideration in various film festivals, chronicles the circumstances that led to Trimble's murder.

She was stabbed to death in a hit set up by her husband, Brian, and his friend Blaine Morris. The men were upset with her for interfering with their plans to make a horror film. Both are serving life terms for their roles in her murder.

"Rough Cut," includes interviews, police evidence, making of Morris' horror project "Through Hike: A Ghost Story."

"At this stage in the game, I never expected this kind of exposure" said writer/director Klick. "'Dateline' could be a giant catapult for selling our film!"