

# REVIEW

*Film illuminates  
2003 murder  
Thursday, January 26, 2006  
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Of The Patriot-News*

*"ROUGH CUT" A documentary directed by Todd Klick. No MPAA rating (disturbing scenes of violence). Running time: 1 hour, 30 minutes.*

Last week, "Dateline NBC" presented its coverage of the 2003 murder case of Randi Trimble, the East Pennsboro Twp. woman whose husband plotted her murder. But why did the hourlong news program cover an event that happened three years ago?  
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Well, because of a team of local filmmakers who had finished a documentary about the case called "Rough Cut," and had began showing it in the area, renewing interest in the case.

"Rough Cut" is a compelling work made with intelligence, care and respect. The filmmakers are hosting the film's third public screening at 8 tonight at the Regal 14 theater in Susquehanna Twp. The film has been entered into various film festivals nationwide but has yet to be picked up by a distributor.

The movie, co-written and directed by Mount Gretna's Todd Klick (whose previous credits include co-writing "Milton Hershey -- The Play"), is a remarkable accomplishment considering the lim-

ited budget and time the production team had. But what's most notable is that Klick, co-writer Sean Gaston and director of photography Jim Hollenbaugh, were able to coax local law enforcement officials, the victim's relatives and others to spend time to speak openly about the case with no promise that the movie would go anywhere.

That speaks to the sincerity of Klick and his ability to earn the trust of Trimble's mother, Nancy Chavez, who lost her only daughter to the petty greed of two men. Randi Trimble's husband, Brian, paid his friend Blaine Norris to kill her when the men perceived her as interfering with their plans to make a horror film.

There's always danger of appearing exploitive when capitalizing on the sensational components of a murder, but "Rough Cut" mostly avoids hyperbolic editing, which plagued the condensed "Dateline" piece. It sticks to unadorned presentations of interviews, news footage, police evidence and home video.

One of the key players in making "Rough Cut" stand out was co-writer Gaston of Ephrata. Gaston was an actor in Norris' horror film project "Through Hike: A Ghost Story," a pipe dream that Randi Trimble did not like Brian spending his time, video equipment and money on.

Hearing Gaston speak on his

then-unknowing association with the mastermind behind the killing is eerie.

In Gaston, the audience hears the perspective of a young man whose own movie ambitions led him to cross paths with a deranged Norris, whose nerdy charisma instilled a let's-get-this-movie-done-at-any-cost mentality.

It's through Gaston and his behind-the-scenes footage of "Through Hike" that the film achieves a startling window into the macabre mind of Norris, who stabbed Randi Trimble 27 times and conned himself into thinking he could murder and get away with it.

"Rough Cut" also retraces the patient work of local law enforcement and never forgets to illuminate the life of speech pathologist Randi Trimble, who had been saving money to take care of her multiple sclerosis-diagnosed husband.

With this documentary, Klick and his team have set the bar high for independent filmmaking in central Pennsylvania.

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