

DRIVEN BY ANGELS

A FILM BY BRETT BUESCHER & NICK COSTELLO

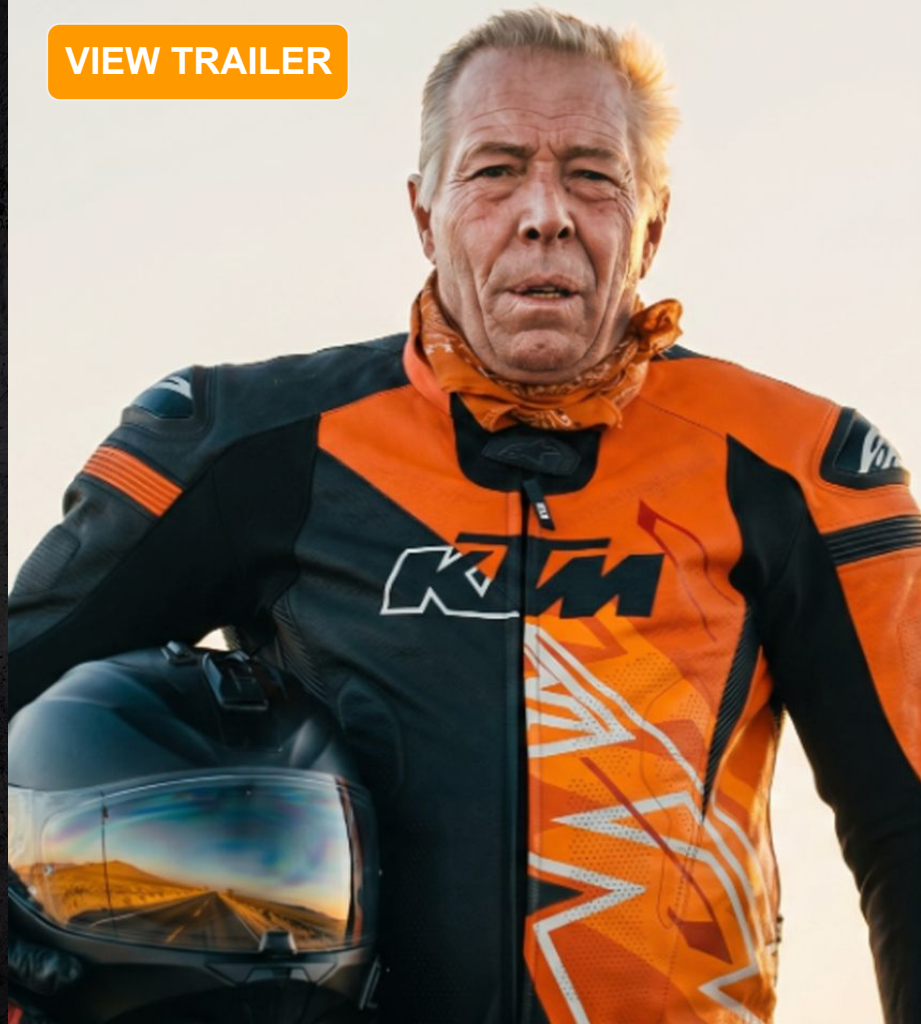
77 Minutes

Award-Winning Feature Documentary



"VAUGHN SHAFER IS THE EVEL Knievel OF SKATEBOARDING"

[VIEW TRAILER](#)



SYNOPSIS



🚀 At 62 years old, Vaughn Shafer comes out of retirement in a bold attempt to reclaim his title as the fastest man on a motorized skateboard. With the support of a small crew, Vaughn embarks on a 3 year journey to build a machine capable of reaching 100 MPH. What begins as a comeback story quickly spirals into something

far more unpredictable. *Driven By Angels* swings from absurd humor and adrenaline to devastating loss, revealing something bigger behind the record attempt: Vaughn's belief that the next generation should never let the world limit what they are capable of. *Driven By Angels* celebrates the people who continue to inspire us long after they're gone.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When I first agreed to follow this journey with Vaughn, I figured danger vs father time would be the heart of the story. I was wrong. Nothing was scripted, and very little went according to plan. Machines blew up. Plans collapsed. People we loved disappeared.

We simply kept the cameras rolling as life unfolded in front of us. Sometimes it was chaotic, sometimes funny, and sometimes devastating. Then, during production, my father Louis Buescher passed away. He had been part of the project himself, even helping build the board Vaughn rides.

After that, the camera felt different. It wasn't just there to capture the insanity anymore. It became a way of holding onto people, places, and moments I hadn't realized were disappearing. By the end, we weren't simply recording what happened. We were preserving a piece of our lives.

That's *Driven By Angels* to me: documentary filmmaking in its purest form. Messy, unpredictable, painfully real and somehow more meaningful than the movie we originally set out to make.

— **Brett Buescher**
Director



THE FILMMAKERS

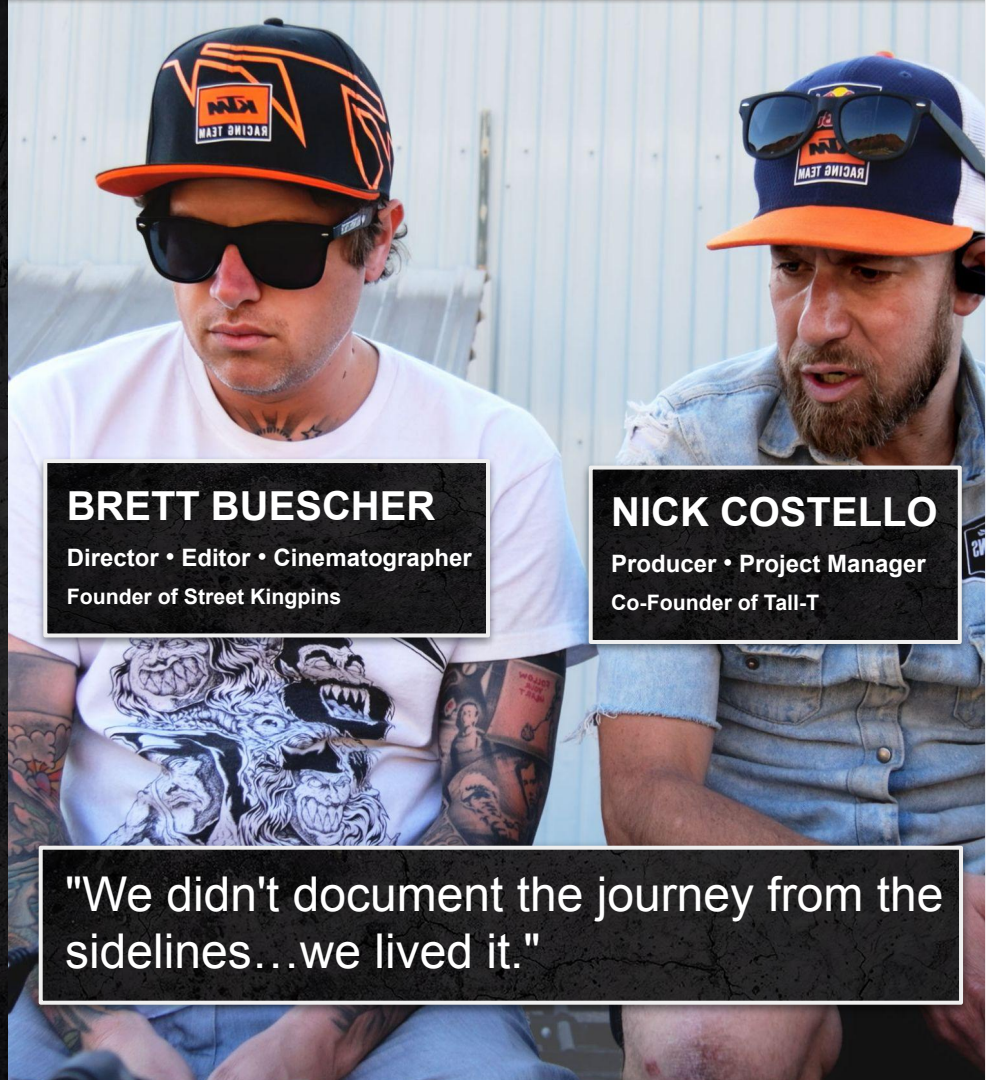
Brett Buescher is a filmmaker, entrepreneur, and founder of the Street Kingpins Skate App. His world has long been the underground corners of action sports where compelling stories rarely get told.

For *Driven By Angels*, Brett directed the film with a rare feel for emotional rhythm. He takes pride in hitting every emotion in the book. He knows when to make an audience laugh, tense up, hurt, or cheer.

His work is cinematic, meticulously crafted, and deeply human, turning unscripted moments into stories that feel made for the big screen.

Nick Costello is a producer and co-founder of Tall-T Productions. Nick has been the architect for the film since the beginning.

Equal parts connector, motivator, and big-picture thinker, Nick has a gift for keeping people motivated when circumstances get difficult. His perspective has been shaped by profound personal loss, giving him a deeply personal understanding of resilience, mortality, and the importance of making the most of the time we're given. That outlook became an important part of the film's spirit, helping the team stay connected to the bigger picture through years of uncertainty, setbacks, and loss that would give any normal human the instinct to tap-out.



BRETT BUESCHER

Director • Editor • Cinematographer
Founder of Street Kingpins

NICK COSTELLO

Producer • Project Manager
Co-Founder of Tall-T

"We didn't document the journey from the sidelines...we lived it."



ABOUT VAUGHN SHAFER

- Hollywood Stuntman
- Skateboard Pioneer
- World Record Holder

At over four decades, Vaughn Shafer has built a career by refusing to believe "impossible" is the final answer.

"Determination doesn't have an expiration date."

- The Daily Sentinel: July 2026



A LIFE WITHOUT LIMITS



1980

Attended Ron Nix's stunt school after graduating high school. This led to his first major role as a stunt man in Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure.

1989

Inspired by Evel Knievel, Vaughn combined his daredevil mentality with skateboarding by clearing 5 cars for a record of 37 feet.



1999

Vaughn invented a new sport he calls "dragboarding." In 1999 he eventually reached a record of 74 mph that would last 25 years.

2024

After losing his wife to cancer, Shafer returned to dragboarding at 62-years old. His highly modified skateboard is powered by a 300cc motorcycle engine.



The Machine

- Custom-built dragboard engineered specifically for quarter-mile speed records.
- Powered by a 300cc KTM two-stroke racing engine with a six-speed manual transmission.
- Every major component was modified, fabricated, or built by hand.
- Multiple prototypes and years of testing led to the final record-setting machine.
- Designed to exceed **100 MPH**
- At \$20,000 it's one of the most expensive skateboards ever built.

THE WORLD'S FASTEST SKATEBOARD



BEYOND THE LEGEND

Combining immersive visuals with first-person, gonzo-inspired storytelling, *Driven By Angels* offers a rare look into the life of a stunt and skateboard legend whose remarkable history had largely faded from public view.

The film follows Vaughn's ongoing quest while weaving together extraordinary stories and archival footage spanning back to his childhood.

From witnessing his father's death by lightning to national television appearances, the result is an intimate portrait of how Vaughn became the man he is today and what continues to drive him toward the impossible.

Vaughn is equal parts outlaw and open book. He's fearless enough to chase the impossible and vulnerable enough to show what it costs him.



PRODUCTION FACTS

- Production Period: 3 Years
- Archival Span: 40 Years
- Film Locations:
Colorado, Utah, Arizona,
Indiana and California
- Completed: Aug 2026
- Original Media Captured:
85 Terabytes
- Core Production Crew:
4 People

Built 100% independently on grit, determination and love by a very small team of believers.

- **One Camera Crew**
- **Same Pit Crew**
- **One Mission**

One of the unique aspects of *Driven by Angels* is that the filmmaking team and the pit crew were one and the same. The people operating cameras were often the same people building engines, making repairs, and preparing Vaughn's machine between runs. This dual role created an uncommon level of trust and authenticity, allowing the crew to capture the story from the inside rather than as outside observers.



AWARDS

Following a string of standing ovations and several festival honors, *Driven By Angels* has made a strong impression on audiences and festival juries alike. Now at picture lock and entering final post-production, the film heads into its next chapter with growing momentum and its most ambitious festival run still ahead.

🏆 **Best Documentary**
Festival of Cinema NYC, 2026

🏆 **Legacy Award**
DocUtah International Film Festival, 2026

🏆 **Audience Choice Award**
Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema, 2026

🏆 **Best Editing**
Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema, 2026

🏆 **Ambassadors' Choice Award**
Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema, 2026



FESTIVAL & INDUSTRY RESPONSE

“I was not prepared to have such a strong reaction to a film! I laughed the hardest I’ve laughed in a long time, then I found myself crying like a kid. Driven By Angels will suck you in from the start
— Pete Dorton, AMT Director of Film and Operations

“People who aren’t even into extreme sports will find this documentary pretty amazing. It worked on all levels.”
— Steven Savage, Founder, Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema

“You had me at hello. It just grabbed me and was like, ‘What’s this?’”
— Tisa Zito, Program Director, DocUtah

“Despite all the challenges... all the things they’ve gone through, it’s hard to believe what they were able to do.”
— Julie Roy, Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema

“I was so very moved by the film. It was a labor of love and it shined through... Congratulations on a stunning film.”
— Rob Huff



MARKET FIT

CORE AUDIENCE

Skateboarding • Action Sports • Motorsports • Extreme Sports

CROSSOVER AUDIENCE

Inspirational Documentaries • Family & Legacy • World Records & Human Achievement • Life After Loss • Gen X / '80s–'90s Nostalgia

Featured In

[The Aspen Daily News](#) | [The Sopris Sun](#) | [The Daily Sentinel](#)

CONTACT

Thank you for your interest in **Driven by Angels**. For interviews, media requests, or distribution inquiries please contact the team below.

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Driven By Angels is a 2026 Dragboard Brigade Production.

VIEW TRAILER

