

***Best and Most Beautiful Things* Premieres on *Independent Lens*  
Monday, January 2, 2017 on PBS**

**About the Filmmakers**



Garrett Zevgetis  
Credit: Eric Stutton

**Garrett Zevgetis (Producer/Director)** is a Boston-based documentary filmmaker focusing on fascinating people and social change. After growing up in Kissimmee, Florida, Garrett 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 Ouat Media. *Best and Most Beautiful Things* is Zevgetis's first feature film. He previously worked at WGBH's FRONTLINE, 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.

In 2009, 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 him to Perkins School for the Blind. He began volunteering at Perkins and on the last day of his scheduled term a bubbly young student introduced herself – Michelle had found him and the film was born.

**Ariana Garfinkel (Producer)** is an independent film producer based in the Bay Area. She produced the award-winning feature documentary *Boys of Summer*, distributed by Tribeca Film and broadcast by ESPN, PBS, and Sundance Channel internationally. She produced two narrative shorts, *Sea Meadow* (SXSW World Premiere) and *A Juice Box Afternoon* (Lincoln Center premiere). Through her production company Carriage House Pictures, Garfinkel is producing the upcoming narrative feature film *Glass* by Lily Baldwin. Past projects include the documentaries *Nuns on the Bus*, *Symphony of the Soil*, *Sonatas of the Soil*, *Wrenched*, and *Trumbo*. Previously, Garfinkel held development and production positions in New York City for ten years at companies including Miramax Films, Tribeca Productions, and Reno Productions. She started her career on location for HBO Films and Columbia Pictures, and graduated from Stanford University. She is currently a FilmHouse Resident at the San Francisco Film Society.

**Jeff Consiglio (Producer/Editor)** has worked as a director, producer, editor and creative consultant on films for over 30 years. He edited the Academy Award-winning documentary film *Inocente* (Best Documentary Short Subject, 2013) and 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, Consiglio 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.

**Jordan Salvatoriello (Producer/Cinematographer)** 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 DGA 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 has also served as Public Relations Manager for Make-A-Wish.

**Kevin S. Bright and Claudia Bright** are the **Executive Producers** of *Best and Most Beautiful Things* through their company, Only Bright Productions. For its entire ten-year run, Kevin was Executive Producer of the Emmy-winning television series *Friends*. He directed more than 50 episodes of the show, including all ten season finales. He also produced and directed other programs, including *Dream On*, *Joey*, and *Veronica's Closet*. Kevin was the Founding Director of Emerson College Los Angeles. 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, Kevin 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 and he has been involved with the film project since it began.

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