

***“It’s a really great documentary
that deserves to be seen.”***

Rod Lurie, Director of *The Outpost*



Encounter at the Lincoln Memorial.

Directed by Steve Oldfield
Produced by Ryan Anderson

***“Whatever side of the aisle you find
yourself on, Rush to Judgment is
a remarkable and important doc.”***

Alan Ng, FILM THREAT



www.RushtoJudgmentDocumentary.com

Contacts: **Steve Oldfield**, Director 1-859-307-1103 RushToJudgmentDocumenty@gmail.com

Speaking Tour Agents: **Jayne & Kevin Moore**: The Contemporary Issues Agency

1-800-843-2179 info@CIASpeakers.com

It all started with an **encounter** at the Lincoln Memorial that went **VIRAL**...



Award-winning documentary filmmaker **Steve Oldfield** and producer **Ryan Anderson** started working on their documentary, ***Rush to Judgment***, the very weekend the story broke in January, 2019.

“I was familiar with the school and I knew something wasn’t right,” said Oldfield. “We came up with the name right away that weekend and started shooting at a protest that following Monday,” he said.

Their more than year-long investigation yielded exclusive information never before revealed by the media. Their documentary features several exclusive interviews, including the boy in the MAGA hat at the heart of the story, Nick Sandmann and his father.

The filmmakers also scored an exclusive interview with an African-American student from Covington Catholic and his family whose lives were also deeply affected by the encounter at the Lincoln Memorial. Oldfield and Anderson interviewed members of the controversial Hebrew Israelites religious sect along with other students and chaperones who were there.

Oldfield and Anderson wanted to show the impact the viral video had on the people involved but that was just the beginning of their journey. They also watched hundreds of hours of YouTube videos to craft a conversation featuring a variety of diverse (and opinionated) voices online.

The filmmakers want to encourage conversations about civil discourse online and how the news media should handle viral videos and social media mayhem. Oldfield interviewed some nationally recognized authorities including Julie Irwin-Zimmerman, a contributor to *The Atlantic*; veteran radio news reporter Neal Augenstein of WTOP Radio in Washington; and Joseph Starrs, Director of Journalism and Communications at the Fund for American Studies.

Oldfield is a lifelong journalist who graduated from Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism where he founded Northwestern Student Television during his sophomore year. He is also a fellow of the Institute on Political Journalism and is currently an Assistant Professor of Communication at Thomas More University.

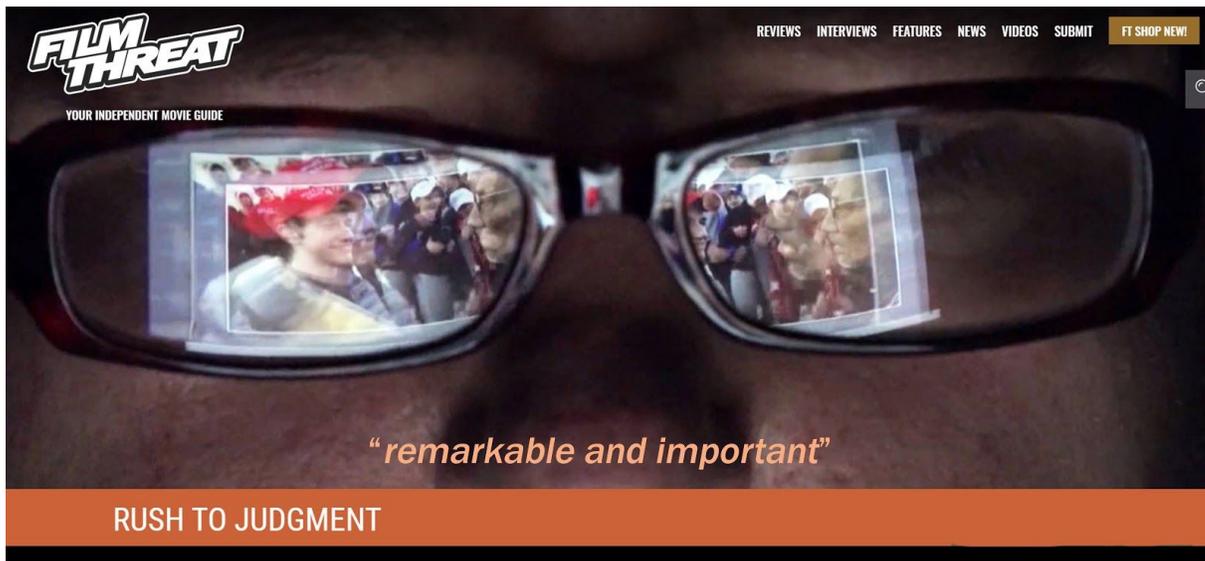
In addition to the documentary, Oldfield and Anderson hope to keep the conversation going on college campuses and with groups around the country. They have created an interactive, multi-media experience and will be speaking to a group of college journalists this Summer. They will be launching an in-person and virtual college tour in the fall. They are represented by The Contemporary Issues Agency. (CIASpeakers.com)



Producer Ryan Anderson (left) and Director Steve Oldfield staged a “work in progress” screening at the Over The Rhine Film Festival in 2019. They conducted surveys and took part in a panel and Q&A.



Persistence pays off: after reaching out for more than a year, Oldfield and Anderson scored exclusive interviews with Nick Sandmann and his father Ted. (photo: Anderson, Nick Sandmann, Ted Sandmann, Oldfield)



By [Alan Ng](#) | July 29, 2020

It's a question worth asking. Just because the worst person in the world was elected President of the United States, does that mean we get to abandon our principles and values as human beings until he leaves office. Our political anger has fueled cancel-culture, and its unintended consequences are massive.

Steve Oldfield's documentary *Rush To Judgement* covers the journalistic fiasco associated with Covington Catholic High School student Nicholas Sandmann and the infamous video where allegedly he "assaulted" Nathan Phillips, a Native-American veteran, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. NOTE: as of this review, Sandmann has settled two defamation lawsuits with CNN and The Washington Post for a reported \$500 million total. At this rate, he's on track to receive \$2 billion when it's all said and done.



We all remember the viral video of Sandmann donned with a MAGA hat looking smug as he's face-to-face with Nathan Phillips beating his drum just inches away. Left and right went to immediate judgment against Sandmann.

Undoubtedly, the kid has to be racist, and naturally, he has to be bullying a Native American because that's what all Trump supporters do! The main-stream media went on full attack labeling Sandmann, his fellow students, and Covington Catholic High School as the worst example of Trump racism. Admittedly, it doesn't look very good.

Within days, Sandmann would appear on the *Today Show* only to be lectured by Savannah Guthrie, and the veteran Phillips would appear on every other news channel telling his story about how the boys went out of their way to confront the veteran. In an unfortunate event, an internet troll would misidentify and effectively dox the wrong Covington student releasing his address and place pressure on the culinary school he wanted to attend to reject his application, and he wasn't even there.

As time passed and as the full footage of the Covington confrontation was released to the public, we soon realized that narrative being presented on every single news channel and podcast had every element of the story wrong...except that Sandmann wore a MAGA hat. Phillips wasn't even a Viet Nam veteran, as reported. In his defense, the media said he was a Viet Nam veteran, and Phillips never corrected them.

As an investigative documentary, *Rush To Judgment* does what documentaries should do, and that's present the facts. Admittedly, the film's thesis was to clearly call out the media's "rush to judgment" and questions the state of journalistic integrity regarding the truth...whether it fits your desired narrative or not. Filmmakers layout the entire story with copious amounts of news footage piecing together the whole narrative along with interviews with the key players, including Nicholas Sandmann and a few political pundits—mostly on the right—offering commentary.



“...effectively presents the details of the fateful event...”

In the end, the film not only effectively presents the details of the fateful event and tracks how the story spun out of control in the public eye. It also serves as an indictment of how divided we are as a nation. Highly charged political stories like this burn like wildfire—all from knee-jerk reactions and the media landscape chomps at the bit for salacious stories to tell, just for ratings, clicks, and views.

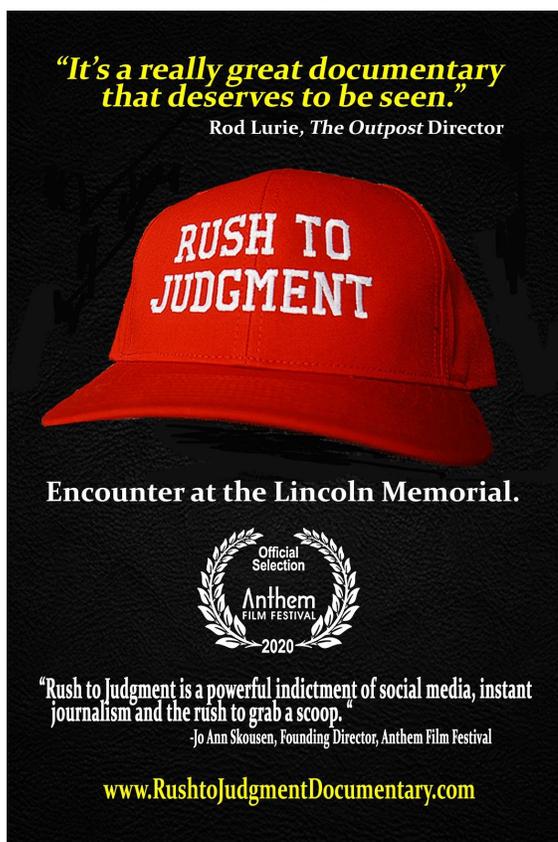
Whatever side of the aisle you find yourself on, *Rush to Judgment* is a remarkable and important documentary and presents a case study about the broken state of journalism and the volatile state of the national debate (Newsflash, no one debates anymore). One of the tenets from my old college critical thinking classes urged me to “rigorously question ideas and assumptions rather than accepting them at face value.”

If you're going to ruin a child's life, make sure you have the facts before you do. In the end, what's the cost of destroying a person's reputation simply because we don't agree with them? So far, \$500 million. Now, everyone's gonna want a MAGA hat.

Rush To Judgment was scheduled to premiere at the 2020 Anthem Film Festival—a Libertarian event.

RUSH TO JUDGMENT (2020) MOVIE SCORE: 8/10

Directed and Written by Steve Oldfield Starring: Nicholas Sandmann, etc.





Director Steve Oldfield - Bio

Steve Oldfield is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and educator. He received several awards for his last documentary, *Lines of Sight*, about painter Jim Hall, who created a daring new art form he called “Lineillism” after nearly being blinded by the Shingles Virus. Steve’s doc won the Viewer’s Choice Award at its premiere during the Indie Gathering International Film Festival. *Lines of Sight* also received the “Resiliency In Aging Film Award” from the Third Action Film Festival and the University of Calgary. In addition to playing other festivals across the U.S., *Lines* is currently airing on KET, Kentucky’s PBS Network.

Steve also co-directed *Covington at 200: Points of View* which aired on KET and won a Kentucky Historical Society Award in 2016.

Steve has taught broadcasting and documentary film at the University of Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky University and Thomas More University, where he is currently an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Communication. Steve also mentors young filmmakers in the Greater Cincinnati, where he created the *Student Service Film Festival* in 2019. Steve is also a member of the Broadcast Film Critics Association and has reviewed films for several major market television stations and was syndicated on the Fox News Edge Affiliate Feed for more than a decade. He received an Emmy Nomination for his coverage of Sundance.

Steve is a graduate of The Covington Latin School and Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism. He is a fellow of the Institute on Political Journalism and the Poynter Institute for Media Studies. Steve has a master’s degree in Public History and created a traveling art exhibit called *Lineillism Revealed*. He also has collaborated with museums in the Greater Cincinnati area, including the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Producer Ryan Anderson - Bio

Ryan Anderson brings his extensive knowledge of blogging, political commentary and independent media to *Rush to Judgment*. He also has worked in cable television in Maryland, producing and hosting an interview program aimed at teenagers and young adults. Ryan watched hundreds of hours of YouTubers talking about the encounter at the Lincoln Memorial and viral video. His work helped to create a deliciously diverse conversation among YouTubers from around the world. Ryan is a mentor and key player on the administrative team for the *Student Service Film Festival*.

